



Advisory Announcement

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CONTACT: Troy Thynes
Region I Management Coordinator
troy.thynes@alaska.gov
(907) 772-3801

2024 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERIES

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): will open by regulation at 12:00 noon, Sunday, March 17, 2024, with an initial allocated guideline harvest level (GHL) of 2,686 tons. This puts the kelp allocation at the maximum allowed per permit.

The 2023/2024 total GHL for the Craig/Klawock herring stock has been set at 6,716 tons of herring. This GHL is based on the 2023/2024 statistical catch-at-age model forecasted mature spawning biomass of 33,580 tons and a harvest rate of 20%. 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 pound fishery. The Craig winter food and bait fishery closed by regulation on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, with a confidential harvest. The unharvested portion will be allocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery. The initial allocated GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery was 2,686 tons. The addition of the unharvested herring from the winter food and bait fishery brings the total GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery significantly higher.

The kelp allocation per permit holder under 5 AAC 27.185(c) for the 2024 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 2023 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 2023 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 2023 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 2024 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 2024 permit to harvest *Macrocystis* kelp 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 fishing operations. *Macrocystis* kelp harvest permits are currently available at all Southeast Alaska Department of Fish & Game offices.

Spawn-on-kelp fisherman and processors should read the 2022 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN for an overview of the management approach and regulations for the 2024 season. The plan is available at local ADF&G offices and can be viewed online at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2022.04.pdf>. The 2024 Management Plan is complete but may not be published prior to start of the 2024 season; however, the management approach, pertinent regulations, and fishery contacts are the same as those found in the 2022 Management Plan. When published, it can be found online at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.herring#management>.

The 2023–2024 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>.

Fishery Contacts

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

Bo Meredith (bo.meredith@alaska.gov), Justin Breese (justin.breese@alaska.gov), or Whitney Crittenden (whitney.crittenden@alaska.gov).

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

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