

January 11th, 2018

Assembly Members,

My name is Sidney Kinney. I am a fifth generation Sitkan, Alaskan native, Sitka Tribe Member, permit holder in the Sitka Sac Roe herring fishery, and a business owner in this community.

I am writing in regards to the recent assembly meeting in which you passed a vote to support the tribe in the upcoming board of fishing meeting occurring here in Sitka in the upcoming weeks. I'm aware we cannot go backwards and undo what is already in motion, but in moving forward I encourage each of you to educate yourself on the matters at hand and attend these meetings in Sitka in which you have chosen to support the Sitka Tribe. Listen to the department of fish and game research and decades worth of data and formulas that have worked and continue to work. See what the formulas are based on and how statistical data is collected and calculated to formulate the guideline harvest level each year. The department has done their due diligence in creating a sustainable resource and will continue to do so because it's in the best interest of all user groups and this community. This community is lucky to see the benefits of a well managed fishery. The formulas and data are not based on anecdotal evidence, or emotions but on scientific fact.

Along with having a resource that is sustainable, in every essence of the definition, the economic impact of limiting this fishery or closing in down all together is detrimental to this community. Over fifty percent of our local seine fleet participates in one form or another. Local businesses, cold storage workers, grocery stores, our own harbor department, restaurants, bars, bed and breakfasts, local merchants, cork boats, sample boats, crew and many others. It's the first financial breath of fresh air going into Spring and this shouldn't be taken lightly by you, the assembly, whose main goal is the betterment of the community and partnerships with our community. Whether the community is commercial fishing, tourism, or sports fishing. Would you support the commercial fleet (i.e. trollers, gillnetters) or subsistence users in shutting down the charter industry completely because the citizens of Sitka aren't meeting their subsistence needs of King Salmon?

My family lives off the land and have my entire life and for generations. I believe in responsible use of the resource for all user groups and that the resource be managed conservatively and responsibly. Do I believe the department is doing so? Yes

Are you aware that the herring fleet has provided roe on branches service to those in the community unable to collect their own for years? Permit holders and processors donate to this program to ensure the needs of the community are met and those outside the community as well.

On Friday, January 12th, 2018, the Department of Fish and Game is giving their assessment of the herring stock and where they forecast the future of the stock.

My family strongly encourage those of you who based their vote on emotion rather than evidence or fact to attend these meetings and to see the seriousness of the issue at hand and the fact that our assembly did not stay neutral to a community that is clearly divided.

Sincerely,

Sidney Kinney

CC: Board of Fish