
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2014 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERIES

Sitka... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the Southeast Alaska herring spawn-on-kelp pound fisheries.

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): The 2013-2014 herring winter food and bait fishery in Section 3-B and District 4 closed by regulation on February 28, 2014. Unharvested quota allocated to the winter food and bait fishery will be added to the spawn-on-kelp fishery. The final winter bait harvest is confidential. The spawn-on-kelp fishery is allocated 40% or 1,923 tons of the total 4,808 ton guideline harvest level (GHL). The GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp fishery is the portion of the unharvested bait quota added to the 1,923 tons available. **This is above 1,000 tons of herring, which provides for the maximum kelp allocation.**

The kelp allocation per permit holder in place for the 2014 season is as follows (5 AAC 27.185(c)):

Single-Permit Closed Pounds: 600 blades;

Double-Permit Closed Pounds: 750 blades;

Triple-Permit Closed Pounds: 1,125 blades;

Single-Permit Open Pounds: 250 fronds or 2,500 blades;

Multiple-Permit Open Pounds: 750 fronds or 7,500 blades.

The Craig/Klawock pound fishery will be open for purse seining after **12:00 noon, Monday, March 17, 2014**, until 12:00 noon, Saturday, May 10, 2014, unless closed earlier by emergency order (5 AAC 27.185(g)(1)). Pounds and associated equipment may be placed in the waters of Section 3-B from Sunday, March 2, until 12:00 noon, Saturday, May 31, 2014 (5 AAC 27.185(w)(1)).

District 7 (Ernest Sound): The 2013-2014 GHL for the Ernest Sound (District 7) herring stock is 1,073 tons. The GHL for the Ernest Sound spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is any remaining GHL that is not harvested by the winter food and bait fishery and the bait pound fishery. The winter food and bait harvest in Ernest Sound is confidential and there have been no bait pound permits issued. **The remaining GHL available to the spawn-on-kelp fishery is above 700 tons of herring which provides for the maximum kelp allocation.**

The kelp allocation per permit holder in place for the 2014 season is as follows (5AAC 27.185(e)):

Single-Permit Closed Pounds: 1,000 blades;

Double-Permit Closed Pounds: 2,000 blades;

Triple-Permit Closed Pounds: 1,000 blades;

Single-Permit Open Pounds: 250 fronds or 2,500 blades;

Multiple-Permit Open Pounds: 750 fronds or 7,500 blades.

The Ernest Sound pound fishery will be **open for purse seining after 12:00 noon, Tuesday, April 1, 2014**, until 12:00 noon, Saturday, May 10, 2014, unless closed earlier by emergency order (5 AAC 27.185(g)(2)). Pounds and associated equipment may be placed in the waters of District 7 from Sunday, March 2, until 12:00 noon, Saturday, May 31, 2014 (5 AAC 27.185(w)(2)).

Section 12-A (Tenakee Inlet): The total 2013-2014 GHLL for the Tenakee Inlet (Section 12-A) herring stock is 557 tons. The GHLL for the Tenakee Inlet spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is any remaining GHLL not harvested by the winter food and bait fishery and the bait pound fishery. The winter food and bait harvest is confidential and there have been no bait pound permits issued. **The remaining GHLL for the Tenakee Inlet spawn-on-kelp fishery is within the 300-499 ton range.**

The kelp allocation per permit holder in place for the 2014 season is as follows (5AAC 27.185(e)):

Single-Permit Closed Pounds: 300 blades;

Double-Permit Closed Pounds: 500 blades;

Triple-Permit Closed Pounds: 500 blades;

Single-Permit Open Pounds: 200 fronds or 2,000 blades;

Multiple-Permit Open Pounds: 600 fronds or 6,000 blades.

The Tenakee Inlet pound fishery will be open for purse seining after **12:00 noon, Sunday, April 6, 2014**, until 12:00 noon, Thursday, May 15, 2014, unless closed earlier by emergency order (5 AAC 27.185(g)(3)). Pounds and associated equipment may be placed in the waters of Section 12-A from Sunday, March 2, until 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 10, 2014 (5 AAC 27.185(w)(3)).

The kelp allocations listed above for Ernest Sound and Tenakee Inlet are based on an assumption that no herring bait pound permits will be issued before March 15, 2014. If bait pound permits in these areas are issued before March 15, kelp allocations may be subject to change.

Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound): The 2013-2014 forecast for Hoonah Sound is 833 tons, which is below the 1,000 ton threshold necessary to conduct a commercial fishery.

All pound operators are reminded that they must have a current Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission limited entry permit prior to introducing kelp or herring into their pounds. All *Macrocystis* kelp harvesters must have a 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 in all Southeast Alaska Department of Fish & Game offices.

Spawn-on-kelp fishers and processors should read the 2014 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN for an overview of the management approach and regulations for the 2014 season. The plan is expected to be available by March 15. The 2013-2014 Statewide Commercial Herring Fishing Regulations booklet contains detailed regulations for this fishery.

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

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