



**Advisory Announcement**  
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**2021 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERIES**

The following is information concerning the Southeast Alaska herring spawn-on-kelp pound fisheries.

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): will open 12:00 noon, March 17, 2021, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 18,916 tons. This places the fishery at the maximum kelp allocation.

The 2020/2021 guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Craig/Klawock stock has been set at 19,456 tons of herring. This GHL is based on the 2020/2021 model forecasted mature spawning biomass of 97,282 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 by regulation on Sunday, February 28, with an estimated harvest of 540 tons. The unharvested portion of approximately 11,134 tons will be reallocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery. The initial GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is 7,782 tons. With the addition of the unharvested 11,134 tons from the bait fishery, the total allocation for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery will be 18,916 tons.

The kelp allocation per permit holder in place by regulation 5 AAC 27.185(c) for the 2021 season is as follows:

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

District 7 (Ernest Sound): will be closed. Insufficient herring spawn occurred in the spring of 2020 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. Approximately 1.9 nautical miles of herring spawn was documented in the spring of 2020, the department did not conduct a spawn disposition survey, and therefore no forecast was generated. 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 2020 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 2021 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 2021 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 at all Southeast Alaska Department of Fish & Game offices.

Spawn-on-kelp fisherman and processors should read the 2021 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN for an overview of the management approach and regulations for the 2021 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.2021.02.pdf>.

The 2020–2021 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>.

Under Alaska’s Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska’s Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

### **Fishery Contacts**

For information on management of the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp fishery contact:

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

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