

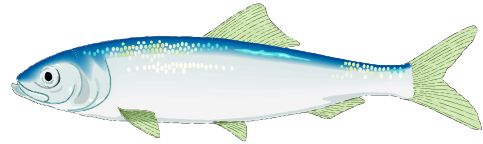
# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **KODIAK COMMERCIAL HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY NEWS RELEASE # 02** **For Emergency Order #4-FH-K-02-19**

Beginning at **noon, Tuesday April 16**, purse Seine fishing periods will now be **9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on both even and odd-numbered days** (12-hour open periods) in the following sections.

<u>Alitak District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Eastside District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Inner Marmot District</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(AL20) Inner Alitak	25	(EA21) Three Saints Bay	30	(IM40) Kizhuyak Bay	30
(AL21, 22) Inner and Outer		(EA23) West Sitkalidak Strait	75		
Deadman bays	50	(EA30) East Sitkalidak Strait	125	<u>Afognak Districts</u>	
(AL41) East Upper Olga Bay	25	(EA43,44) Outer and Inner	150	(SA10,20,30) Kitoi/Izhut/	65
(AL50) West Upper Olga Bay	25	Kiliuda bays		MacDonalds Lagoon	
		(EA50) Outer Ugak Bay	150		

From May 8 through June 30, fishing periods for purse seines will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The department flew a survey of both the Eastside and Westside of Kodiak Island on April 15. Survey conditions were excellent and visibility was great. Several sizable biomasses of herring were observed in several bays along with birds and groups of sea lions. Numerous spawning events have been also been documented on the Eastside of Kodiak since as early as March 26. More spawn was observed yesterday.

Commercial test sets from both the **Outer Kiliuda (EA 43)**, the **East Sitkalidak (EA 30)**, **Kizhuyak Bay (IM 40)**, **combined Izhut Bay, Kitoi Bay, and Mac Donald's Lagoon**, and **Izhut Bay ( SA 10, 20, 30)**, and the **Danger Bay (SA 40)** sections indicate a large amount of unmarketable herring. Most samples are averaging between approximately 100 to 120 grams. Fishermen are urged to test their catch prior to landing herring.

The R/V K-Hi-C has been conducting surveys in the **Combined Village Island/Uganik Bay Section (UG 30; 32-34)** and a large biomass has been detected. **However**, due to the lack of marketable herring the **Combined Village Island/Uganik Bay Section (UG 30; 32-34)** will temporarily stand down. The R/V K-Hi-C will depart Uganik Bay to conduct surveys in the **Spiridon Bay (UY 50) and Zachar Bay (UY 40) sections**. There will be 24-hour advance notice prior to conducting a test fishery in the **Combined Village Islands Uganik Bay Section**.

The R/V Resolution will continue to conduct surveys in the **Outer Kiliuda (EA 43), the East Sitkalidak (EA 30), and Outer Ugak Bay (EA 50) sections of the Eastside District**.

Due to multiple early spawning events and the presence of unmarketable herring, no sac roe herring have been harvested in the Kodiak Area.

**As Previously Announced:**

The Kodiak herring sac roe fishery began at **noon Monday, April 15, 2019**. All herring **permit holders**, buyers and tender operators participating are **required to register** at the ADF&G Kodiak office or with ADF&G personnel on the grounds prior to operations. Fishing periods and guideline harvest levels (GHLs) by gear type and section are as follows:

**PURSE SEINE GEAR (EMERGENCY ORDER) AREAS**

The following sections will be open to purse seine gear, but the initial opening will be determined on the amount and quality of herring present:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u> (SA40) Danger Bay	<u>GHL</u> 150	<u>Uganik District:</u> (UG30, 32,33,34) Village Is., NE Arm, E Arm, and S Arm Uganik Bay	<u>GHL</u> 150
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The Danger Bay and Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections will be managed by emergency order. Test fishing may begin as early as noon Monday, April 15. Test fishing in these sections will be delayed until the R/V K-Hi-C is available. These sections or portions of these sections will open by EO from an ADF&G management biologist on the grounds. Fishing periods and specific areas to be opened in the Danger Bay and Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections will be determined inseason.

Emergency order fisheries in the Danger Bay and Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections will allow orderly fisheries on high quality herring. Fisheries will only open after test fishing detects fishable quantities of good quality herring (size and roe content). Fisheries may be short in duration and limited in area. If enough herring are observed ADF&G will be seeking volunteer fishing vessels to make test sets beginning on April 15. Cooperation from fishing vessels and industry technicians are needed to test herring quality in these sections.

**GILLNET GEAR**

Fishing periods for gillnet sections will begin at **noon Monday April 15, 2019** and remain **open until further notice**, in the following sections:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Uganik District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Alitak District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(WA20) Malina Bay	10	(UG20) Viekoda Bay	15	(AL30) Sulua Bay	25
(WA10) Raspberry Strait	10	(UG21) Terror Bay	15	(AL40) Lower Olga-Moser	25
(NA30) Perenosa Bay	10	(UG31) West Uganik	30	<u>Eastside District:</u>	
(NA50) Tonki	30	Passage		(EA24) Barling Bay	40
				(EA42) Shearwater Bay	75
				(EA51) Inner Ugak Bay	50
<u>Northeast District:</u>					
(NE10) Womens Bay	10				
(NE20) Kalsin Bay	10				

## **EXPLORATORY AREAS**

**The following sections are designated as EXPLORATORY, and will be open to either gear type, with differential fishing periods by gear type as outlined above for purse seine or gillnet gear:**

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>Mainland Districts:</u>	<u>Eastside District:</u>
(NA20) Delphin Bay	(NM20) Inner Kukak Bay	(EA10) Kaiugnak Bay
(WA40) Bluefox Bay	(MM10) Inner Katmai Bay	(EA20) SW Sitkalidak
	(MM30) Alinchak Bay	(EA22) Newman Bay
<u>Alitak District:</u>	(MM40) Puale Bay	(EA31) Tanginak Anchorage
(AL60) Geese/Twoheaded	(MM50) Portage Bay	
	(SM10) Wide Bay	

The remainder of the Kodiak Area will stay closed to commercial herring fishing for the entire sac roe season.

**Beginning May 1**, ADF&G may open any area with remaining herring GHLS to any gear group if the fishery is not likely to result in overharvest of the resource.

GHLS and maps of open sections and gear assignments are available at the Kodiak office and in the herring sac roe fishery harvest strategy for the 2019 season. Fishermen are urged to check with their market and test their catch prior to landing herring. Determining if size or roe quality meets processor standards is the responsibility of fishermen and industry. It is anticipated that many small and green fish will be present on the grounds during the initial open fishing periods. Recent fishery information may be obtained by calling the Department's message phone at 486-4559.