



Advisory Announcement
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2026/27 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING WINTER FOOD AND BAIT FISHERY

The 2026/2027 Southeast Alaska herring winter food and bait fishery opens by regulation October 1. Herring spawn deposition dive surveys were completed for the Craig/Klawock area in 2026. A finalized forecast for the Craig/Klawock area is not available at this time but based on the 2026 spawn deposition estimate, the overall guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2026/2027 season is expected to be more than adequate to allow for the winter food and bait fishery to begin. A formal forecast and GHL will be available and announced later this year.

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): **will open at 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, October 7, 2026**, in those waters of Section 3-B west of a line from Blanquital Point at 55°37.36' N lat, 133°23.86' W long to Point Santa Rosalia at 55°34.19' N lat, 133°24.84' W long to Point Cuerdo at 55°28.51' N lat, 133°19.00' W long to Point Miraballes at 55°25.87' N lat, 133°05.22' W long and in those waters of District 4 north and east of a line from Lontana Point at 55°12.25' N lat, 133°20.12' W long to Diver Point at 55°11.02' N lat, 133°14.36' W long with the following restriction:

Trocadero Bay: will be closed east of the longitude of the westernmost tip of Canoe Point at 133°01.48' W long.

District 7 (Ernest Sound): **will be closed.** A total of 4.0 nautical miles (nmi) of spawn was observed in 2026 in the vicinity of Vixen Inlet which was insufficient to justify a spawn deposition survey. Therefore, a forecast for the 2026/27 season was not generated.

District 10 (Hobart Bay/Port Houghton): **will be closed.** Due to budget constraints, department surveys were not conducted, and herring spawn was not reported or observed in 2026. Therefore, a forecast for the 2026/27 season was not generated.

District 12 (Tenakee Inlet): **will be closed.** Herring spawn was observed on approximately 2.9 nmi of Chichagof Island shoreline in 2026 between Point Hayes and Basket Bay. No spawn was observed inside Tenakee Inlet, and a spawn deposition survey was not conducted precluding a forecast for the 2026/27 season.

Fishermen and operators of tender vessels must obtain an ADF&G permit to participate in the winter food and bait fishery (5 AAC 27.179) prior to fishing. For the 2026/27 season, the terms of the permit stipulate: 1) the amount of herring harvested and location be reported to the Ketchikan office for Section 3-B and District 4 by 12:00 noon on the day after fish were harvested; and 2) one 5-gallon bucket of herring is to be provided to the department from each delivery for sampling purposes with all pertinent information required. Permit applications are available at ADF&G area offices in Ketchikan, Sitka, Petersburg, and Douglas.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1H1226.

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

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