



January 13, 2018

State of Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board of Fish Members:

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) stands in solidarity with the many fisheries associations and commercial fishermen attending the Sitka meetings and wish to formally submit our support for Proposals 94 and 104, as well as our strong opposition to Proposals 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 105, and 106.

CDFU is a non-profit membership organization representing over 900 commercial fishing families who participate in commercial fisheries in Alaska's Area E, which includes Prince William Sound, the Copper River region and the northern-central Gulf. It is our mission to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the commercial fishing industry in Area E and to further promote safety at sea, legislation, conservation, management and general welfare for the mutual benefit of all our members. Many of our members participate in the Sitka Sound herring fishery. They depend on that fishery for their livelihood. Cutting the harvest rate, as suggested in Proposals 98 and 99, would be burdensome to their operations and could cause this fishery to be unprofitable. CDFU has not seen nor heard any biological data or clear evidence that justifies a proposed harvest rate reduction. ADF&G manages the herring fishery conservatively and biomass has risen from 5,000 tons in the 1970's to 55,000 in recent years. This biomass increase is in direct correlation to the sound management of this fishery.

CDFU is opposed to Proposals 105 and 106 which seek to increase the area closed to fishing in order to increase area or access for subsistence users. Subsistence participation has declined steadily over the past thirty years and ADF&G has demonstrated that a reasonable opportunity to subsist exists. Therefore, CDFU opposes proposals 105 and 106 and ask the Board to direct the Department to assess subsistence access in this are in the coming year, if needed, as opposed to cutting commercial area at this time.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune
President of the Board, CDFU *CC: CDFU Board of Directors & the CDFU Herring Division*