

2007 Southeast Alaska Herring Spawn-On-Kelp Pound Fishery Management Plan

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Division of Commercial Fisheries



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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Measures (fisheries)	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	fork length	FL
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	mid-eye-to-fork	MEF
gram	g	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	mid-eye-to-tail-fork	METF
hectare	ha	at	@	standard length	SL
kilogram	kg	compass directions:		total length	TL
kilometer	km	east	E		
liter	L	north	N	Mathematics, statistics	
meter	m	south	S	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
milliliter	mL	west	W	alternate hypothesis	H _A
millimeter	mm	copyright	©	base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
		corporate suffixes:		catch per unit effort	CPUE
		Company	Co.	coefficient of variation	CV
Weights and measures (English)		Corporation	Corp.	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	Incorporated	Inc.	confidence interval	CI
foot	ft	Limited	Ltd.	correlation coefficient	
gallon	gal	District of Columbia	D.C.	(multiple)	R
inch	in	et alii (and others)	et al.	correlation coefficient	
mile	mi	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	(simple)	r
nautical mile	nmi	exempli gratia	e.g.	covariance	cov
ounce	oz	(for example)		degree (angular)	°
pound	lb	Federal Information Code	FIC	degrees of freedom	df
quart	qt	id est (that is)	i.e.	expected value	<i>E</i>
yard	yd	latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	greater than	>
		monetary symbols		greater than or equal to	≥
		(U.S.)	\$, ¢	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
Time and temperature		months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	less than	<
day	d	registered trademark	®	less than or equal to	≤
degrees Celsius	°C	trademark	™	logarithm (natural)	ln
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	United States (adjective)	U.S.	logarithm (base 10)	log
degrees kelvin	K	United States of America (noun)	USA	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
hour	h	U.S.C.	United States Code	minute (angular)	'
minute	min	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	not significant	NS
second	s			null hypothesis	H ₀
Physics and chemistry				percent	%
all atomic symbols				probability	P
alternating current	AC			probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
ampere	A			probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
calorie	cal			second (angular)	"
direct current	DC			standard deviation	SD
hertz	Hz			standard error	SE
horsepower	hp			variance	
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH			population	Var
parts per million	ppm			sample	var
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

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**2007 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING
SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

by

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ABSTRACT

This plan provides an overview of the management approach and regulations for the 2007 spawn-on-kelp pound fisheries in Southeast Alaska. Staff biologists listed at the end of this document are available to answer questions regarding this plan. Pound operators are also advised to review the section of this plan that describes requirements of other agencies.

Key words: herring, herring pound, *Macrocystis* kelp allocation, management plan, spawn on kelp.

INTRODUCTION

This plan provides an overview of the 2007 management approach, permit requirements, and regulations for the Southeast Alaska spawn-on-kelp fisheries. 5 AAC 27.185 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HERRING SPAWN ON KELP IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA establishes the regulatory framework for the Southeast Alaska spawn-on-kelp fisheries and provides for fisheries in Sections 3-B (Craig/Klawock), 12-A (Tenakee Inlet), and 13-C (Hoonah Sound), and in District 7 (Ernest Sound). In 2007, the guideline harvest level (GHL) available to the spawn-on-kelp fishery in Craig/Klawock is 1,260 tons based on a forecast of 13,768 tons and an estimated remaining winter food and bait GHL of 484 tons. Hoonah Sound has a GHL of 681 tons based on a forecast of 4,168 tons. For Tenakee Inlet, the department lacked sufficient data to generate a meaningful forecast for 2007. Since there was insufficient biomass for herring fisheries last year, and nothing to indicate a change, there will be no winter food and bait or spawn-on-kelp fishery there in 2007. Ernest Sound did not reach threshold so there will be no spawn-on-kelp fishery there in 2007.

A *closed-pound-fishery* involves releasing sexually mature herring into a net impoundment in which kelp is suspended. The herring are released from the pound after they spawn on the kelp, and the kelp with eggs is then sold. An *open-pound-fishery* involves suspending kelp from a floating frame structure in an area where herring are spawning. The herring are not impounded by a net but instead are allowed to naturally spawn on the suspended kelp. The kelp blades with eggs are removed from the water then sold.

In the Southeast Alaska herring spawn-on-kelp fisheries, a closed or an open pound may be operated by one or more Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holders. To reduce the amount of gear on the fishing grounds and the associated handling and impoundment of herring, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has provided an incentive to multiple permit pound operators by giving them a larger allocation of *Macrocystis* blades or fronds.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries made a finding that the use of test fish revenues to develop new commercial herring fisheries is consistent with the ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries Test Fishery Policy. The department conducted closed pound spawn-on-kelp test fisheries in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Since then, carry-over test fish revenues and budget allocations have provided adequate funding and no test fisheries are planned for the 2007 season.

HERRING STOCK STATUS AND HISTORIC FISHERY PERFORMANCE

METHODS OF FORECASTING HERRING BIOMASS

The Biomass Accounting (BA) method of forecasting has been used to determine the 2007 season's GHL in Hoonah Sound. The BA method uses the most recent year's spawn deposition estimate of eggs, the age composition of the spawning biomass, and weights-at-age to project the following year's return of mature herring. The Hoonah Sound projection also uses the average survival estimate from the age-structured analyses (ASA) from four other areas in Southeast Alaska, and maturation rates estimated by ASA for the nearby Sitka Sound herring stock. A median historical level of recruitment of age-3 herring specific to Hoonah Sound is also applied to forecast biomass.

This BA method is unlike the ASA method used for forecasting herring biomass for several of the larger stocks in Southeast Alaska, including Craig/Klawock and Tenakee Inlet. The ASA method also uses the spawn deposition estimate of the eggs and the age composition to project the following year's return of mature herring. However, the ASA model calculates survival and maturation rates specific to the spawning stock. The ASA model utilizes a long time series of spawn deposition and age composition information to provide an estimate of the most recent biomass, from which the forecast biomass for the next year is determined. The department will continue to consider converting to use of the preferred ASA method for forecasting once there is an adequate time series of data to do so.

Once a forecast of the season's biomass is calculated, a sliding harvest rate formula allows for a harvest rate of between 10 and 20% of the forecast of mature spawning biomass. When the spawning biomass forecast for an area equals the threshold, the exploitation rate is 10% of the estimated spawning biomass. For each incremental increase in the spawning biomass equal to the threshold, the exploitation rate increases by 2%.

CRAIG-KLAWOCK (SECTION 3-B)

Winter food and bait herring fisheries have occurred in Section 3-B (in the Meares Passage and Bocas de Finas area) since the 1960s. Seasonal landings from the 1960s through 1985 were small, averaging approximately 210 tons. From the start of the herring spawn-on-kelp fishery in 1992, the Craig/Klawock herring GHLS have averaged 1,240 tons, ranging from a high of 2,684 tons in 1992 to a low of 626 tons in 2000 (Table 1.-). This will be the 16th year that the Craig/Klawock herring spawn-on-kelp fishery has occurred. Fishing effort, harvest, spawning dates, fishery dates, and product values are summarized in Table 2.-

Annual harvest levels are based on a graduated scale that allows for higher harvest rates as the herring population increases relative to the threshold level. No harvest is allowed if the biomass estimate for the stock is less than the threshold level. The established threshold level for the Craig/Klawock stock is 5,000 tons. The 2007 forecast for the Craig area is 13,768 tons. The allowable 13.5% harvest rate will allow a combined quota of 1,860 tons for the winter food and bait and the spawn-on-kelp fisheries. The age class structure is anticipated to be predominantly older age herring, including 21% of age 6, 26% of age 7 and 24% of age 8+.

The allocation between the winter bait fishery and the spring herring pound fishery is 60% of the GHL is allocated to the winter bait fishery and 40% of the GHL is allocated to the herring spawn-on-kelp fishery. Therefore, for the 2007 season, the GHL for the winter food and bait fishery was 1,116 tons, and the GHL for the spawn-on-kelp fishery will be 744 tons plus the

unharvested remainder of the winter food and bait fishery GHL. The preliminary winter food and bait harvest is approximately 300 tons. Since the 2007 herring allocation for the Section 3-B spawn-on-kelp fishery is more than 1,000 tons, the *Macrocystis* kelp allocation will be at the highest end of the allocation range.

Herring spawning normally occurs in the Craig/Klawock area between mid March and early April. The earliest spawning observed since the mid-1970s was March 9 and the latest date of initial spawning occurred April 9, 2005. Traditionally, herring spawn on Fish Egg, Wadleigh, Clam, and Abbess Islands. However, spawning has also been recorded in the area of Portillo Channel, Port Real Marina, the northern shore of San Fernando Island, the Blanquizar Island area, and along the Prince of Wales Island shore at San Christoval Channel and Shinaku Inlet. Figure 1 shows the open area for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp fishery.

TENAKEE INLET (SECTION 12-A)

The Tenakee Inlet stock has been utilized for the winter food and bait fishery since the 1978/1979 season. The GHL for the winter food and bait fishery in Tenakee Inlet during years with fisheries has ranged from a low of 200 tons in 1978/1979 to a peak of 1,700 tons in 1985/1986 (Table 3).

ADF&G has been conducting aerial surveys in Tenakee Inlet since the early 1970s to define herring spawn deposition areas and to estimate the total miles of spawn to provide an indication of herring stock size or biomass. Aerial surveys were supplemented with hydroacoustic surveys from 1979 through 1986 to provide a more refined estimate of the biomass of Tenakee Inlet herring. Starting in the spring of 1987, spawn-deposition dive surveys were routinely used, in addition to aerial surveys, as the most reliable and accurate means to assess the spawning biomass.

In the early to mid-1990s, the Tenakee Inlet herring stock was at a depressed level due to a period of low recruitment beginning in 1988. It was not until 1996 that a strong recruitment of three-year-old herring entered into the population boosting the ASA estimated biomass to approximately 6,000 tons, up from 400 tons the previous year. The ASA estimated biomass peaked in 1998 at approximately 13,000 tons and has since declined to less than an estimated 3,000 tons following a number of years of declining recruitment.

Lack of sufficient data prevented the department from generating a meaningful forecast for 2007. With no spawn-on-kelp fishery in 2006 the department did not station staff in Tenakee, and the location of the spawn and the prevailing weather conditions prevented staff from sampling the spawning age composition during the daily aerial surveys conducted throughout the spawn event (Table 4). Without the age composition of the spawning biomass, the ASA model would not generate a meaningful forecast. After careful deliberation of all available data it was decided that conservation of the resource is of primary importance, and there will be no commercial herring fisheries on the Tenakee Inlet stock in the 2006–2007 season.

Spawning in Tenakee Inlet has generally occurred between the last week in April and the first week in May (Table 3, Table 10). During the 1970s through the late 1980s, herring primarily spawned along the south shoreline of Tenakee Inlet between Saltery Bay and Trap Bay. The most frequented spawning grounds were along the east and west shorelines of Kadashan Bay. During the spring of 1989, aerial surveys revealed that herring had spawned in the East Point and Wachusett Cove areas north of Tenakee Inlet. Additional herring spawn was observed south of Tenakee Inlet between South Passage Point and Basket Bay. This was the first time herring had been recorded spawning in areas other than their more traditional spawning grounds inside

Tenakee Inlet. The spring of 1996 was the only season that significant spawning was recorded on the north shore of Tenakee Inlet. That spawn occurred between Tenakee Springs and Cannery Point. A total of 18.1 nautical miles of spawn occurred during the spring of 1996.

From 1998 through 2006, spawning has occurred inside Tenakee Inlet along its southern shoreline from Saltery Bay to South Passage Point and on the Chatham Strait shoreline south of South Passage Point. Significant spawning has occurred between South Passage Point and Basket Bay six of the past nine seasons (1998–2006). In 2000 all of the spawn occurred between South Passage Point and Peninsular Point. A total of 5.9 nautical miles of shoreline was mapped as receiving herring spawn in spring 2006. Spawning inside Tenakee Inlet occurred discontinuously from Corner Bay to Trap Bay, with few small spot spawns on the north shore in the vicinity of Corner Point.

Regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) in January 2003 provide for a spawn-on-kelp fishery in Tenakee Inlet. That fishery occurred for the first time in April 2003 with 55 participants. The second Tenakee Inlet fishery occurred in 2004 with 85 participants. In 2005, 98 permit holders participated. Because the Tenakee Inlet stock was below threshold in 2006, no commercial herring fisheries occurred. Summary results of the Tenakee Inlet spawn-on-kelp fisheries are presented in Table 5.

HOONAH SOUND (SECTION 13-C)

Since the department first monitored the population in 1971, the Hoonah Sound herring spawning stock has averaged 7.3 nautical miles of spawn and 2,913 tons of spawning biomass. Since 1990, the year the spawn-on-kelp fishery started, the stock has averaged 11.0 nautical miles of spawn and 4,777 tons of spawning biomass (Table 6). The highest recorded spawning biomass occurred in 2003 with an estimated 9,423 tons. In 2006, approximately 9.0 nautical miles of spawn were observed from April 23 through April 26. The spawning biomass estimate derived from dive surveys was 6,028 tons of herring. Age composition of the 2006 spawning herring was 0% age-3, 16% age-4, 12% age-5, 10% age-6, 13% age-7, and 50% age-8+ (Table 7).

Based on spawning-age structure and biomass in 2006, the BA forecast for Hoonah Sound in 2007 is 4,168 tons. This forecast is well above the threshold or minimum amount of herring spawning biomass of 1,000 tons necessary for a fishery. The GHF for 2007 is 681 tons based on a 16.0% harvest rate. The expected age structure for 2007 is 8% age-3, 1% age-4, 19% age-5, 11% age-6, 9% age-7, and 53% ages-8+.

Herring spawning normally occurs in Hoonah Sound during the last two weeks of April. The earliest recorded spawning occurred on April 13, 1990, and the latest recorded spawning was on May 17, 1971. During the 2006 season, spawning occurred from April 23 through April 26. Traditionally, spawning occurs in Hoonah Sound around Vixen and Emmons Islands and the shoreline from Fick Cove to Ushk Point. Spawning has also been observed in Peril Strait along the Chichagof Island shoreline from Finger River to Broad Island, at False Island, and along the Baranof Island shoreline from Nismeni Point to Point Benham.

In Hoonah Sound during the 2006 season, a total of 79 permit-holders reported landings totaling 324,157 pounds (162.1 tons) of spawn on kelp (Table 8). The average price was \$6.00/pound for a total exvessel value of \$1,943,422.

ERNEST SOUND (DISTRICT 7)

The established threshold level for the Ernest Sound stock is 2,500 tons. No harvest is allowed if the biomass estimate for the stock is less than the threshold level. The 2006 forecast for Ernest Sound is 1,955 tons so there will be no fishery in 2007. Fishing effort and harvest, and spawning, and fishery dates, are summarized in Table 9.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The following is a calendar of events to be considered by pound operators for the 2007 fishing season.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| November 8 | News Release announcing Tenakee Inlet and Ernest Sound are below threshold. |
| January 23 | News Release announcing the 2007 Hoonah Sound GHF of 669 tons. |
| No Specific Deadline | U.S. Forest Service special-use permit applications (for use of National Forest land above mean high tide) must be submitted to obtain a special-use permit. Special-use permits are required to camp or store gear on National Forest land in conjunction with this fishery. Please contact the USFS directly for applications at (907) 747-4220. |
| March 1 | Kelp permits will be available at department area offices; ADF&G will issue a news release announcing the actual harvest of the bait herring fisheries and kelp allocation for Craig/Klawock. |
| March 12 | 2007 spawn-on-kelp Pound Fisheries Management Plan available at all Southeast Alaska area offices. |
| March 17 | The Craig/Klawock fishery will be open to seining of herring for placement in pounds effective 12:00 noon. |
| April 6 | The Hoonah Sound fishery will open to seining of herring for placement in pounds effective 12:00 noon. |
| May 31 | Pounds must be completely removed from the waters of the herring pound fishing area in Section 3-B. This includes the area covered by extreme high tide. |
| June 7 | Pounds must be completely removed from the waters of the herring pound fishing area in sections 12-A and 13-C. This includes the area covered by extreme high tide. |

REGULATIONS

GENERAL SPAWN-ON-KELP REGULATIONS

The regulatory framework for the spawn-on-kelp fishery is found in 5 AAC 27.185. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HERRING SPAWN ON KELP IN POUNDS IN SECTIONS 3-B, 12-A, AND 13-C, AND DISTRICT 7. The Alaska Board of Fisheries met in Ketchikan in January 2006 and adopted several regulatory changes to the management plan including changes to the kelp allocation, the definition of a closed pound, pound marking requirements, and requirements for maintaining the egg-covered webbing in its original configuration after the fishery. These regulations will be in effect for the 2007 season.

Definition of a closed pound

A *closed-pound* is defined as a single, floating, rectangular frame structure with suspended webbing that is used to enclose herring for a period of time in order to produce spawn-on-kelp. The webbing of a closed pound may not have a mesh size of more than one and one-half inches. The opening of the closed pound must be rectangular at the water surface and may not exceed 800 square feet in area. Neither the vertical wall nor the near-vertical wall may exceed a depth below the water surface when the pound contains herring as follows:

<u>Surface square footage</u>	<u>Maximum depth</u>
Less than 400	30 feet
401–500	24 feet
501–600	20 feet
601–700	17 feet
<u>701–800</u>	<u>15 feet</u>

The former requirement to “maintain six feet of surplus webbing gathered at the surface that may be lowered into the water when submerged webbing becomes saturated with eggs” has been removed from regulations.

Herring Pound Marking Requirements

Permit holders are required to mark the pound with a sign that has on it the permit holder's first and last name and the five-digit CFEC permit number. The sign must be vertical and the markings must be clearly visible and above the surface of the water at all times (Figure 2). The sign must be left on the pound structure or the net support system the entire time any part of the pound system is in the water.

All lines or structures used to suspend kelp must have legible tags affixed above the water surface that state the number of blades or fronds on that line or structure along with the permit holder's first and last name. In a multiple permit pound, each permit holder must keep their kelp on lines or structures separate from lines or structures that support kelp belonging to other permit holders.

Placement and Release of Herring in Pounds

Herring may be placed in or added to a pound for four days from the initial placement of herring in a pound. After 11:59 p.m. on the fourth day, no additional herring may be added to the pound (5 AAC 27.185 (q)) and those herring in the pound must be released by 11:59 p.m. on the sixth

day after the initial placement of herring in a pound (5 AAC 27.185 (s)). Under 5 AAC 27.185 (s) the “*first day*” is defined as the day herring are first placed into a pound. The “*first day*” under 5 AAC 27.185 (q), though not specifically defined, will be enforced as the day that herring are first put into the pound. Once herring have been released or spawn-on-kelp product has been harvested no additional herring or kelp may be introduced into a pound (5 AAC 27.185 (q)). When releasing herring at least one full side of the pound's webbing must be lowered a minimum of six feet below the surface of the water (5 AAC 27.185 (s)). These regulations are fundamental to the health of the herring spawning stocks and, along with gear size and kelp allocation limits, provide for sustainable use by limiting the harvest of herring by the fishery. Fishermen must take responsibility to ensure that when adding herring to a pound that herring are not at the same time swimming out of the pound as this would be a violation of 5 AAC 27.185 (q).

Connection of Herring Pounds

After the last herring has been placed into the pounds and the permit holders have notified a department representative, two pounds of two or more permit holders may drop a wall of their respective pounds to allow herring to swim between two connected pounds. Additional herring may not be transferred into the pounds once the two of them are joined. This does not change the definition of pounds as found in 5 AAC 27.130. **LAWFUL GEAR FOR SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA.** (e)(1) which states that webbing of a closed pound may not be part of the webbing of another closed pound. Therefore, after fishing operations have ended two pounds may be joined, but they must remain up to that point a single unit of gear. If two pounds are joined the regulation that allows for retention of herring for six days will be enforced on the pound which first had herring placed into the structure. Under this regulation only two pounds can be joined together.

Units of Gear

For the purpose of this fishery, a closed pound is considered to be *fishing* once herring have been introduced into the closed pound structure; a closed pound is considered to have *stopped fishing* once all of the herring have been released and all spawn-on-kelp product has been removed from the closed pound structure. For the purpose of this fishery, an open pound is considered to be *fishing* once kelp has been attached to the open pound structure; an open pound is considered to have *stopped fishing* once the entire spawn-on-kelp product has been removed from the open pound structure.

The Northern Southeast Alaska area includes Sections 12-A and 13-C and the Southern Southeast Alaska area includes Section 3-B and District 7. Since Northern and Southern Southeast Alaska have different limited entry permits a permit holder may have gear in the water in both areas but a permit holder must still be physically present at those times that the pound is actively fished as defined in 5 AAC 27.185. While the permit holder may have gear in both the Northern area and the Southern area at the same time, they may not fish multiple units of gear in either area.

Presence of Permit Holders Required

A permit holder must be physically present at the permit holder's pound site during the operation of the pound as defined in sections (o) and (p) of 5 AAC 27.185 **MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HERRING SPAWN ON KELP IN POUNDS IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA.**

Post Harvest Requirements

After a permit holder releases herring and harvests product from the pound, the permit holder must maintain the webbing in place for at least four weeks. To optimize hatching success, the permit holder must position egg-covered webbing in the original size and configuration of the pound structure with adequate water circulation on all sides. The webbing support system must be above the surface of the water and clearly marked as per 5 AAC 27.185 (k).

Harvest and Production

Each permit holder's spawn-on-kelp blades must remain separate from other permit holder's spawn-on-kelp blades until after processing and grading is completed. Permit holders will be allowed to harvest all spawn on kelp produced in their pounds. A permit holder's fish ticket must report only the spawn on kelp they harvested from their pound. Each permit holder fishing a jointly operated pound shall be issued a fish ticket and the sum of the weights of those tickets shall equal the total weight of product produced in the jointly operated pound. All permit holders and any vessel carrying commercial spawn-on-kelp product from the fishing grounds must first contact the ADF&G with the estimated amount of spawn-on-kelp product harvested and indicate the intended time and location of the delivery. For any product that has been delivered on the grounds to a licensed processor, the processor (not the permit holder) will be required to contact the department with delivery weight for each landing on board.

Requirements for Buyers

Reporting requirements for buyers and processors of spawn-on-kelp product from Southeast Alaska spawn-on-kelp fisheries can be found in 5 AAC 27.187 BUYER AND PROCESSORS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPAWN ON KELP IN POUNDS FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA. Buyers, processors, and permit holders should read and become familiar with these reporting requirements.

Operators of floating processing vessels, tender vessels, and catcher-processors will be required to report in person, by VHF radio, or by telephone, to the Department of Fish and Game office or directly to department area management biologists on the grounds before the start of processing operations in Southeast Alaska. These reporting requirements are specified by regulation 5 AAC 39.130 (f) and (g).

Other Regulations:

Additional regulations pertaining to the Hoonah Sound and Tenakee Inlet pound fisheries can be found in the 2006–2007 Commercial Herring Fishing Regulations booklet under CHAPTER 27, ARTICLE 4, SOUTHEAST ALASKA AREA under the following sections: 5 AAC 27.110 FISHING SEASONS FOR SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA(f), 5 AAC 27.130 LAWFUL GEAR FOR SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA(d), and (e), and 5 AAC 27.185 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HERRING SPAWN ON KELP IN POUNDS(a) through (x), and 5 AAC 27.187 BUYER AND PROCESSORS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPAWN ON KELP IN POUNDS FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA. Harvesting requirements for *Macrocystis* kelp are found in 5 AAC 37.100 PERMITS. AND 5 AAC 37.300 HARVESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MACROCYSTIS.

It is the responsibility of permit holders to carefully review and follow these regulations.

SECTION 3-B

Open Waters

The open waters for Section 3-B include: the waters of San Alberto Bay, Shinaku Inlet and San Christoval Channel north of a line from Entrance Point to the southernmost tip of Clam Island to the southernmost tip of Fern Point and East of 133° 20' W. longitude (Figure 1).

In Section 3-B (Craig/Klawock) herring may be captured for placement in closed pounds starting at 12:00 noon on March 17, 2007 until closed by emergency order.

Closed Waters

In Section 3-B certain areas are closed to the operation of herring pounds and seines for taking of herring for placement in pounds. Those areas are shown in Figure 1 and include:

- Klawock Inlet and Big Salt Lake
- Those waters of San Christoval Channel in the main channel enclosed by a line from 55° 35.62' N. latitude, 133° 20' W longitude to 55° 35.17' N. latitude, 133° 20' W longitude to 55° 33.37' N. latitude, 133° 17.52' W. longitude to 55° 33.50' N. latitude, 133°17.28' W. longitude.
- Those waters of Fish Egg and Ballena Islands south of 55° 31' N. latitude and north of the southernmost tip of Cape Suspiro and east of the longitude of Ballena Island Shoal Light.

Kelp Allocation

In section 3-B the kelp allocation for the spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is as follows:

Guideline Harvest Range for Herring (tons)	Single Permit Closed Pounds	Double-Permit Closed Pounds	Triple-Permit Closed Pounds	Single Permit Open Pounds	Multiple Permit Open Pounds
200–599	200 blades	400 blades	550 blades	100 fronds or 1,000 blades	300 fronds or 3,000 blades
600 –799	300 blades	450 blades	675 blades	150 fronds or 1,500 blades	450 fronds or 4,500 blades
800 – 999	400 blades	600 blades	900 blades	200 fronds or 2,000 blades	600 fronds or 6,000 blades
1,000 or more	600 blades	750 blades	1,125 blades	250 fronds or 2,500 blades	750 fronds or 7,500 blades

Herring Allocation

The Section 3-B (Craig/Klawock) herring stock is allocated such that 60 percent of the GHL is allocated to the bait fisheries with the remaining 40 percent for the spawn-on-kelp pound fishery. On March 1, any GHL allocated to the winter food and bait fishery that has not been harvested is added to the GHL for the spawn-on-kelp fishery.

SECTION 12-A

The forecast return of mature herring for Section 12-A (Tenakee Inlet) in the spring of 2007 is below the threshold of 3,000 tons and the fishery will remain closed in 2007.

SECTION 13-C

Open Waters

The waters open for the Hoonah Sound fishery include: the waters of Hoonah Sound north and west of a line from Point Marie to a point on the northern shore of Hoonah Sound at 57° 37.38' N. latitude, 135° 27' W. longitude (Figure 3).

In Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound) herring may be captured for placement in closed pounds after 12:01 a.m. April 6, 2007 until closed by emergency order.

Kelp Allocation

In Section 13-C, the kelp allocation for the spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is as follows:

Guideline Harvest Range for Herring (tons)	Single Permit Closed Pounds	Double-Permit Closed Pounds	Triple-Permit Closed Pounds	Single Permit Open Pounds	Multiple Permit Open Pounds
100 – 249	None	None	none	60 fronds or 600 blades	60 fronds or 600 blades
250 – 399	200 blades	400 blades	500 blades	110 fronds or 1,100 blades	110 fronds or 1,100 blades
400 – 599	300 blades	500 blades	750 blades	160 fronds or 1,600 blades	160 fronds or 1,600 blades
600 – 799	1,000 blades	2,500 blades	1,500 blades	2,300 blades or 230 fronds	2,300 blades or 230 fronds
800 or more	2,000 blades	3,000 blades	1,500 blades	300 fronds or 3,000 blades	300 fronds or 3,000 blades

DISTRICT 7

The forecast return of mature herring for District 7 (Ernest Sound) in the spring of 2007 is below the threshold of 2,500 tons and the fishery will remain closed in 2007.

EXPERIMENTAL GEAR PERMITS

New regulations addressing the definition of a closed pound were adopted by the BOF during the January, 2006 meeting in Ketchikan. Experimental gear permits will not be required to operate rectangular pounds using the newly defined surface area and depth configurations. However, all pounds must be configured in a manner that is consistent with the new regulations specified in the “REGULATIONS” section of this management plan. The department’s authority to provide experimental gear permits on a case-by-case basis, as authorized under AS 16.05.050(10), remains in effect. Experimental gear permits may be issued to those providing the department with a detailed plan that demonstrates innovation and the potential to increase spawn-on-kelp product quality and/or quantity without increasing the use of herring. In consideration of recent BOF action, the department will carefully consider the potential benefits of issuing further experimental gear permits before making a decision to proceed.

HARVEST AND ALLOCATION OF KELP FOR 2007

A permit is required to harvest kelp for use in pounds (5 AAC 37.900). Kelp harvest permits may be obtained from local department offices. Kelp blades will be allocated equally among permit holders fishing the same type of gear. The amount of kelp allowed for harvest for each permit holder is based on the kelp allocation table as indicated under REGULATION 5 AAC 27.185 (d) plus an allowance for breakage and loss during transport. Specific allocation limits are for individual permit holders and are dependent upon the herring GHL and the type of gear to be used. The kelp allocations for the 2007 season; in Craig/Klawock based on a GHL of 1,260 tons and Hoonah Sound, based on a GHL of 681 tons, are as follows:

Section 3-B (Craig/Klawock):

- Single permit closed pounds—600 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp;
- Double permit closed pounds—750 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp (per permit holder);
- Triple permit closed pounds—1,125 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp (per permit holder);
- Single permit open pounds—2,500 blades or 250 fronds of *Macrocystis* kelp;
- Multiple permit open pounds—7,500 blades or 750 fronds of *Macrocystis* kelp.

Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound):

- Single permit closed pounds—1,000 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp;
- Double permit closed pounds—2,500 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp (per permit holder);
- Triple permit closed pounds—1,500 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp (per permit holder);
- Single permit open pounds—2,300 blades or 230 fronds of *Macrocystis* kelp;
- Multiple permit open pounds—2,300 blades or 230 fronds of *Macrocystis* kelp.

FISHERY CONDUCT AND MANAGEMENT

Suitable sites for pounds in Craig/Klawock, and Hoonah Sound are limited. To avoid herring mortality and damage to the pounds, permit holders should locate their pounds in an area with minimal exposure to wind and wave action, and a relatively deep bottom. The distance between the locations where herring are captured and where the pound will be anchored should be minimized since long towing distances can cause stress induced spawning, egg loss, de-scaling and mortality of herring.

All permit holders involved in the operation of a pound, whether single or multiple permit pound, must be physically present at their pound fishing site at all times during the *operation of the pound*. *Operation of the pound* is defined as:

- 1) The placement of kelp into the pound structure;
- 2) The capture and transfer of herring into the pound;
- 3) The collection and sale of herring spawn-on-kelp product produced in the pound;
- 4) All permit holders must be present when two pounds are put together.

For multiple permit closed pounds, all permit holders assigned to the pound must be present at their pound site when kelp and herring are introduced into the pound. If only one permit holder is present at this time then that pound must be operated for the remainder of the season as a single permit closed pound and no more than the number of blades of kelp allocated to a single closed pound may be harvested.

The ADF&G will be closely monitoring herring activity using vessel and aerial surveys. Results of aerial surveys will be announced by department news release. This information will also be available by recorded message at 907-225-6870 (Ketchikan office) for Section 3-B (Craig/Klawock) and at 907-747-1009 (Sitka office) for 13-C (Hoonah Sound).

In 2007, the department will continue to monitor the practice of *top-off-fishing*. This practice has been successfully used to stimulate new spawning in pounds and therefore to produce better spawn on kelp quality and quantity. The department has a concern, based on observations during the 2003 season, that the practice of “top off fishing” was abused by some fishermen. If a permit holder allows herring to swim out of their pound when they are adding fresh herring to their pound thereby exchanging spawned-out herring for fresh herring this is a violation of 5 AAC 27.185 (q). If any such cases are observed or reported in 2007, then the department will turn such cases over to the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement (ABWE) for citation. Additionally, the department will consider closure of the fishery to all further fishing by emergency order or limiting fishing to specific daylight hours only. Should the latter two measures become necessary, then such measures may have the unwanted consequence of preventing some permit holders from the capture of herring that season. The department is requesting the assistance of permit holders to ensure that additions of *top-off-fishing* are only conducted in compliance with regulations.

In Hoonah Sound, the department will station a state vessel and personnel on the grounds when herring are available for capture. In Craig/Klawock department personnel can be contacted through the ADF&G office in Craig. Department personnel will closely monitor all phases of the fishery. All fishery announcements, including updates of herring activities and fishery openings/closures, will be broadcast by VHF radio, channel 10. Permit holders are expected to have a VHF radio.

To avoid mortality, the transport of herring to the pound site should be done with the pound itself or a pushable/towable net pen. Towable net pens used only for transporting herring must be marked "Tow Pound". Transporting with a purse seine is discouraged except for very short distances. Pound operators should slowly push pounds or tow the pound alongside to avoid prop wash and prevent crushing herring against the net. Pound operators are also advised to minimize the distance herring are towed to avoid stressing the herring or causing egg loss, which can result in poorer quality product. Permit holders are asked to avoid making and holding large sets intended to fill multiple pounds to avoid herring mortality and stress. The department may close the fishery or limit fishing to daylight hours to minimize stress and mortality, to reduce potential set size, or to better monitor the fishery.

Although the department determines the number of kelp blades that can be harvested and placed in each permit holder's pound, fishers are encouraged to fish the number of blades which will maximize the overall quality and value of their product rather than simply to fish the total amount allowed. Other measures already in use in the fishery that should be considered when trying to maximize spawn on kelp quality and value include the following:

- 1) Pound nets shaped with internal frames to provide the full net volume;
- 2) Adjusting the kelp height in the pound to the depth of active spawning by testing with a weighted string;
- 3) Fishing and transferring herring to pounds when herring are fully mature;
- 4) Small top-off sets added over a 2–3 day period;

- 5) Limiting herring density in the net to a conservative amount since spawning is retarded by excessive crowding;
- 6) Web depth adjustments to provide good water exchange;
- 7) Working in a smaller group to provide adequate time for tending pounds.

The Craig/Klawock and Hoonah Sound areas are high-use recreational areas valued for their fish and wildlife resources as well as their wilderness character. The department has received a number of public complaints regarding pound structures and other material that were either abandoned in the water or on the upland areas. All materials that are used in these fisheries should either be removed from the area or stored in the upland areas under the terms of a required United States Forest Service conditional use permit.

OTHER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

Prospective pound operators are advised to consider other agency requirements for constructing and operating pounds in Craig/Klawock, and Hoonah Sound. Pound operators are urged to contact the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard to determine other regulations and requirements. Phone numbers for those agencies are listed below.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (907-465-3400) manages the use of tidelands and submerged lands seaward of mean high water.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

In the Hoonah Sound and Tenakee Inlet areas, the U.S. Forest Service has jurisdiction over and manages most of the lands above mean high tide. People who plan to use National Forest land in connection with the fishery must apply for a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service prior to any occupancy. Special use permit applications are available at the Sitka Ranger District Office, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, Alaska 99835, (907-747-6671). Completed applications should be submitted to the Sitka Ranger District well in advance of operations to ensure that a permit is received in time for the fishery. Examples of use needing a permit include (but are not limited to): camping on National Forest land in conjunction with the commercial fishery, and storage of gear on the National Forest.

U.S. NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (907-747-6940) regulates activities that might harm marine mammals.

U.S. COAST GUARD

Structures such as floating fish pens are subject to the requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 33, Part 64. This regulation requires an owner to apply for a U.S. Coast Guard permit and to install and maintain a light or other private aid to navigation if the U.S. Coast Guard determines it to be necessary to protect maritime navigation.

Herring pounds used in the spawn-on-kelp pound fishery do not require permits for private aids to navigation at this time, provided the owners:

Place two signs on opposite corners of the structure. These signs will be worded "Danger, Fish Pens" (Figure 4).

Place a single, all-points white light on one corner of structures less than 400 square feet in size.

Place a single, all-points white light on every corner of structures larger than 400 square feet in size.

Anchor fish pens within the boundary areas specified in ADF&G regulation 5 AAC 27.185 (f) (Figure 1 and Figure 3).

If all these conditions are not met, the permit holder must apply to the U.S. Coast Guard for an individual "Private Aids to Navigation Permit." If you have questions, call the U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation office, at (907) 463-2254.

PRIVATE LANDS

Some of the area in which pounds may be operated is adjacent to privately owned lands. Pound operators should contact the landowners if they intend to use any of that land above mean high tide. Private land owners include the Klawock/Heenya Corporation, Shaan-Seet Corporation, and Sealaska Corporation and private individuals. Figure 5 shows the approximate areas of privately held lands in the Craig/Klawock area.

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.–Craig/Klawock stock size and winter food and bait harvests, 1987–2007.

Year	Miles Spawn^a	Forecasted Pre-fishery Biomass^b (Tons)	Total GHL Bait and SOK^c(Tons)	Bait Quota (Tons)	Bait Harvest (Tons)
87–88 ^d	5.0	16,550	N/A	2,200	2,014
88–89	27.0	16,350	N/A	1,810	1,730
89–90	31.7	19,800	N/A	3,150	3,221
90–91	30.0	18,350	N/A	2,841	3,272
91–92	22.0	17,800	2,684	2,281	2,295
92–93 ^e	23.0	12,350	1,602	1,362	629
93–94	8.4	7,996	895	760	636
94–95	8.0	6,778	725	617	124
95–96	5.5	6,262	658	558	34
96–97	9.9	6,755	715	615	517
97–98 ^f	13.2	7,018	755	455	254
98–99	11.0	6,951	750	450	254
99–00	15.4	6,013	626	376	346
00–01	12.9	9,091	1,058	635	144
01–02	16.7	8,387	952	571	145
02–03	18.0	6,045	630	378	144
03–04	11.2	13,204	1,754	1,052	157
04–05	12.0	15,577	2,217	1,330	550
05–06	18.0	14,262	1,955	1,173	750
06–07	8.2	13,768	1,860	1,116	300 ^g
Average	15.4	11,465	1,240	1,187	876

a Spawn year is beginning year of regulatory season listed in the adjacent year column

b Forecasted pre-fishery biomass values were estimated with hydroacoustics for 86–87, spawn deposition surveys for 87–88 to 92–93, and age-structured models for 93–94 to 06–07.

c Spawn On Kelp (SOK)

d Reduced to 1,600 tons on the grounds.

e First year bait quota was split between pound fishery 85%:15%.

f Herring allocation changed to 60% for the winter food and bait fishery, 40% to the pound fishery.

g Estimated harvest

Table 2.—Craig/Klawock herring spawn-on-kelp fishery summaries, 1992–2006.

FISHERIES INFORMATION	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Herring SOK Allocation (tons)	403	240	135	109	100	100	300	300	250	423	381	150	702	887	782
+ unharvested bait =						200 tons	500 tons	650 tons	280 tons	914 tons	852 tons	528 tons	1,579 tons	1,667 tons	1,266 tons
SOK Herring for kelp allocation															
Product quota (tons)	32.3	19.2	10.8	8.7	8.0	8.0	40	52	22.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total harvest SOK (tons)	25.7	5.7	16.5	25.4	37.25	21.9	22.4	36	0	26,927.2	41.7	69.2	50	115.2	28.9
Exvessel value	\$180,000	\$47,882	\$364,199	\$1,000,000	\$1,490,000	\$270,306	\$152,203	\$212,121	\$0	\$146,859	\$218,700	\$423,000	\$325,000	\$603,723	\$298,575
Aver. Price/pound	\$3.50	\$4.17	\$11.00	\$19.00	\$20.00	\$6.00	\$3.39	\$2.94	\$0	\$2.70	\$3.10	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$2.62	\$5.15
Aver. Income/landing	\$784.	\$2,081	\$4,388	\$5,107	\$9,700	\$1,890	\$1,072	\$2,060	\$0	\$2,880	\$2,460	\$3,385	\$3,420	\$9,011	\$8,782
Number of pounds in fishery	248	209	147	159	162	119	112	70	50	31	50	61	50	42	50
Number of landings	229	23	83	146	154	143	148	103	0	51	89	118	95	67	34
Herring allocation (tons)	1.6	1.15	1	0.7	0.6	0.7	4.46	N/A							
Blade quota (tons)	8.0	6.4	3.75	2.9	2.67	2.6	13	9.1	7.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Blade allocation	310	292	233	174	156	a	b	c	d	e	e	e	d	f	g
Total kelp harvest (tons)	7.8	3.7	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.2	3.47	2.9	2.0	3.2	8.2	7.5	14	4.6	4.6
Herring spawning dates	3/15– 4/10	3/26– 4/21	3/23–4/12	3/27–4/9	3/22–4/12	4/7–4/14	3/19–4/8	3/23–3/28	3/22–4/5	4/1–4/7	3/31– 4/7	3/31– 4/7	3/26–4/7	4/9–4/14	3/30–4/3
Miles of spawn	23.0	8.4	8.0	5.5	9.9	13.2	11.0	15.4	12.9	16.7	18.4	11.2	12.0	18.0	8.2
Forecasted Pre-fishery biomass (tons)	17,800	12,350	7,996	6,778	6,262	6,755	7,018	6,951	6,013	9,091	8,387	6,045	13,204	15,577	14,262
Seining opened/closed	3/18 – 3/23	4/17 – 4/28	4/5–4/18	3/28–4/14	3/28–4/14	3/17–4/20	3/17–4/20	3/17–4/21	3/17–5/1	3/17–4/24	3/17–5/20	3/17–5/15	3/17–7/15	3/17–6/01	3/17–4/30

- a 100 blades for single-closed pound, 150 blades for multiple pound permit holder, and 300 blades for open pound permits.
- b 120 blades for a single closed pound, 180 blades for a multiple pound permit holder, 360 blades for single open pound, and 400 blades for a multiple permit open pound.
- c 155 blades for a single closed pound, 235 blades for a multiple pound permit holder, 470 blades for a single open pound, 520 blades for a multiple permit open pound.
- d 70 blades for a single closed pound, 210 for a multiple pound permit holder, 700 blades for a single open pound, 2,100 blades for a multiple permit open pound.
- e 200 blades - single closed pound, 600 blades – per permit holder multiple closed pound, 200 fronds or 2,000 blades – single open, 600 fronds or 6,000 blades for multiple permit open pound.
- f 350 blades – single closed pound, 750 blades – per permit holder double closed pound, 1,125 blades – triple closed pound.
- g 600 blades for a single closed pound, 750 blades for a double closed pound, 1,125 blades for a triple closed pound.

Table 3.—Tenakee Inlet herring spawn deposition timing, location, biomass estimates, and food & bait harvests.

Winter & Spring of the Year	Major Spawning Dates	Nautical Miles of Spawn (nm)	Spawning Biomass ^a (tons)	Food/Bait Quota (tons)	Food/Bait Harvest (tons)
1979	5/9–5/11	3.3	2,500	200	0
1980	4/28–5/2	3.9	4,485	400	504
1981	4/27–5/5	9.3	7,500	750	847
1982	4/25–5/7	11.1	6,650	650	654
1983	4/25–5/6	13.1	8,870	875	799
1984	4/20–4/26	8.3	12,100	850	619
1985	4/24–5/1	9.9	11,000	1,400	1,406
1986	4/27–5/1	8.3	12,500	1,700	2,040
1987	4/22–4/30	7.9	6,600	800	1,275
1988	4/22–4/27	9.1	6,000	1,450	1,577
1989	4/26–4/29	10.3	5,360	720	655
1990	4/25–5/6	2.9	2000	650	595
1991	4/25–5/4	2.1	400	No fishery.	
1992	5/5	trace	200	No fishery.	
1993	4/21–4/23	6.4	904	No fishery.	
1994	4/24–4/26	0.25	400	No fishery.	
1995	4/26	0.05	200	No fishery.	
1996	5/4–5/14	18.1	4,560	No fishery.	
1997	4/26–5/7	14.4	9,926	300	97.5
1998	4/24–4/29	12.4	10,419	825	692
1999	4/25–4/28	11.0	11,049	1,023	835
2000	4/26–5/3	13.8	9,425	542	494
2001	4/21–5/1	12.2	7,576	906	775
2002	4/23–4/27	15.4	4,084	840	393
2003	4/25–4/28	12.2	3,529	528	328
2004	4/28–5/3	13.0	4,728	399	confidential
2005	4/26–5/2	8.9	5,825	476	0
2006	5/2–5/6	5.9	5,110	0	0

^a Spawning biomass estimates were calculated from hydro-acoustical surveys from 1979 through 1986, from spawn deposition surveys from 1987 through 2006.

Table 4.–Percent-at-age composition of spawning Tenakee Inlet herring, 1982–2006.

Year	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Ages 8+
1982	24	7	48	21	0	0
1983	49	7	3	12	27	2
1984	17	38	6	13	22	4
1985	2	31	45	7	9	6
1986	3	8.0	42	34	4	10
1987	30	14	16	28	10	3
1988	1	41	18	12	16	12
1989	9	12	53	15	8	2
1990	10	10	20	38	13	10
1991 ^a						
1992 ^a						
1993	20	11	61	2	2	4
1994 ^a						
1995 ^a						
1996 ^a						
1997	5	88	5	1	1	0
1998	3	9	81	7	1	0
1999	3	4	11	78	2	1
2000	16	8	8	23	42	3
2001	15	19	5	7	20	33
2002	14	28	18	7	7	27
2003	13	10	24	18	5	31
2004	1	15	22	20	20	22
2005	2	9	12	20	17	40
2006 ^b	22	2	9	18	18	31

^a No sampling was performed during 1991 & 1992, 1994–1996, and 2006.

^b 2006 forecasted age composition. 2007 age composition was not forecasted.

Table 5.—Tenakee Inlet herring spawn-on-kelp fishery summary, 2003–2005.

Year	2003	2004	2005
Tenakee Inlet GHL (tons)	528	399	476
GHL Available for SOK (tons)	180	360	476
SOK Harvest (tons)	47.6	95	101.4
Exvessel Value	\$580,500	\$981,464	\$512,900
Average Price/lb	\$6.10	\$4.68	\$2.53
Average Income/permit	\$10,555	\$11,684	\$5,636
Number of Permits participating	55	85	91
Number of Pounds	1/15/8/0 ^a	1/32/6/2/2 ^b	1/29/13/3 ^a
Number Permits Landing Product	55	85	91
Kelp Allocation (blades)	200/400/550/0 ^a	300/500/500/2000 ^a	300/500/500/2000 ^a
Kelp Blade Harvest (lbs)	35,375	39,000	53,850
Fishery Open—Closed	4/6 -5/6	4/6 - 5/6	4/6 - 5/5
Fishing Occurred	4/25-4/28	4/28 - 5/1	4/27 - 4/30
Harvest Occurred	4/30-5/4	5/3 -5/6	5/2 - 5/4

^a single/double/triple/test

^b single/double/triple/longline/test

Table 6.–Hoonah Sound herring spawning stock and fishery performance, 1971–2006.

Year	Spawn Dates	Nautical Miles Spawn	Spawning Biomass Estimate(tons)	SOK Harvested (tons)
1971	5/10–5/17	2.5	833	-
1972	5/11–5/12	1.5	666	-
1973	N/A	1	333	-
1974	14-May	3	999	-
1975	N/A	N/A	-	-
1976	5-May	1	333	-
1977	N/A	3.5	1,166	-
1978	N/A	5.3	1,765	-
1979	N/A	0.5	167	-
1980	N/A	N/A	-	-
1981	4/30–5/01	2.3	750	-
1982	4/29–5/01	1.5	500	-
1983	1-May	1	333	-
1984	4/26–5/01	3	540	-
1985	5/01–5/03	3.5	1,166	-
1986	4/28–5/01	3.8	1,249	-
1987	4/28–5/02	3.8	740	-
1988	4/30–5/01	5	1,665	-
1989	4/16–4/20	17	4,000	-
1990	4/13–4/28	10	2,350	11.9
1991	4/19–4/24	8.7	2,175	13.3
1992	4/22–4/24	10.8	5,714	23.1
1993	4/27–4/29	5.7	1,099	14.0
1994	4/21–4/23	9	2,450	32.7
1995	4/20–4/21	4.5	274	27.4
1996	5/02–5/9	10.1	4,023	^a
1997	4/25–4/28	14.5	6,090	65.2
1998	4/23–4/27	14.5	6,472	85.6
1999	4/27–5/1	13.8	4,426	71.6
2000	4/27–4/30	13.0	3,728	35.7
2001	4/27–5/1	13.7	7,947	66.2
2002	4/25–4/27	11.9	4,936	136.6
2003	4/23–4/27	16.7	9,423	141.5
2004	4/22–4/29	11.1	7,143	237.4
2005	4/19–4/25	10.3	6,924	190.6
2006	4/23–4/26	9.0	6,028	175.0
Average	1971–2006	7.3	2,294	NA
Average	1990–2006	11.0	4,777	81.2

Note: Shaded estimated escapements are based on average spawn density from years 1989–2002.;

Unshaded estimated escapements are based on spawn deposition surveys.

^a There was no fishery in 1996 since the forecast was below threshold.

Table 7.—Percent-at-age composition of spawning Hoonah Sound herring, 1991–2006 and forecast age structure for 2007.

Year	<u>Age Class</u>					
	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Ages 8+
1991	44	8	4	15	22	5
1992	7	55	6	4	14	11
1993	7	17	56	8	1	10
1994	3	10	35	42	5	6
1995	25	6	16	30	19	4
1996	83	13	1	1	2	1
1997	8	80	7	2	2	1
1998	2	13	77	7	1	1
1999	3	5	13	72	6	1
2000	23	10	10	24	31	2
2001	17	31	5	6	14	27
2002	4	27	24	6	7	31
2003	5	12	30	25	7	21
2004	1	6	13	26	26	30
2005	1	3	7	18	18	54
2006	0	16	12	10	13	49
2007 ^a	8	1	19	11	9	53

^a Forecast age composition.

Table 8.—Hoonah Sound herring spawn-on-kelp fishery summary, 1990–2006.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Herring Quota (tons)	150	150	150	150	150	150
Harvest Quota (tons)	11	12	12	12	12	12
Harvest (tons)	11.9	13.25	23.12	14.0	32.7	27.4
Exvessel Value	\$201,348	\$193,715	\$453,152	\$542,080	\$1,683,396	\$1,175,460
Average Price/lb	\$8.46	\$7.31	\$9.80	\$19.36	\$25.74	\$21.45
Average Income	\$2,034	\$2,334	\$4,196	\$8,470	\$15,444	\$9,715
Number of Applicants	400	185	199	230	195	153
Number of Pounds	128	104	120	115	123	132
Number Selling Product	99	83	108	64	109	121
Kelp Allocation (blades)	240	280	240	160	140	100
Kelp Blade Harvest	31,260	28,355	27,255	16,260	18,340	15,195
Fishery Open—Closed	4/13–4/22	4/6–4/25	4/6–4/26	4/6–5/3	4/6–4/25	4/6–4/22
Fishing Occurred	4/13–4/22	4/15–4/25	4/17–4/26	4/26–5/2	4/21–4/24	4/17–4/22
Harvest Occurred	4/18–4/27	4/22–4/29	4/22–4/30	4/25–5/2	4/25–4/27	4/22–4/26
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Herring Quota (tons)	1421	700	778	359	366	1,264
Harvest Quota (tons)	114	56	62	29	NA	NA
Harvest (tons)	65.2	85.9	71.6	35.7	66.2	136.6
Exvessel Value	\$920,000	\$1,160,523	\$1,005,529	\$587,568	\$1,006,000	\$1,970,000
Average Price/lb	\$7.05	\$6.75	\$7.02	\$8.23	\$7.60	\$7.32
Average Income/Landing	\$6,694	\$10,092	\$11,692	\$6,251	\$11,559	\$20,408
Number of Applicants	139	133	106	106	NA	NA
Number of Pounds	0/113/18 ^a	115	96	46/2/0 ^a	42/3/1 ^a	106/0/2 ^a
Number Selling Product	112/12 ^b	115	86	84	87	98
Kelp Allocation (blades)	430/860 ^b	400/800 ^b	400/800 ^b	110/300 ^b	120/300 ^b	1,000/3,600 ^b
Kelp Blade Harvest	68,755	54,275	42,025	29,820	29,966	113,713
Fishery Open—Closed	4/6–4/29	4/6–4/27	4/6–5/3	4/6–5/3	4/6–5/3	4/6–5/1
Fishing Occurred	4/22–4/29	4/18–4/26	4/29–5/2	4/27–4/29	4/25–4/28	4/24–4/27
Harvest Occurred	4/27–5/3	4/25–4/27	5/3–5/5	5/2–5/4	4/30–5/2	4/28–5/1
	2003	2004	2005	2006		
Herring Quota (tons)	427	1,207	728	669		
Harvest Quota (tons)	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Harvest (tons)	141.6	237.4	190.6	162.1		
Exvessel Value	\$1,922,500	\$2,071,347	\$1,117,568	\$1,943,422		
Average Price/lb	\$6.79	\$4.36	\$2.93	\$6.00		
Average Income/Landing	\$17,800	\$19,541	\$11,889	\$24,600		
Number of Applicants	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Number of Pounds	49/1/3 ^d	92/12/2 ^a	81/5/3 ^c	17/45 ^d		
Number Selling Product	108	106	94	79		
Kelp Allocation (blades)	500/300/750 ^d	1,000/1,000/ 3,000 ^a	1,000/1,000/ 1,500 ^d	2,500/1,000/ 1,500 ^d		
Kelp Blade Harvest	60,301	126,000	118,450			
Fishery Open—Closed	4/6–4/25	4/6–4/28	4/6–4/28	4/6–4/27		
Fishing Occurred	4/19–4/24	4/20–4/25	4/19–4/28	4/18–4/23		
Harvest Occurred	4/24–4/27	4/26–4/28	4/25–4/28	4/23–4/27		

a Double closed pounds/single closed pounds/open pounds.

b Closed pound/Open Pound.

c Single-permit closed pound/double-permit closed pound/triple-permit closed pounds.

d Double closed pounds/single closed pounds/triple closed pounds

Note: No fishery occurred in 1996 since the biomass forecast was below the 1,000-ton threshold.

Table 9.—Ernest Sound miles of herring spawn, stock size, and harvests, 1969–2006.

Season	Date of first spawn ^a	Nautical miles of spawn ^b	Forecast Used for GHL Determination ^c (tons)	Spawning Biomass (tons) ^d	Guideline Harvest Level (tons) ^e	Bait harvest (tons) ^f	SOK Harvest (lbs)	Sac Roe Harvest (tons)	Remaining GHL (tons)	Minimum Threshold Level (tons)
1969–70		--			--	17	--	--		
1970–71		3		13,100		206	--	--		
1971–72		--	13,100	3,650		967	--	--		
1972–73		--	3,650	450		775	--	--		
1973–74		--	450	400		535	--	--		
1974–75		--	400	2,900		593	--	--		
1975–76		3	2,900	4,350	580	708	--	--	0	
1976–77		3	4,350	3,035	870	901	--	49	0	2,500
1977–78	5/3	--	3,035	1,505	455	340	--	--	115	2,500
1978–79	4/16	2.6	1,505	255	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1979–80	5/2	4	255	500	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1980–81		3.5	500	410	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1981–82		--	410	160	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1982–83		--	160	1,640	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1983–84	4/11	--	1,640	1,000	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1984–85		4.5	1,000	1,000	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1985–86	-	--	1,000	1,000	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1986–87		1	1,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1987–88	4/21	2		--	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1988–89	4/17	2.4	--	500	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1989–90		2.1	500	1,000	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1990–91		ns	1,000	3,000	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1991–92	4/16	9.1	3,000	2,650	--	--	--	--	--	2,500
1992–93	4/23	9	2,650	684	200	8	--	--	192	2,500
1993–94	4/26	8.4	684	2,544	0	--	--	--	--	2,500
1994–95	4/25	6.5	2,544	2,470	255	111	--	--	144	2,500
1995–96	4/16	6.9	2,744	2,665	280	220	--	--	60	2,500
1996–97	4/16	0	4,852	0	377	6	--	--	371	2,500
1997–98	4/9	11.8		5,998	0	--	--	--	--	2,500
1998–99	4/5	1.8	5,381	No survey	662	96	--	--	566	2,500
1999–00	4/8	9.1		920	0	--	--	--	--	2,500
2000–01	4/11	6.9		2,052	0	--	--	--	--	2,500
2001–02	4/15	4.8	1,653	2,406	0	--	--	--	--	2,500

-continued-

Table 9.—continued (page 2 of 2)

Season	Date of first spawn ^a	Nautical miles of spawn ^b	Forecast Used for GHL Determination ^c (tons)	Spawning Biomass (tons) ^d	Guideline Harvest Level (tons) ^e	Bait harvest (tons) ^f	SOK Harvest (lbs)	Sac Roe Harvest (tons)	Remaining GHL (tons)	Minimum Threshold Level (tons)
2002–03	4/10	8.5	2,407	5,509	0	--	--	--	--	2,500
2003–04	4/11	7.1	6,592	2,413	875	44	112,286	--	775	2,500
2004–05	4/22	10.1	1,906	3,268	0	--	--	--	--	2,500
2005–06	4/6	7.9	2,284	2,538	0	--	--	--	--	2,500
2006–07			1,955		0					2,500

^a Since 1997–98 the first spawn and the major spawn have been within 5 days of each other.

^b 1996–97 No survey, fish all spawned (7.5 miles) along Ship Island, 1998–99 No survey, only 1.8 miles of spawn observed, probably missed main spawn.

^c 1971–72 through 1984–85 forecasts were based on hydroacoustical-computer generated estimates; 1985–86 through 1991–92 forecasts were based on visual estimates; 1992–93 through 1994–95 were based on spawn deposition estimates; 1995–96 through 2006–07 were biomass accounting forecasts.

^d 1969–70 through 1983–84 biomass estimates were hydroacoustical-computer generated estimates; 1984–85 through 1990–91 were visual estimates; and 1991–92 through 2005–06 were spawn deposition estimates. 1975–76 & 1976–77 GHL's are based upon 20% of the acoustical estimate. 1977–78 GHL is based upon 15% of the acoustical estimate (11/28/77 memo by WB).

^e 2003–04 GHL includes 90 tons rolled over from the bait pound fishery.

^f 1973–74, 1974–75, 1976–77 also include harvests from Fools and Menefee Inlets. Does not include harvests from stat area 107-40.

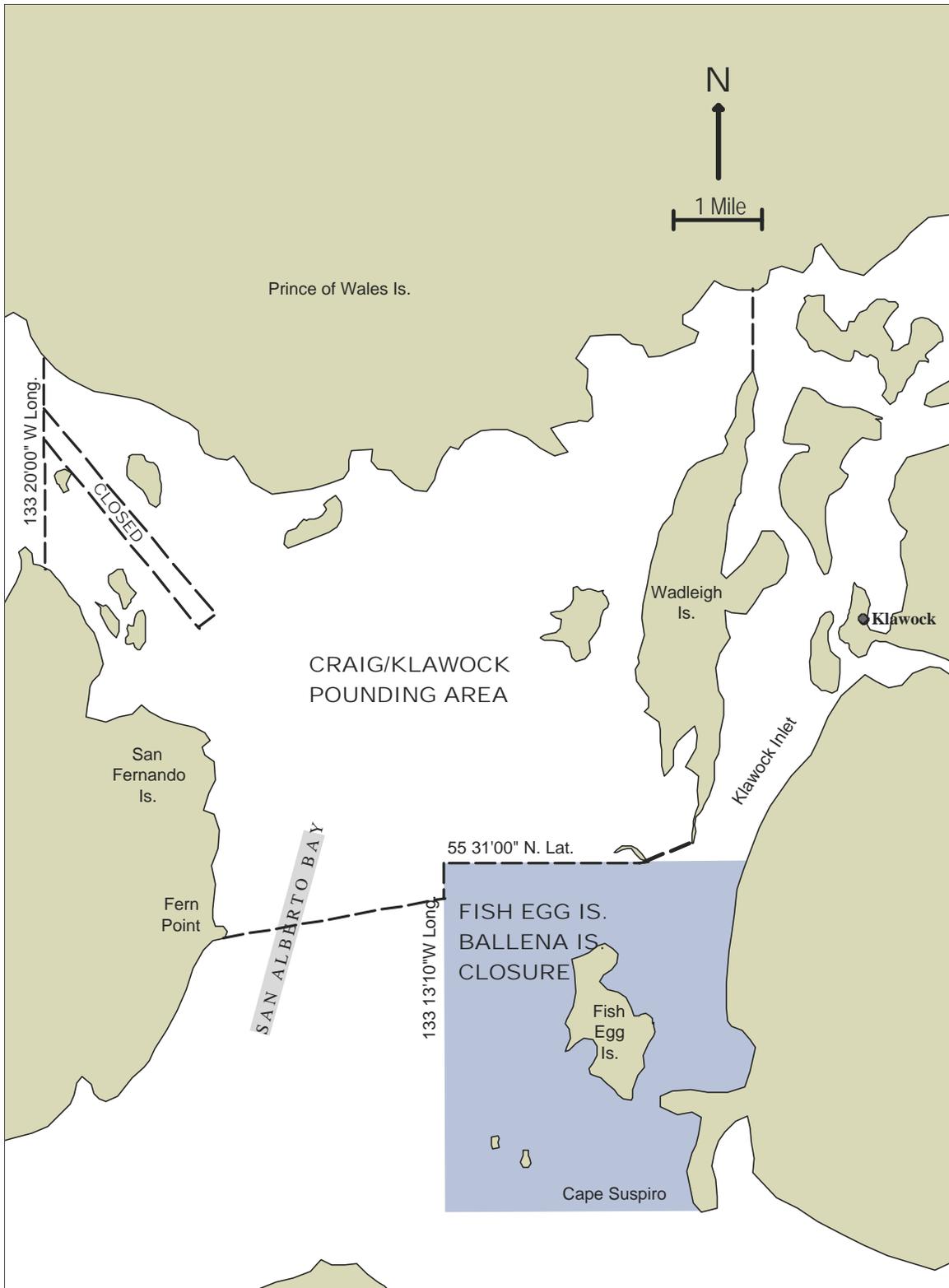


Figure 1.—Open area for Craig/Klawock pound fishery (Section 3-B)

		15-Apr	16-Apr	17-Apr	18-Apr	19-Apr	20-Apr	21-Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	2-May	3-May	4-May	5-May	6-May	7-May	8-May	9-May	10-May	11-May	12-May	13-May	14-May	15-May
1993	Hoonah Sound																															
	Tenakee																															
1994	Hoonah Sound																															
	Tenakee																															
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2006	Hoonah Sound																															
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Table 10.—A Comparison Of Hoonah Sound And Tenakee Inlet Herring Spawning Dates For Years 1993–2005. Black Bar Indicates Dates Of Active Spawning.

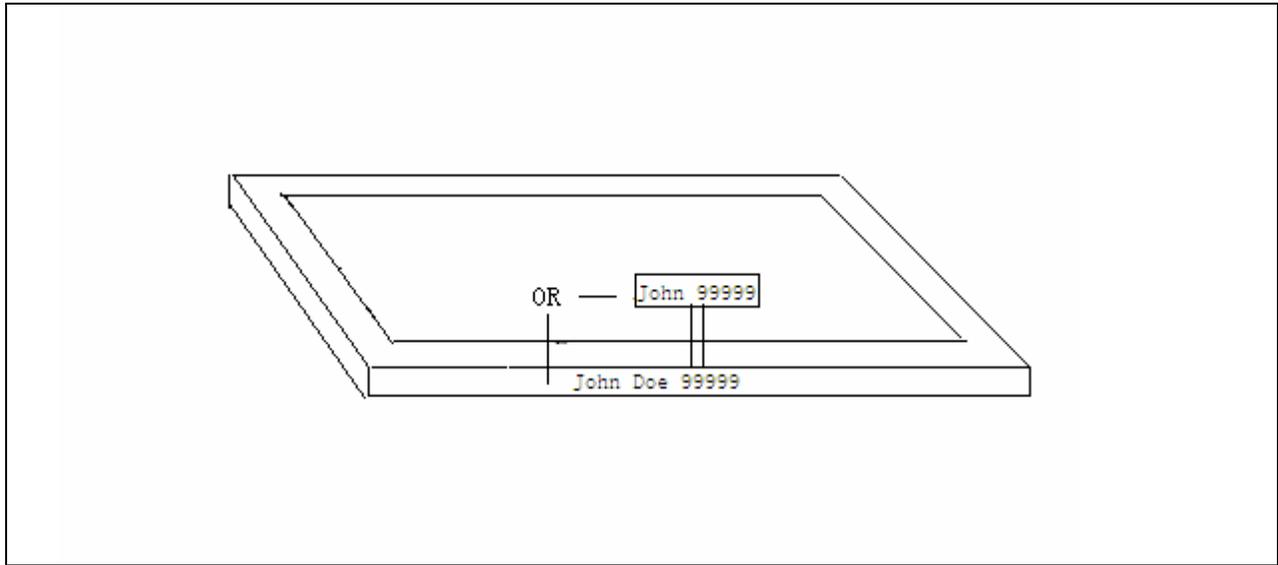


Figure 2.—Diagram of a herring pound showing two alternative methods of marking herring pounds. New regulations require vertical signs with the permit holder’s first and last name and five-digit CFEC permit number (5 AAC 27.185(k)). Letters and numbers must be at least six inches high and at least one-half inch wide and must contrast with the background.

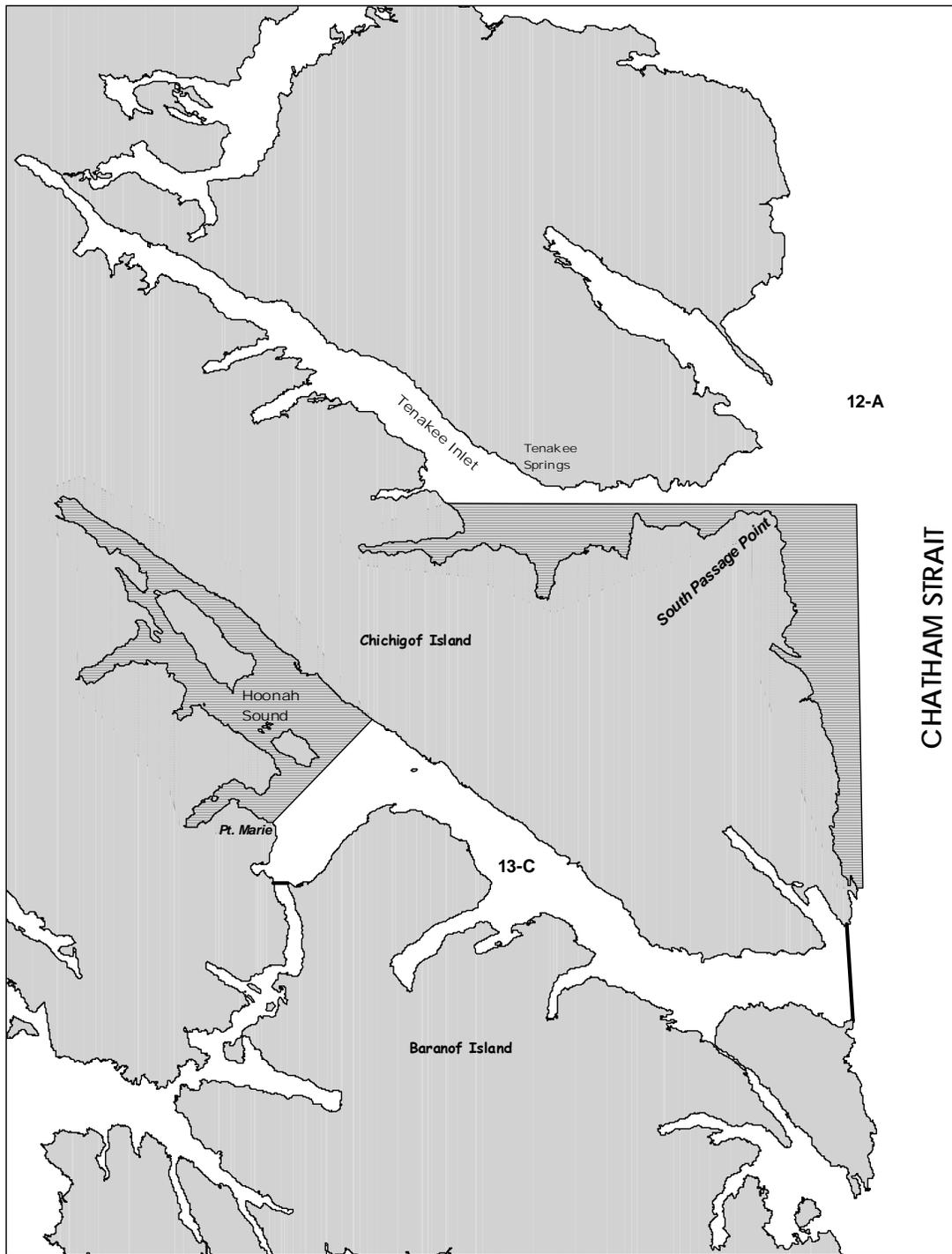


Figure 3.—Areas open (dark shade) to spawn-on-kelp fishery in Hoonah Sound and Tenakee Inlet.

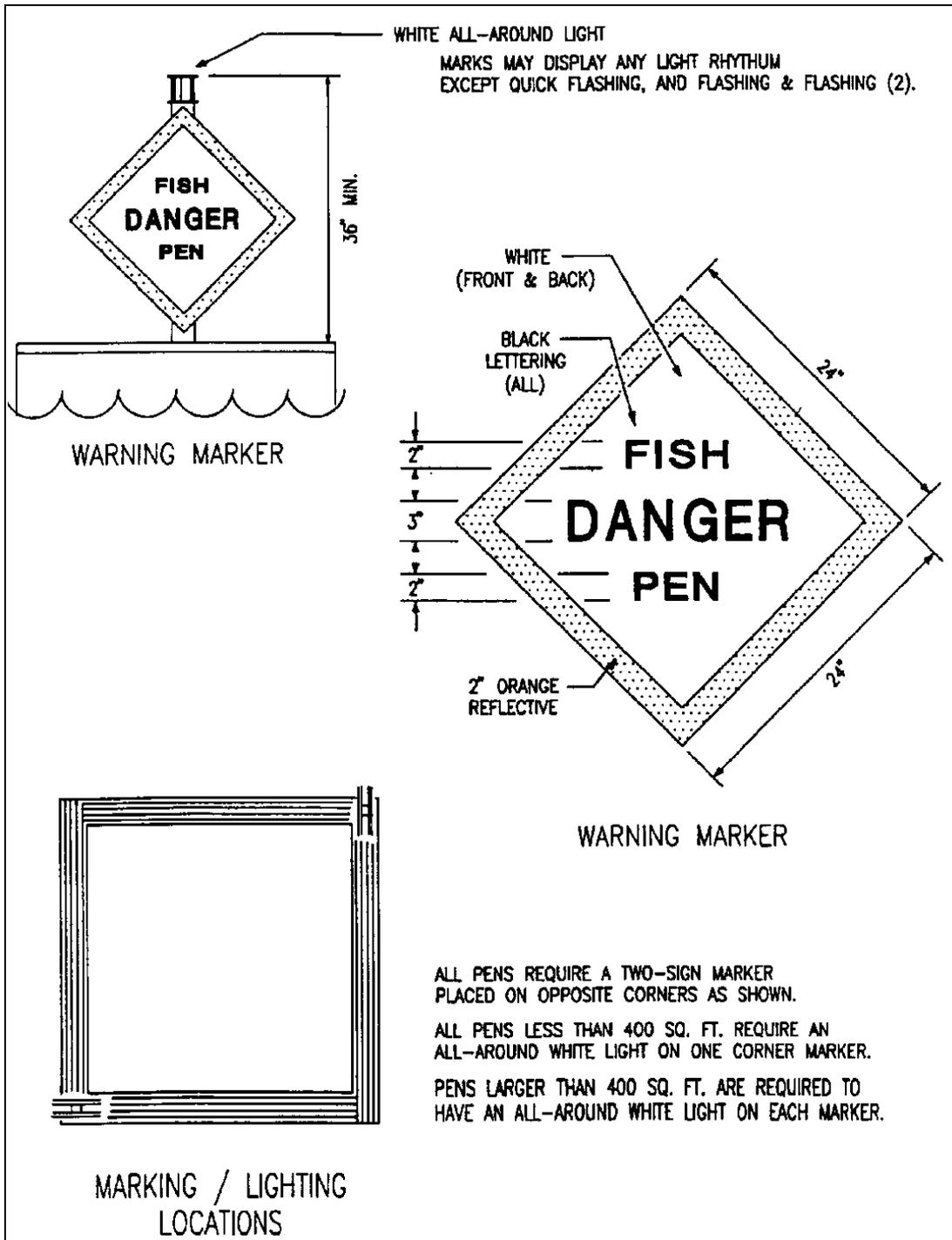


Figure 4.—Coast Guard Requirements for marking ponds.



Figure 5.—Private lands in the Craig/Klawock area.

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