

Dear Board of Fisheries,

I wanted to share a few quick observations that I hope will be helpful as you deliberate on herring tomorrow.

First, living in Sitka, I have seen an authentic grassroots movement take shape as community members have voiced their concerns about the future of herring in Sitka Sound and the continued viability of the subsistence harvest. For many folks, this is the continuation of a long conversation. For others, this has become a newly pressing worry as we face climate change and the legacy of colonialism. In both cases, the concern is sincere and is generally held by individuals, independent of any organization or body. It's worth noting that the Herring Rock Water Protector group, which you may have seen in the hallways, is a self-organized collection of concerned citizens who are volunteering their time to a cause they care about.

Second, many people, both tribal citizens and non-tribal citizens, have stood in support of STA's proposals 99, 105 & 106 both out of respect for tribal sovereignty, but also out of a strong desire for conservative management and to see restorative measures for herring.

Third, while I appreciate the ideas put forward in RC 379 and RC 380 and support collaborative efforts between stakeholder groups, I believe these RCs do not address or compromise with the underlying community concerns that you have heard testified to this week: preservation of the herring stock and the quality & quantity of herring eggs available in the sound for subsistence harvest.

Thank you,

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