

Herring testimony 2017 for Board of Fish

According to data from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in the last 10 years 88% to 99% of households participated in non-salmon fish subsistence.¹ Clearly, harvesting herring is not only an important economic resource, but a shared community practice. However, this data also shows that harvesting numbers have decreased along with the herring. Tlingit elder, Nelson Frank of Sitka, once stated, "The relationship between the Native population and the resources of the land and the sea is so close that our entire culture is reflected."² As we look forward to our future generations of subsistence harvesters, I think it is crucial that we recognize that we are not only looking to regulate a fishery, but preserve a cultural tradition. It is especially important at crossroads such as this one, to listen carefully and openly to the voices of Native members of our community. They have carried on subsisting, even when they weren't offered a seat at the table where decisions were made about their lands and their waters. I would like to extend my voice in supporting theirs.

Sincerely,
Emma Bruhl

¹ "Alaska: Sitka, Community Profiles for North Pacific Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries Science Center - NOAA," accessed January 15, 2018, https://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/Socioeconomics/Projects/communityprofiles/Sitka_Profile_2000_2010.pdf.

² Kathie Durbin, *Tongass: Pulp Politics and the Fight for the Alaska Rain Forest* (Oregon State University Press, 2005), 144.