



MEMORANDUM

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DATE: October 16, 2015

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SUBJECT: 2015 Kodiak Management Area Herring Sac Roe Season Summary

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Kodiak Management Area 2015 Commercial Herring Fishery Summary

The following is an overview of the 2015 Kodiak Management Area (KMA) commercial herring sac roe fishery. The season dates for the fishery extend from April 15 through June 30.

2015 Sac Roe Fishery Overview

The KMA sac roe fishery began at noon April 15 and the last harvest occurred on April 29. Legal gear for this fishery includes purse seines and gillnets. Guideline harvest levels (GHLs) were set for each section based on stock status. An allocative harvest strategy provides opportunity for gillnet permit holders to harvest approximately 25%, and purse seine permit holders to harvest approximately 75%, of the total preseason GHL for the KMA by district, and when possible separate gear areas were established (5 AAC 27.535). However, after April 30, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) may open any area to either gear type (5 AAC 27.535(e)(1)(C)). Gillnet fishing periods for most sections opened to continuous fishing starting at noon on April 15 as gillnet effort was expected to be minimal. Purse seine fishing periods for most sections were from noon to 9:00 p.m. on odd numbered days, and 9:00 a.m. to noon on even numbered days (e.g. noon to 9:00 p.m. April 15 and 9:00 a.m. to noon April 16). The 24-hour closed period between fishing periods allowed time for accurate assessment of harvests. In any open section, fishing was closed for the season when the GHL was estimated to have been met.

The total GHL for both gear types was established at 3,190 tons and just 357 tons were harvested (Table 1). The initial GHL allocated to purse seine gear was 2,425 tons (76.0% of the initial GHL) and 357 tons were harvested. The initial GHL allocated to gillnet gear was 765 tons (24.0% of the initial GHL) and zero tons were harvested.

The fishery did not materialize as expected. A large portion of the harvest was expected to be composed of age-9 herring. These older herring were not present during the fishery in most areas. The Danger Bay and Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections were to be managed on the grounds by emergency order to enhance value and control harvest rates; however, there was insufficient biomass to allow a harvest in these areas. Most other areas in the KMA were closed on April 29 to account for the lack of older age class herring.

During the 2015 season, nine purse seine vessels delivered herring, which was well below the recent 5-year average (Table 1). There was no participation by gillnet vessels. The price paid per ton of herring at the dock averaged \$110, up slightly from the previous season. The overall exvessel value of \$39,270 was the lowest on record. Purse seine permit holders averaged \$4,363 (Table 1).

The recent 5-year average GHL was 5,761 tons, while the recent 10-year average was 4,904 tons (Table 1). The GHL has ranged from a low of 1,495 tons in 1999 to a high of 6,135 tons in 2011. From 2010 through 2014, the annual harvest averaged 3,966 tons and from 2005 through 2014 averaged 3,634 tons (Table 1). This year's harvest of 357 tons was the lowest on record while the largest of 5,893 tons was harvested in 1994.

Table 1.–Kodiak Management Area herring sac roe fishery harvest summary.

Year	GHL (Tons)	Total Harvest (Tons)	Harvest		Percent Harvest		Units of Gear		Estimated Average Earnings ^a		Price per Ton ^a (\$)
			by Gear Type		by Gear Type		Making Delivery		Seine	Gillnet	
			Seine (Tons)	Gillnet (Tons)	Seine	Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet	(\$)	(\$)	
2015	3,190	357	357	0	100%	0%	9	0	\$4,363	\$0	\$110
<u>Averages</u>											
2005 to 2014	4,904	3,634	3,518	116	97%	3%	25	4	\$47,921	\$7,543	\$346
2010 to 2014	5,761	3,966	3,898	68	99%	1%	25	3	\$40,128	\$3,945	\$246

^a Exvessel values are based on dock delivered herring and inseason data.

The fishery was monitored by one ADF&G shore-based field crew and two ADF&G vessels, which were stationed in anticipated herring harvest locations. Crews monitored the fishery to gather effort and harvest data used to manage the fishery and collected commercial catch samples to obtain age, weight, and length (AWL) data. There were only four emergency orders issued concerning this fishery.

There were a total of 41 sections open to fishing, however 13 sections were exploratory and had little or no historic harvests. Harvests occurred within just three sections.