
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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SOUTHEAST ALASKA WINTER FOOD AND BAIT HERRING FISHERIES

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the Southeast Alaska winter food and bait herring fishery.

The department initially opened the winter food and bait fisheries in Section 3-B and District 4 on October 5, 2014 with a preliminary guideline harvest level (GHL) of 500 tons. The harvest was confidential and the following GHL will apply for the remainder of the season.

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): The GHL is **1,358 tons** for the 2014/2015 season. This GHL is based on a forecasted mature spawning biomass of 15,803 tons and a harvest rate of 14.3%. The forecast indicates that the predominant age classes in the spawning stock will be age 3 and 5 herring. 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.

The total GHL for the Craig/Klawock area is estimated to be 2,263 tons. Regulations state that 60% of this GHL goes to the winter food and bait fishery and 40% goes to the Section 3-B spawn-on-kelp pound fishery (5 AAC 27.185 (h)). Additionally, any portion not taken by the winter bait fishery is allocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery and will be announced by March 15, 2014.

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.

District 12 (Tenakee Inlet): The mature spawning biomass forecast for Tenakee Inlet **will not** meet the 3,000 ton threshold that allows for fisheries. The biomass forecast is expected to be finalized in the near future and interested parties may contact the Juneau Area office for further information.

As previously announced, both the District 7 (Ernest Sound) and District 10 (Hobart Bay/Port Houghton) forecasts of mature spawning biomass are below thresholds that allow for fisheries.

For the 2014-15 season, the department is requiring that permits be issued by ADF&G 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 1H1014.

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

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