
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Time: 1:30 p.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA WINTER FOOD AND BAIT HERRING FISHERIES

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced the following information for the 2014/2015 winter food and bait fisheries:

The Southeast Alaska winter food and bait herring fishery will open in the following area at **12:00 noon, Sunday, October 5, 2014:**

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): The **preliminary** GHL for the winter bait fishery for Craig/Klawock is **500 tons**. The fishery **will be open** in those waters of Section 3-B west of a line from Blanquial Point to Point Santa Rosalia to Tranquil Point and in those waters of District 4 north and east of a line from Lontana Point to Diver Point.

Regulations provide that the winter food and bait fisheries may open October 1. Since biomass forecasts for this stock are not normally completed until later in the year, prior year openings have typically occurred beginning in late-November or early December. Individuals in the industry have requested the department provide an earlier opportunity to harvest winter food and bait herring.

Based on the results of the 2014 herring spawn deposition survey in the Craig area, the department has determined a preliminary GHL can be provided that is expected to be substantially less than the final GHL determined from forecasts of mature biomass. The department anticipates forecasts to be completed for this stock by the end of November 2014. The Craig/Klawock winter food and bait GHL has averaged over 2,000 tons the past 5 seasons. The GHL has not been completely harvested since the 1991-92 season. Once the assessment for this stock is finalized, a news release with an updated GHL will be issued.

Forecast of mature spawning biomass have been completed for the following areas and they **will be closed** for the 2014/2015 season:

District 7 (Ernest Sound): The forecast for Ernest Sound is 1,991 tons which is below the 2,500 ton threshold that allows for fisheries.

District 10 (Hobart Bay/Port Houghton): The forecast for Hobart Bay is 110 tons, which is below the 2,000 ton threshold that allows for fisheries.

Forecast of mature spawning biomass will need to be completed to determine if District 12 (Tenakee Inlet) will meet the 3,000 ton threshold that allows for fisheries. The biomass forecast is expected to be

completed by the end of November 2014. Once the assessment is finalized, a news release announcing the forecast will be issued.

Fishermen and operators of tendering vessels must obtain an ADF&G permit to participate in the Southeast Alaska Winter Food and Bait Herring Fishery (5 AAC 27.179). Permit applications are available at Department of Fish and Game area offices in Ketchikan, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell and Douglas free of charge. In order for the Department to assess the amount of fishing effort that will occur and make plans for on-the-grounds management, **permit applications must be submitted to the department before fishing operations can commence.**

For the 2014/2015 season, the department is requiring that permits be obtained from ADF&G at least 72 hours prior to commencing fishing operations. 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; 2) logbook forms must be completed and submitted with fish tickets; 3) one 5-gallon bucket of herring is to be provided to the Department from each delivery of 30 tons or more for catch sampling purposes.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1H0914.

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

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