



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: March 3, 2020*

**CONTACT: Troy Thynes**  
**Region I Management Coordinator**  
**(907) 772-3801**

## 2020 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERIES

Petersburg.... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the Southeast Alaska herring spawn-on-kelp pound fisheries.

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): The 2019/2020 guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Craig/Klawock stock has been set at 11,014 tons of herring. This GHL is based on the 2019 spawn deposition estimate of 55,072 tons and a harvest rate of 20%. Regulation 5 AAC 27.185(h) states that the winter food and bait fishery is allocated 60% of the GHL and the remaining 40% goes to the herring spawn-on-kelp fishery. The Craig winter food and bait fishery closed with an estimated final harvest of 895 tons. The unharvested portion of approximately 5,714 tons will be reallocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery.

The initial GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is 4,406 tons. With the addition of the unharvested 5,714 tons from the bait fishery, the total allocation for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery will be 10,119 tons. This places the fishery at the maximum kelp allocation.

The kelp allocation per permit holder in place by regulation 5 AAC 27.185(c) for the 2020 season is as follows:

<u>Single Permit Closed Pound:</u>	600 blades per permit;
<u>Double Permit Closed Pound:</u>	900 blades per permit;
<u>Triple Permit Closed Pound:</u>	1,000 blades per permit;
<u>Quad Permit or more Closed Pound:</u>	1,000 blades per permit;
<u>Single Permit Open Pound:</u>	3,000 blades per permit;
<u>Multiple Permit Open Pound:</u>	9,000 blades per permit.

District 7 (Ernest Sound): **will be closed.** Insufficient herring spawn occurred in the spring of 2019 to generate a forecast. The threshold necessary to conduct a commercial fishery in Ernest Sound is 2,500 tons.

Section 12-A (Tenakee Inlet): **will be closed.** Insufficient herring spawn occurred in the spring of 2019 to generate a forecast. The threshold necessary to conduct a commercial fishery in Tenakee Inlet is 3,000 tons.

Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound): **will be closed.** Insufficient herring spawn occurred in the spring of 2019 to generate a forecast. The threshold necessary to conduct a commercial fishery in Hoonah Sound is 2,000 tons.

All pound operators are reminded that they must have a 2020 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Southern Southeast Alaska Spawn-on-Kelp pound limited entry permit prior to introducing kelp or herring into their pounds. All *Macrocystis* kelp harvesters must have a 2020 kelp harvest permit prior to harvesting kelp for a closed or open pound. These permits must be in the possession of the pound operator and kelp harvester at all times during the fishing operations. *Macrocystis* kelp permits are currently available in all Southeast Alaska Department of Fish & Game offices.

Spawn-on-kelp fisherman and processors should read the 2020 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN for an overview of the management approach and regulations for the 2020 season. The plan is now available at local ADF&G offices and can be viewed online at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2020.03.pdf>. The 2019-2021 Statewide Commercial Herring Fishing Regulations booklet contains detailed regulations for this fishery. Regulations can be found online at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&amp;G</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220