

CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT AREA
PACIFIC HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2004



By
Kevin Clark

Regional Information Report¹ No. 4K04-16

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
211 Mission Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

April 2004

¹ The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 to provide an information access system for all unpublished division reports. These reports frequently serve diverse ad hoc informational purposes or archive basic uninterpreted data. To accommodate timely reporting of recently collected information, reports in this series undergo only limited internal review and may contain preliminary data; this information may be subsequently finalized and published in the formal literature. Consequently, these reports should not be cited without prior approval of the author or the Division of Commercial Fisheries.

AUTHOR

Kevin J. Clark is the Chignik Area Assistant Management Biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 211 Mission Road, Kodiak, AK 99615.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author would like to thank Lucinda Neel for providing publication expertise and Ken Bouwens, Switgard Duesterloh, George Pappas, Jim McCullough, and Patti Nelson who reviewed previous versions of this document.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
LIST OF FIGURES	i
ABSTRACT	1
INTRODUCTION	2
Description of Area.....	2
History of the Chignik Management Area Pacific Herring Fishery	2
Pacific Herring Sac Roe Fishery Management Strategy	2
REGULATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.....	3
Registration, Buyer, and Tender Reporting Requirements	3
Guideline Harvest Level and Management Strategy	4
Fishing Season	4
Fishing Periods	4
Aircraft.....	4
Legal Herring Gear	4
Closed Waters	5
LITERATURE CITED	6
FIGURES	7

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula illustrating the relative locations of the Chignik, Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula – Aleutian Islands Management Areas	7
2. Map of the Chignik Management Area identifying commercial herring sections.....	8
3. Pacific herring sac roe commercial harvests from the Chignik Management Area, 1980-2003.....	9

ABSTRACT

Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* sac roe fisheries have occurred in bays and marine waters within the Chignik Management Area (CMA) starting in 1980. This document describes how the 2004 fishery will be managed in the CMA, the requirements for the fishing industry to participate in the fishery, and how to contact and relay information to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Historical harvests for the CMA, as well as the 2004 season harvest projections, are presented. This document is intended as a guide for commercial herring harvesters, buyers, and tender operators. Information regarding specific commercial herring fishing periods must be received from the department prior to any fishing activity. No commercial herring fishery is anticipated to occur in the CMA in 2004 due to poor market conditions.

INTRODUCTION

Description of Area

The Chignik Management Area (CMA) is located on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula between the Kodiak Management Area to the east and the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Areas to the west (Figure 1). The CMA consists of Pacific Ocean state waters from Kilokak Rocks (156° 20.22' W long.) west to Kupreanof Point (from a line running 135° from the southern tip of Kupreanof Point at 55° 33.98' N lat., 159° 35.88' W long.).

The CMA is divided into five fishing districts that define geographical areas used in managing the Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* sac roe commercial fishery (Figure 2). Each district is further divided into smaller areas called sections. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) determines which areas, if any, will be open to commercial fishing and establishes guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for each of these areas based on observed herring biomass.

History of the Chignik Management Area Pacific Herring Fishery

The Alaska Peninsula Pacific herring fishery began in the early 1900s with the first landing recorded in 1906. Reported CMA harvests were combined with Alaska Peninsula harvests during the early 1900s and were categorized as Southwestern Alaska harvests. Herring commercial harvests did not exceed 500 tons per year prior to the 1930s.

A small herring saltery was operated at Lake Bay in the Chignik Bay District during the early 1930s. The CMA herring fishery ceased in the late 1930s and did not resume until 1980 when a herring sac roe fishery was initiated. From 1980-2003, the CMA herring sac roe harvest ranged from 0 to 587 tons, with the largest harvests occurring in 1980, 1981, and 1982 (Figure 3). There has been no commercial herring harvest in the CMA since 1996 and no commercial fishery is anticipated in 2004 due to poor market conditions.

Pacific Herring Sac Roe Fishery Management Strategy

A limited number of geographic areas support the majority of the CMA herring spawning biomass. ADF&G manages the herring sac roe fisheries so as not to exceed 20% exploitation rate of each area's biomass. In 2004, no more than 25 tons may be harvested from any section until ADF&G documents a herring biomass that may justify a larger harvest. Commercial fishing periods will be contingent upon industry interest, department documentation of herring biomass, and the department setting GHLs based on the observed biomass. All observations shared with ADF&G concerning biomass estimates, locations, and roe quality are encouraged and are confidential. The herring sac roe season extends from April 15 through June 30 and all fishing periods will be by emergency order. However, no commercial herring fishing periods are anticipated to occur in the CMA in 2004 because of poor market conditions.

REGULATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Registration, Buyer, and Tender Reporting Requirements

In addition to the requirements of 5 AAC 39.130 (g), each tender operator, buyer, or agent must register with the local representative of ADF&G either in person, or by telephone, FAX, or radio upon arrival in the Chignik registration area, before commencing operations and before changing location of the operation (5 AAC 27.590), or as otherwise specified by the department.

Each buyer shall:

- (1) Identify all vessels to be employed in transporting or processing herring and shall register those vessels with an ADF&G representative in Chignik or Kodiak before transporting or processing herring.
 - a. Buyers and Tenders: Each buyer and tender operator must register in person (when possible) with the ADF&G representatives in Chignik or Kodiak and acquire a registration packet containing a management plan and statistical chart.
 - b. Fishing Vessels: There are no area registration requirements for fishing vessels.
- (2) Make daily reports of all herring purchased from commercial fishermen, or other processing records as specified by a local representative of the department.
 - a. All processors and tender operators are required to report daily harvest information to ADF&G. This can be accomplished either by single side band radio (SSB), telephone, or fax. The Chignik ADF&G office will stand by on (SSB) 3230 kHz (call sign WON 29) and VHF channel 6, between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM. The Chignik weir telephone number is 845-2243 and the FAX number is 845-2235. If you are unable to contact ADF&G staff in Chignik, harvest information should be given to ADF&G staff in Kodiak or Cold Bay. Kodiak ADF&G will stand by SSB 3230 kHz (WON 32) and in Cold Bay ADF&G will stand by on 3230 KHz (KCO 332). Failure to report daily purchases of herring is a violation of commercial fishing regulations (5 AAC 27.590 (2)). This regulation will be strictly enforced.
 - b. Fishing periods will be promptly closed, by emergency order, if timely and accurate harvest information is not received by the department. Prompt and accurate harvest reporting will help avoid premature area closures or GHs being exceeded.

- c. Code sheets will be given to each tender/processor to ensure confidential reporting. The harvest (in tons), statistical area(s) where herring were harvested, and herring quality must be included in each report.
- (3) All tenders and processors must submit fish tickets to ADF&G, in Chignik before departing the CMA or by mail to ADF&G in Chignik no later than 10 days after termination of buying operations in the CMA, unless otherwise specified by a local representative of the department.

Guideline Harvest Level and Management Strategy

ADF&G shall manage the CMA by using a harvest strategy of a 0-20% exploitation rate of the available spawning biomass. The commercial herring harvest from the CMA has been declining since 1980 (Figure 3). The actual 2004 harvest range will depend upon the department's assessment of the herring biomass, the biological condition of the stocks, the amount of fishing effort, harvest rates, and the availability of local processing. Overexploitation of GHs within any section could result in adjacent section or district closures.

Fishing Season

- a. Herring may be taken from April 15 through June 30.
- b. Herring may be taken only during periods established by emergency order.

Fishing Periods

All fishing periods will be by emergency order. Fishing periods will usually be for 24 hours beginning at NOON.

Aircraft

There are no aircraft restrictions in the Chignik herring sac roe fishery. Spotter pilots are encouraged to contact ADF&G in Chignik on a regular basis. Information about biomass or spawning events is needed for the management of the fishery. All reports concerning biomass and or spawning events are confidential.

Legal Herring Gear

- a. 5 AAC 27.565. (a) Herring may be taken only by purse seines.

- b. 5 AAC 27.575. A purse seine may not be more than 1,000 meshes in depth or more than 100 fathoms in length.

Closed Waters

Herring may not be taken commercially in closed waters, as described in 5 AAC 15.350. Additionally, from June 12 through October 31, herring may not be taken in any waters closed to commercial salmon fishing, as described in 5 AAC 27.580 or as described in emergency orders.

The Ivanof Bay Section northwest of the Road Island markers will be closed to commercial herring fishing to ensure that subsistence harvests are met while conserving local herring stocks. Specifically, in Ivanof Bay, all waters will be closed northwest of a line from a point on the northeast shore at 55°52.42' N lat., 159° 28.40' W long. to a point on the north end of the spit at 55°50.95' N lat., 159°31.02' W long. (5 AAC 15.350 (13)).

The Perryville and Mitrofanina Sections (Figure 2) will also be closed to commercial herring fishing to ensure that subsistence harvest needs are met while conserving local herring stocks. Initially, the Big River Section will be closed at the beginning of the 2004 season. If the department or ADF&G Biologists document at least 250 tons of herring within this section, a GHF and fishery may occur. Until recently, the Big River Section did not appear to have any appreciable herring recruitment since overexploitation occurred in the early 1980s. There are no current estimates of herring biomass in the CMA, however, during a May 1996 aerial survey, an estimated 100 tons of herring were observed in Amber Bay.

LITERATURE CITED

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). 2002. Commercial herring fishing regulations, 2003-2004 edition, Commercial Fisheries Division, Juneau.

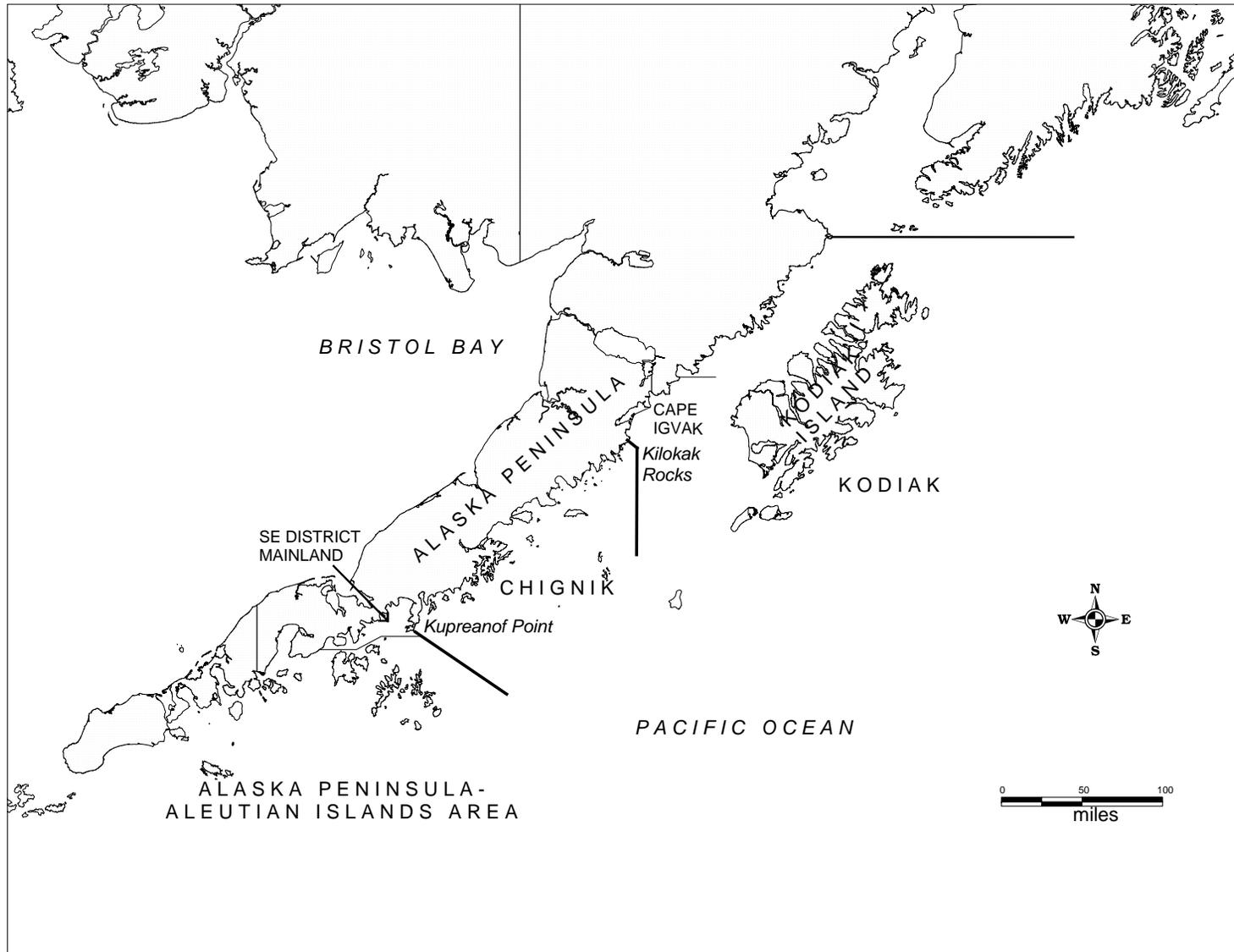


Figure 1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula illustrating the relative locations of the Chignik, Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula – Aleutian Islands Management Areas.

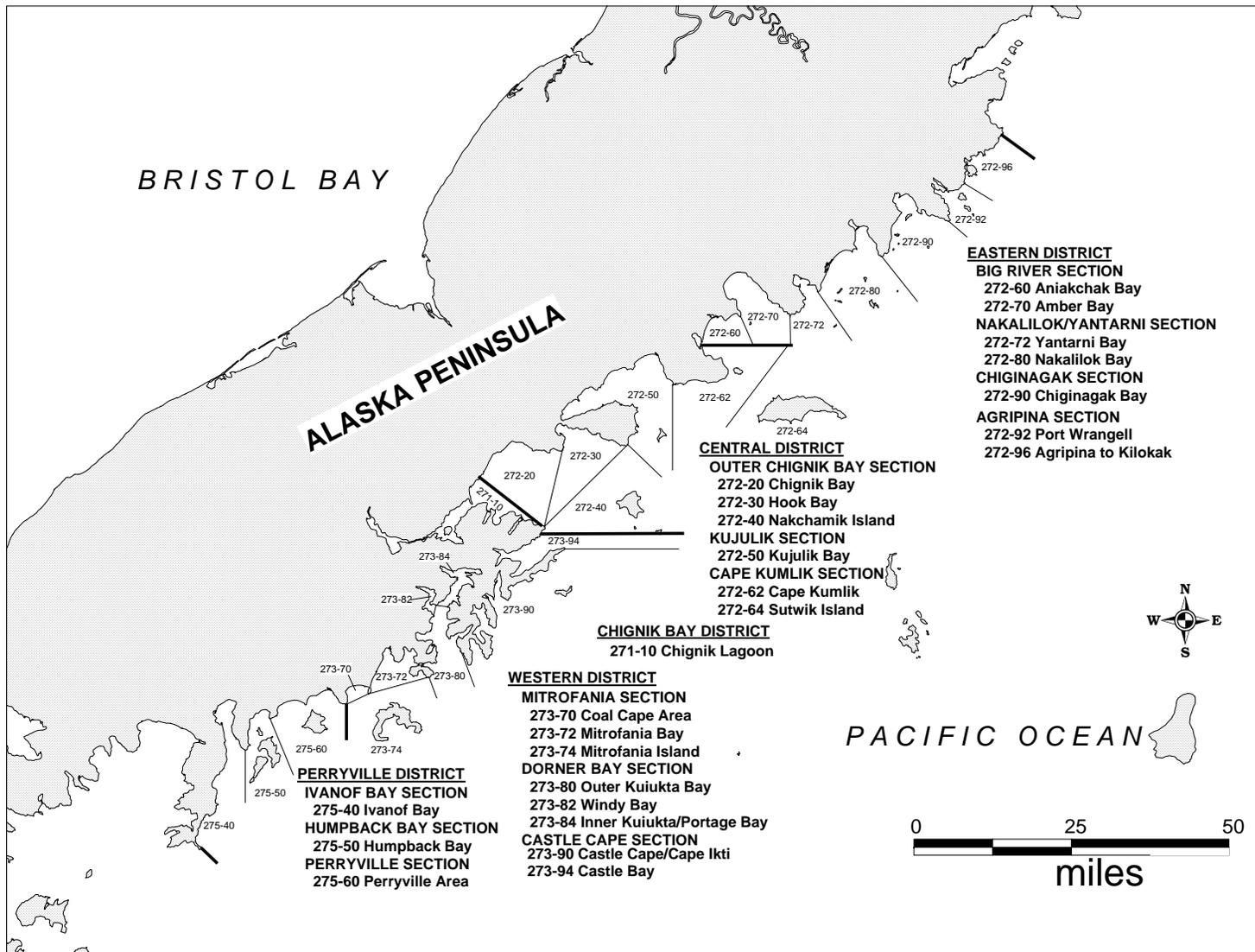


Figure 2. Map of the Chignik Management Area identifying commercial herring sections.

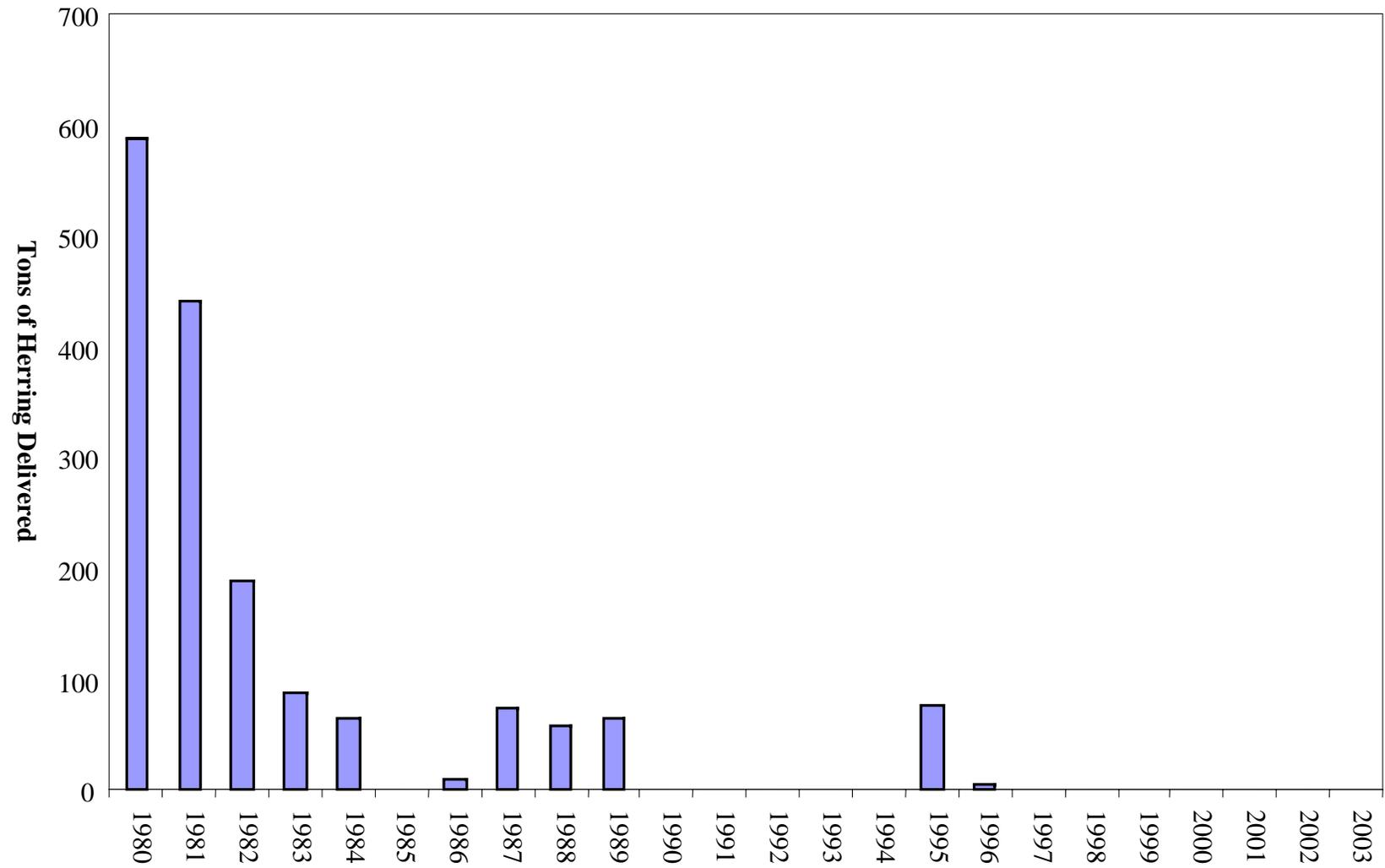


Figure 3. Pacific herring sac roe harvests for the Chignik Management Area, 1980-2003.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203 or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-6077, (TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078.