

RC 20



***Southeast Alaska Subsistence  
Regional Advisory Council***

**Bertrand Adams Sr., Chair  
P. O. Box 349  
Yakutat, AK 99689**

*kaadashan@alaska.net*

October 9, 2012

RAC SE12016.RL

Mr. Karl Johnstone  
Chair, Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Johnstone:

The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, met in Sitka September 26-28, 2012. At that meeting, the Council considered a proposal from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska to close Federal public marine waters near Mahknati Island to non-subsistence uses. The Council did not support that proposal, partly based on the action by the State Board of Fisheries to close nearby areas to commercial fishing. However, the Council is concerned for the overall health and management of herring stocks in this region.

The Council supports the Agenda Change Request to add herring to the list of species in the State's Forage Fish Management Plan. Herring are clearly the most important forage fish in this region and should be included in the plan. The Council is not opposed to commercial fisheries where appropriate and is supportive of accurate stock assessments and formulation of management plans formed through collaboration with all the stakeholders.

Please address any questions regarding this request either directly to me or through Mr. Robert Larson, Council Coordinator, U. S. Forest Service, Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833, 1-907-772-5930, robertlarson@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bertrand Adams Sr.".

Bertrand Adams Sr., Chair

Karl Johnstone

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Oct. 09, 2012

cc: Peter J. Probasco, Office of Subsistence Management  
Beth Pendleton, Forest Service Regional Forester  
Interagency Staff Committee