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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, and members of the Board:

My name is Jonathan Forsling. I represent myself and the Traditional Council of Togiak.

My involvements in the Togiak Advisory Committee, Nushagak Advisory Committee and overall Fish & Game process was spurred by drastic changes to the ecosystem that have occurred since the exploitation of the herring biomass. Fish & Game has never identified how abundant the population was prior to human exploitation creating a shifted baseline. When Fish & Game began managing herring the biomass was already over exploited allowing a depleted state to be accepted as normal and healthy. ADF&G's single species age size analysis model for maximum sustained yield fails to consider the predation needs of all other marine wildlife. Studies have shown that this management model causes severe deterioration in the ecosystem structure. Recent studies show that herring in all phases of their life cycle make up over 62% of the diet of Chinook salmon, 59% of the diet for Coho salmon and 53% of the diet for halibut. Not to include all of the migratory birds, seabirds and marine mammals that feed on herring. Herring is a forage fish. All other forage fish are considered vital to the health of our marine ecosystem and are protected from commercial fishing. Why not herring?

The total harvest quota for Togiak in 2013 is over 32,000 short tons or 64 million pounds or 50,000 totes of herring. That's 20 miles high of stacked totes, which is 77 times higher than the Empire state building. All for 3,840 short tons of sac roe and 56,320,000 pounds of wonton waste.

My drive for this cause came from anecdotal traditional ecological knowledge. Now that I have covered a small portion of the inexcusably appalling facts and statistics, I would like to reference a small portion of key respondent interviews gathered in BSIERP and Fish and Game subsistence harvest of herring spawn on kelp studies.

After the commercialization of herring seems like the number of geese, whales, seals, and sea lions went way down. In the past when the herring came in it looked like the ocean was smoking when the first batch was spawning. The second batch was larger. The seiners fish for them commercially on the first spawn and people feel they should wait until the second spawn – that is why there isn't as much spawn on kelp today. Elders said to leave the first batch of spawn. At Anchor Point it seemed as though the water was overflowing because of the high density of herring. This area gets large congregations of herring and is a nursery for the whole marine ecosystem. We used to have 50 miles of coastline covered with herring eggs, regardless if there was kelp or not. Now, we get less than 50 yards of coastline with herring eggs and that's on good years.

We need to develop an amount necessary for subsistence, for the people of my village, the people of my region and most importantly the amount necessary for the sustainability of our ecosystem.

I hope we can come to some sort of resolve so we will continue to have our natural resources to manage. Thank you all for this opportunity to come before you. I look forward to the opportunity to answer your questions.