



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

**Board of Fisheries**

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## **ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

### **JOINT BOARD OF FISHERIES / COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION HERRING REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**

2024-304-FB

Alaska's herring roe fisheries have declined in value since the 1990's. The regulatory structure was designed to support a majority of the harvest for herring roe. To facilitate higher value markets and uses for herring, regulatory structures must change.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) is the state's lead entity for creating and amending fisheries for the maximum value. Since the 1970's the board established numerous herring fisheries around the state which includes historic allocations to certain uses.

The Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (commission) was established to limit participation in fisheries in part to support economic stability for commercial fishermen. As the commission established its permitting system for herring it was done based predominately on seasonal fisheries and product form, i.e. sac roe, roe on kelp, food/bait.

Both authorities recognize that the regulatory systems may need to adapt to support changes in the herring fishery for the benefit of the seafood industry. To better understand current and potential markets, and review potential regulatory change to facilitate those markets, the board and commission agree to establish a joint committee on herring revitalization statewide.

The committee will meet at least once in the spring 2024 to fully execute its charge, review industry & public nominations, and determine research needs for future meetings. The committee will meet as needed, but envisioned at least three times by January 2025 to conclude its work. Final products may include assessments on current and potential markets, and regulatory options for change to compliment potential markets.

Membership will include at least two board members, a CFEC commissioner, and regionally diverse representation of public members, including commercial and subsistence harvesters, and the processing sector. The committee will seek assistance from the Department of Law, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and the Department of Fish and Game.

Travel costs will be handled by both agencies with CFEC handling costs associated with special guests if necessary. CFEC will cover meeting facility costs. Industry participants will cover their own costs.

Vote: 7-0

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John Wood, Chair

March 5, 2024