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Advisory Announcement

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2026/27 CRAIG/KLAWOCK WINTER FOOD AND BAIT HERRING GHL

The 2026/27 Craig/Klawock area herring guideline harvest level (GHL) is 5,135 tons. This is based on a forecasted mature spawning biomass of 34,230 tons and a 15% harvest rate. During the 2025 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting in Ketchikan, the Board of Fisheries adopted regulations that reduced the maximum harvest rate for Southeast Alaska herring from 20% to 15% (5 AAC 27.190 [4]). Regulation allocates 60% of the GHL to the winter food and bait fishery and 40% to the Section 3-B spawn-on-kelp pound fishery (5 AAC 27.185 [h]). This sets the GHL in the winter food and bait fishery at **3,081 tons** and the spawn-on-kelp GHL at 2,054 tons. Remaining GHL not harvested in the winter food and bait fishery will be allocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery and announced by March 5, 2027.

The 2026/27 forecast was generated using a biomass accounting model. The 2026/27 GHL is a 28% decrease from the 2025/26 GHL, and is composed primarily of two age classes, age-4 and age-5 fish. The age-3 recruitment event observed in 2025 continues to be strong with age-5 fish making up nearly 50% of the forecasted mature biomass for the Craig/Klawock herring stock (10% age-3, 22% age-4, 49% age-5, 3% age-6, 9% age-7, and 7% age-8+ herring). The 2025 model-estimated recruitment was the second largest age-3 recruitment event in the Craig/Klawock area since the start of the time series in 1988.

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): **opened at 12:01 a.m., Monday, October 5, 2026,** in those waters of Section 3-B west of a line from Blanquizal 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 Cuerbo at 55°28.51′ N lat, 133°19.00′ W long to Point Miraballes at 55°25.86′ N lat, 133°05.25′ 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.

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 delivery 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. Permit applications are available at ADF&G area offices in Ketchikan, Sitka, Petersburg, and Douglas.

Section 3-B and District 4 will close by emergency order when the GHL is expected to be reached or at the season's closure Sunday, February 28, 2027.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1H1326.

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

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