

PROPOSAL 161

5 AAC 01.730. Subsistence fishing permits.

Require a subsistence fishing permit to harvest herring roe on branches in the Sitka Sound area, as follows:

Require a permit or registration for participation in the subsistence harvest under 5AAC 01.716 that can assist the department in managing the fishery and ensuring that subsistence harvesters have ‘reasonable opportunity’ to harvest herring eggs in the Sitka Sound Area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Many if not most of the subsistence fisheries in SE Alaska require a permit or registration in order to participate. The Sitka Sound subsistence fishery for herring eggs on branches and kelp does not have that requirement despite the need for accurate and timely information on harvest and participation. Present monitoring is done using a survey and interview system undertaken in part by some who have an interest in particular outcomes. While the department’s Subsistence Division participates in the process, the reports are not released in a timely manner and could benefit from a permit data collection program. Given the Sitka Tribe of Alaska lawsuit against the State of Alaska and Board of Fish, there is an even greater need for accurate information related to subsistence use of the Sitka sound herring resource. The Division of Subsistence has experienced significant reductions in budget that compromise the division’s capability to collect and compile data. A permit system for collecting data would assist the department in gathering more robust data and more timely reporting.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance

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