



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Herring Announcement #6

The food and bait fishery in the Prince William Sound District will open until further notice, effective 12:00 p.m. Thursday, October 1. The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the food and bait fishery is 749 tons. This GHL includes the 16.3% allocation (461 tons) for the 2026 food and bait fishery and a 25% rollover of the 1,151 ton unharvested spring 2026 sac roe fisheries quota. The decision to roll over less than a third of the allowable 80% spring sac roe unharvested quota was made based on the low mile-days of spawn observed in spring 2026. The department anticipates allowing the fishery to proceed until the 749-ton quota is harvested or the season closes on January 31, 2027. The department may modify open time and area dependent on abundance and distribution of herring and the level of fishing effort.

To further evaluate management options for the food and bait fishery, permit holders who want to participate at the start of the season are required to register with the Cordova ADFG office by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 24. Permit holders who plan to enter the fishery after the start of the season must register with the Cordova ADFG office at least a week in advance of fishing. Permit holders must notify the Cordova Office when they begin to load herring aboard fishing vessels/tenders and confirm the tonnage of herring aboard before leaving the grounds. The Cordova Office can be contacted by phone at 907-424-4012.

Permit holders are also required to collect biological samples of their harvest to support department data needs. Sampling involves minimal effort and typically involves appropriately labeling and freezing a 5-gallon sample of herring from each statistical week. The department will provide sampling kits and detailed instructions. Staff may sometimes be on the fishing grounds to collect live samples for disease testing, and fishing vessels will be required to facilitate that sampling.

As a reminder, vessels used to harvest herring in any other management area between July 1 and February 28 may not be used to harvest herring in Management Area E during that period.

Processors must register with the Cordova ADF&G office if they plan to buy food and bait herring.

The next announcement may occur on short notice.