

RC049

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. The closure has helped subsistence harvesters to meet some of their needs, but more area is necessary for subsistence harvesters to continuously meet their needs.

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:

Proposals 116 and 117—I *do not support* this proposal which would reduce the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS). The results of ADF&G Division of Subsistence herring harvester survey shows that the ANS is achievable, and that there is a high frequency of needs not being met.

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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

Victor E Littlefield
Printed Name

907-738-7466
Contact Phone

1/29/15
Date

103 Littlebyrd Way
Street Address

SITKA AK 99835
City, State and Zip

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Dorevan Dunca
Signature

Dorevan Dunca
Printed Name

747-0678
Contact Phone

1-29-15
Date

~~4-29-15~~ 414 A Marine St.
Street Address

Sitka, Ak 99835
City, State and Zip

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Dianna Audette
Signature

Dianna Audette
Printed Name

907-788-3830
Contact Phone

1/30/2015
Date

405 Marine St #5
Street Address

Sitka, AK 99835
City, State and Zip

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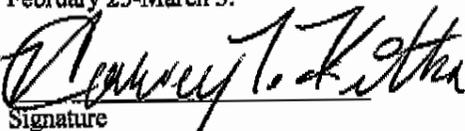
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Signature

Harvey T. Kitka
Printed Name

Contact Phone

1-29-15

Date
110 Ocean View Dr.

Street Address
Sitka AK 99835

City, State and Zip

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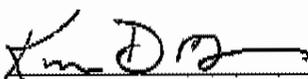
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Signature

Karen DeBell
Printed Name

738-1028
Contact Phone

1-30-15
Date

1904 Cascade Creek Rd
Street Address

Sitka, AK 99835
City, State and Zip

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Harvey T. Kitka
Signature

2-1-2015
Date

Harvey T. Kitka
Printed Name

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Street Address

(907) 747-8930
Contact Phone

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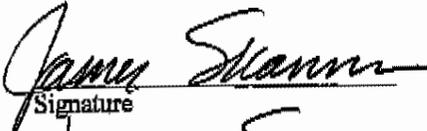
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Signature

JAMES SKANNES
Printed Name

360.774.6620
Contact Phone

1/28/2015
Date

103 KUNLE DR.
Street Address

SITKA, AK. 99835
City, State and Zip

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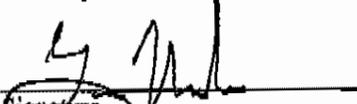
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Signature

Leslie Nelson
Printed Name

907 - 738 - 4098
Contact Phone

1 - 29 - 14
Date

107 New Archangel
Street Address

Sitka Ak 99835
City, State and Zip

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Richard E Whitson
Signature

1-29-2015
Date

Richard E Whitson
Printed Name

140 PATTERSON WAY
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907-738-0187
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