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Dear Chairman Johnstone and the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

As a stakeholder in the marine ecosystem and the health of the local economy, I firmly support these important proposals regarding herring management in Southeast Alaska:

- Proposals 114 and 115—I support this region-wide proposal to require herring stocks to be above their minimum stock biomass for five consecutive years before a sac-roe fishery (seine or gillnet) can occur. Removing fishing pressure for an extended period of time will allow these stocks a greater opportunity to build back to historic levels. The closures of all sac-roe fisheries except Sitka Sound this year shows that depleted stocks need more time to recover.
- Proposal 118—I support this proposal to only harvest 50% of the Guideline Harvest Level over 25% of the anticipated nautical miles of spawn before a temporary commercial closure. This proposal would slow down the rate of commercial harvest, allowing greater opportunity for subsistence harvesters to meet their needs.
- Proposal 121—I support this proposal to increase the size of the subsistence only zone in Sitka Sound.

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- Proposal 125—I support this proposal to reduce the harvest rate to 10% and to place a cap on the commercial sac-roe harvest at 10,000 tons. This will increase the economic value of the roe harvested and leave more herring in the water to support the ecosystem and subsistence harvesters.

Despite these excellent proposals to sustain commercial and traditional herring industries, there are several proposals which will remove conservation measures put in place by the Board of Fisheries. These proposals will crash the Sitka Sound herring populations, ruining both commercial and subsistence livelihoods. I do not support the following proposals:

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- Proposals 119 and 120—I do not support this proposal to close the subsistence only area in Sitka Sound. This proposal would remove existing protections that make it possible for subsistence harvesters to meet their needs.

Proposal 122—I do not support this proposal to reduce the biomass threshold for the Sitka stock from 25,000 tons to 20,000 tons. This proposal would remove existing conservation measures enacted by the Board of Fisheries and will be detrimental to the health of the marine ecosystem.

I hope you can take my comments into account for the upcoming Board of Fisheries-meeting in Sitka February 23-March 3.

Signature

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Contact Phone

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Street Address

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623-73/6 Contact Phone Street Address

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Street Address

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City. State and Zip 907-752-0095

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