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.

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

Signature

1/29/15
Date

Victor E Littlefield
Printed Name

103 Littlebird Way
Street Address

907-738-7466
Contact Phone

Sitka AK 99835
City, State and Zip

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Donovan Duncan
Signature

1-29-15
Date

Donovan Duncan
Printed Name

1-29-15 414 A Marine St.
Street Address

747-0678
Contact Phone

Sitka, Ak 99835
City, State and Zip

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Dianna Audette
Signature

1/30/2015
Date

Dianna Audette
Printed Name

405 Marine St #5
Street Address

907-738-3830
Contact Phone

Sitka, AK 99835
City, State and Zip

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Harvey T. Kitka
Signature

1-29-15
Date

Harvey T. Kitka
Printed Name

110 Ocean View Dr.
Street Address

Sitka AK. 99835
City, State and Zip

Contact Phone

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Signature

1-30-15
Date

Karen DeBell
Printed Name

1904 Cascade Creek Rd
Street Address

738-1028
Contact Phone

Sitka, AK 99835
City, State and Zip

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Harvey T. Kitka
Signature

2-1-2015
Date

Harvey T. Kitka
Printed Name

110 Ocean View St.
Street Address

(907) 747-8930
Contact Phone

Sitka, AK 99835
City, State and Zip

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James Skannes
Signature

1/28/2015
Date

JAMES SKANNES
Printed Name

103 KUNLE DR.
Street Address

360.774.6620
Contact Phone

SITKA, AK. 99835
City, State and Zip

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Signature

1-29-14
Date

Leslie Nelson
Printed Name

107 New Archangel
Street Address

907-738-4098
Contact Phone

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
Street Address

907-738-0187
Contact Phone

Sitka AK. 99835
City, State and Zip