

SOUTHEAST HERRING CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



P.O. BOX 61
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Tel. No. 907-738-3509

January 20, 2018

Alaska Board of Fisheries

January 15 – 23, 2018

Sitka, Alaska

Dear Chairman Jensen and Alaska Board of Fisheries Members:

Mission for agreements: protection of the Sitka Sound herring resource in perpetuity for all users including subsistence herring egg harvesters, commercial fishermen, and the community of Sitka by identifying solutions and opportunities for collaboration.

The draft long-term action plan featured below seeks to improve the quantity and quality of subsistence herring egg harvests in Sitka Sound, while also addressing misunderstandings and/or disagreements regarding the science supporting the management of this fishery resource.

Potential local collaborators to assist with the successful prosecution of this action plan include, but will not be limited to: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA), Sitka Sound Science Center (SSSC), University of Alaska Southeast Fisheries Technology Program (UAS-FT), Sitka School District (SSD), and the Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance (SHCA).

DRAFT Sitka subsistence-commercial herring action plan

Industry support of subsistence herring egg harvest

- Conceptual agreement regarding financial contributions to STA (provided separately);
- Multi-processor collaboration and funding;
- Use of seiners and/or tenders to facilitate subsistence herring egg harvest, performed to STA's cultural standards;

Workforce development

- Collaboration between UAS-FT, SSD, SSSC, STA, and SHCA to develop and prosecute high school and undergraduate curricula dedicated to traditional foods, highlighting collaboration among commercial and subsistence users (includes application and contributions of aquaculture and mariculture);

- Industry to co-fund (with STA) course development and students, including internship credit for participation in field activities;

Improved community relations through collaborative educational/social event

- Development of a collaborative preseason forum (herring festival/conference) to include Alaska Department of Fish and Game, STA, industry, and other outside entities to be determined;
- Co-funded by industry and STA;
- Forum will serve as an educational opportunity for all parties, to include presentations, and social/community gathering(s) designed around the forum's format.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Reifentuhl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "l".

Steve Reifentuhl
Executive Director SHCA