

**PROPOSAL 160**

**5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area.**

Reduce closed waters in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery, as follows:

Returning to the ‘core area’ established in 2012 would still allow for a designated subsistence harvest area while reversing the unnecessary losses of commercial fishing access to available resources. From 2012 until 2018, the regulation 5 AAC 27.150 (7) stated that closed waters would be:

“District 13, in the waters north and west of the Eliason Harbor breakwater and Makhnati Island Causeway from the westernmost tip of Makhnati Island to the easternmost point on Bieli Rock to the southernmost tip of Gagarin Island to a point on the eastern shore of Crow Island at 56 degrees 06.43’ N. lat., 135 degrees 28.27’ W long. To a point on the western shore of Middle Island at 57 degrees 06.41’ N. lat., 135 degrees 28.11 W. long. To a point on the southeastern shore of Middle Island at 57 degrees 05.56’ N. lat., 135 degrees 26.23’W. long to the green navigation marker northeast of Kasiana Island, to the Baranof Island shore at 57 degrees 05.26’ N. lat, 135 degrees 22.95’ w. long.”

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Waters closed to the commercial sac roe fishery in District 13 have been increased three times in the last ten years under the guise of increasing reasonable subsistence harvest opportunity based on purported failure of subsistence harvesters to reach the artificially inflated 136,000 to 227,000 pound ‘Amount Necessary for Subsistence’. The commercial sac roe fishery has lost access to areas that had previously yielded substantial portions of the harvest while the closures have had little or no effect on reasonable harvest opportunity or participation of subsistence users. In 2018, the ‘core’ area established in 2012 was increased with no demonstrated benefits to subsistence users. Returning to the ‘core area’ established in 2012 would still allow for a designated subsistence harvest area while reversing the unnecessary losses of commercial fishing access to available resources.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance

(HQ-F20-105)

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