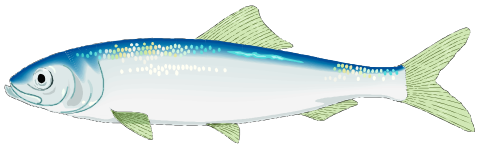
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE

Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



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Date Issued: April 15, 2015
Time: 2:15 p.m.

KODIAK COMMERCIAL HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY NEWS RELEASE # 02
For Emergency Order #4-FH-K-02-15

The **Outer Kiliuda Bay Section (EA43)** of the **Eastside District** **closed** to further commercial herring fishing for the remainder of the 2015 Kodiak herring sac roe season. The **Outer Kiliuda Bay Section** closed at 1:20 p.m. Wednesday April 15, 2015.

As Previously Announced:
The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in Kodiak is issuing this news release for the Kodiak herring sac roe fishery, which began at **noon Wednesday April 15, 2015.** All herring buyers and tender operators are required to register at the ADF&G Kodiak office prior to buying or tendering herring in the Kodiak Area. In addition, an emergency order (#4-FH-K-01-15) has been issued describing the fishing periods and guideline harvest levels (GHLs) by gear type and by section, as follows:

PURSE SEINE GEAR
The first fishing period for **most** sections began at **noon Wednesday April 15, 2015.** Purse seine fishing periods will be **noon to 9:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days** (NINE hour open periods), **and 9:00 a.m. to noon on even-numbered days** (THREE hour open periods), followed by a 24 hour closed period in **only** the following sections:

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Afognak Districts:	GHL
(SA10-30) Izhut, Kitoi, and MacDonalds Lagoon	50

Alitak District:	GHL
(AL20) Inner Alitak	50
(AL21, 22) Inner and Outer Deadman bays	175
(AL41) East Upper Olga Bay	50
(AL50)West Upper Olga Bay	50

Eastside District:	GHL
(EA21) Three Saints Bay	50
(EA23) West Sitkalidak Strait	150
(EA24) Barling Bay	75
(EA30) East Sitkalidak Strait	200

Inner Marmot District:	
(IM40) Kizhuyak Bay	100

PURSE SEINE GEAR (DELAYED OPENINING) AREAS

The following sections will also be open to purse seine gear, but the initial purse seine fishing period will be delayed. There will be a 24 hour advance notice prior to opening these areas:

Eastside District:	GHL
(EA50) Outer Ugak Bay	250

GILLNET GEAR

Fishing periods for **most** gillnet sections began at **noon Wednesday April 15, 2015** and remain **open until further notice,** in **only** the following sections.

Afognak Districts:	GHL
(WA20) Malina Bay	10
(WA10) Raspberry Strait	10
(NA30) Perenosa Bay	10
(NA50) Tonki	30
Northeast District:	
(NE10) Womens Bay	10
(NE20) Kalsin Bay	10

Inner Marmot District:	GHL
(IM20) Anton Larsen	10
(IM30) Sharatin Bay	10
Uganik District:	
(UG20) Viekoda Bay	20
(UG21) Terror Bay	20
(UG31) West Uganik Passage	40

Alitak District:	GHL
(AL30) Sulua Bay	50
(AL40) Lower Olga-Moser	50
Eastside District:	
(EA42) Shearwater Bay	75
(EA44) Inner Kiliuda Bay	75
(EA51) Inner Ugak Bay	100
(EA52) Pasagshak Bay	10

COMBINED GEAR AREAS

The following sections will be open to both purse seine and gillnet gear:

	Gillnet	Seine
Afognak Districts:	GHL	GHL
(SA40) Danger Bay	175	625
Uganik District:		
(UG30, 32-34) Village Is., NE Arm, E Arm, and S Arm Uganik Bay	50	450

In combined gear areas, the first gillnet opening will be allowed after the first successful purse seine opening.

Test fishing in the combined Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections and the Danger Bay Section may begin as early as noon Wednesday April 15. These sections or portions of these

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sections will open by emergency order from an ADF&G management biologist on the grounds. Fishing periods and specific areas to be opened in the Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections will be determined inseason. Gear types will be allowed to fish on alternating days, with purse seine gear fished first, once good quality herring are found.

Emergency order fisheries in the Village Islands/Uganik Bay and Danger Bay sections will allow orderly fisheries on high quality herring. Fisheries will only open after test fishing detects fishable quantities of good quality herring (size and roe content). Fisheries may be short in duration (perhaps less than ten minutes for seine gear or as little as five hours for gillnet gear) and in limited areas within a section. ADF&G will be seeking volunteer fishing vessels to make test sets beginning on April 15. Cooperation from fishing vessels and industry technicians are needed to test herring quality in these sections.

EXPLORATORY AREAS

The following sections are designated as EXPLORATORY, and will be open to either gear type, with differential fishing periods by gear type as outlined above for purse seine or gillnet gear:

Afognak Districts:
(NA20) Delphin Bay
(WA40) Bluefox Bay

Alitak District:
(AL60) Geese/Two Headed

Mainland Districts:
(NM20) Inner Kukak Bay
(MM10) Inner Katmai Bay
(MM30) Alinchak Bay
(MM40) Puale Bay
(MM50) Portage Bay
(SM10) Wide Bay

Eastside District:
(EA10) Kaiugnak Bay
(EA20) SW Sitkalidak
(EA22) Newman Bay
(EA31) Tanginak Anchorage

The remainder of the Kodiak Area will stay closed to commercial herring fishing for the entire sac roe season.

Beginning May 1, ADF&G may open any area with remaining herring GHLs to any gear group if the fishery is not likely to result in overharvest of the resource. All Kodiak commercial sac roe herring fishermen that wish to continue fishing after April 30 must be registered with the department. Registration may be accomplished either in the Kodiak fish and game office, or with fish and game personnel available in the field.

GHLs and maps of open sections and gear assignments are available at the Kodiak office, in the herring sac roe fishery harvest strategy for the 2015 season. Fishermen are urged to check with their market and test their catch prior to landing herring. Determining if size or roe quality meets processor standards is the responsibility of fishermen and industry. It is anticipated that many small and green fish will be present on the grounds during the initial open fishing periods. Recent fishery information may be obtained by calling the Department's 24-hour record-a-phone at 486-4559.

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