

ATTENTION FISHERMEN!!

July 19, 2012

Last weekend, Silver Bay Seafoods (SBS) off-loaded rockfish from two trawlers at their Sitka plant. The trawlers had 100,000 pounds of rockfish on board that had been caught off Yakutat. Yakutat Seafoods plant manager Greg Indreland refuses to buy trawl-caught fish, so the trawlers came to Sitka.

Like Sitka, Yakutat is home to subsistence, sport and commercial fishermen who depend on salmon, halibut and crab—all species killed and wasted by trawlers. Unlike Sitka, the Yakutat processor supported the local fleet and refused to buy trawl caught fish.

Trawlers are responsible for killing and wasting 5 million pounds of halibut every year in the Gulf of Alaska—twice as much as the Southeast directed fishery is allowed to catch and sell this year. Gulf trawlers also annually take as bycatch 30,000 king salmon and, in some years, over 200,000 crab. Trawling destroys habitat, kills and wastes non-target fish, and cripples small boat, community-based fishing fleets.

In 1998, Southeast communities united to ban trawling east of 140 degrees West Longitude, creating one of the largest no-trawl zones in the world. Every community in Southeast supported the ban. More recently, Sitka's City Assembly adopted a strong resolution calling for a reduction in Gulf of Alaska trawl bycatch. With few exceptions, subsistence, commercial, charter, and sport harvesters as well as the non-fishing residents of Sitka oppose trawling and strongly support the Southeast trawl ban.

We ask that SBS recognize our community values and be a responsible Sitka business. Yakutat said no to trawling; Sitka should too. If you agree, please share your views with Silver Bay Seafoods.

Thank you.

Richie Davis, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

John Littlefield, Dog Point Fish Camp

Andrew Thoms, Sitka Conservation Society

Mike Reif, Sitka Sea Roamer Charters

Ray Nielsen, Subsistence gatherer, Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Matt Donahoe, Sitka troller

Tom McClaughlin, Seafood Producers Cooperative

Pat Heuer, Sitka sportfisherman