

Old Harbor Fisheries Committee
P.O. Box 71
Old Harbor, AK 99643

John Wood, Chairman
Art Nelson, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 110506
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: CFEC Recommendation for Joint Herring Revitalization Committee

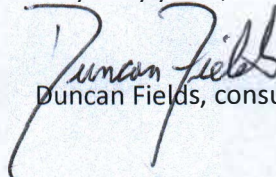
Dear John and Art:

The Old Harbor Fisheries Committee is in full support of the CFEC's recommendation for the Board to form a Joint Herring Revitalization Committee. As CFEC points out, our herring industry has all but collapsed. While CFEC has focused on the economic decline in Alaska herring industry, they do not show the huge forgone harvest that has occurred due to poor market conditions, limited product forms and seasonal constraints.

The Commission's letter does not seem to specify the makeup of a "joint committee". Old Harbor fishermen recommend that the committee consist of more than Board of Fish members and CFEC commissioners and that it be inclusive of herring fishermen (perhaps 3) and a processor with two Board members and one CFEC commissioner (7 total). We don't think the Board's format of a "committee of the whole" or a specific topic committee consisting of just Board members and seeking public comment, as used during Board meetings, is the best format for fully addressing restructuring of Alaska's herring industry.

If you have any additional questions regarding Old Harbor Fisheries Committee support to have the Board respond positively to the CFEC's letter regarding forming a Joint Herring Revitalization Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Duncan Fields, consultant for Old Harbor Fishermen