

FINDINGS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
REGARDING EXCLUSIVE USE AREAS FOR THE
A-Y-K HERRING SAC ROE FISHERIES

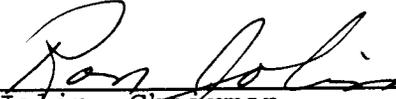
The Alaska Board of Fisheries has adopted regulations allowing participation in certain herring sac roe fisheries of the A-Y-K area only by persons or vessels that have not also participated in other Alaska herring sac roe fisheries during that calendar year. While the board does not believe that exclusive use regulations are appropriate for all fisheries, it does believe that these regulations will serve the orderly conservation and development of these fisheries. In support of the regulations, the board finds:

1. These fisheries are an important segment of the local economies of communities of the coastal A-Y-K region. In most cases, there are few if any employment alternatives to commercial fishing.
2. The herring sac roe fisheries are only recently developing, and local fishers in general do not have sophisticated equipment or skills to apply to herring fishing, though they do have the capability to fully harvest and utilize all available resources.
3. Herring fishers in other Alaska herring sac roe fisheries have generally developed highly refined fishing skills and acquired significantly more efficient fishing equipment, which if employed on a wholesale basis in the A-Y-K area would disadvantage A-Y-K fishermen and the communities that are dependent upon commercial fishing as a cash economy.
4. In order to allow A-Y-K fishers the opportunity to acquire the skills and equipment so that they may fairly compete with those who participate in other Alaska herring sac roe fisheries, the board has adopted the exclusive use regulations. Exclusive use will allow A-Y-K fishers the time to develop those skills needed to be competitive, and income generated from the fisheries will assist them in upgrading equipment.
5. Without the exclusive use regulations, the amount of effort in the fishery will increase, since other Alaskan herring sac roe fisheries would be over by the time the fisheries are conducted in the A-Y-K region. This would result in shortened fishing seasons and increased numbers of participants diminishing the opportunity for A-Y-K fishers to develop fishing skills and diminishing the income generated to each participant, thus impacting the A-Y-K fishers' ability to acquire competitive equipment.

6. Since the A-Y-K herring fisheries are so recently developed compared to other Alaska herring sac roe fisheries, the level of knowledge of the status of the herring resource is less than of stocks elsewhere in Alaska. Regulations which reduce the amount of effort and the efficiency of the participants or which reduce the rate at which effort grows and efficiency increases are therefore necessary. A slower paced fishery on stocks of unknown magnitude, distribution, and resiliency is appropriate. Further, the significant degree of subsistence utilization of the herring resource in the A-Y-K region, compared to other regions of the state, supports the board's desire for a cautious, conservative regulatory environment.

Date:

2/1/85



Ron Jolin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries