
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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Date: November 17, 2015
Time: 2:15 p.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING WINTER BAIT TEST FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is soliciting bids to conduct a test fishery by harvesting winter food and bait herring with purse seine gear in Sitka Sound during January or February 2016. The Sitka Sound winter herring test fishery has been conducted annually since 1992 and provides updated weight-at-age information used to forecast the biomass of herring returning to Sitka Sound the following spring.

The RFQ format for the 2016 test fishery will be done in tons of herring. The Department is seeking to generate \$30,000 from the Sitka Sound herring winter bait test fishery. The quote **must** be based on tons of herring to reach that goal. The party that quotes the lowest amount of herring in tons will be awarded the contract. The highest quote the department will accept for this test fishery is 200 tons of herring. **Quotes will be accepted until 12:00 noon, Tuesday, December 1, 2015.** The harvest of bait herring under this contract will be conducted during the period January 15–February 28, 2016. The vessel used to harvest may be required to spend some time assessing the herring biomass in Sitka Sound to determine where the largest concentrations are located. Harvests will occur on larger concentrations of herring in order to attain a sample representative of the population, and multiple sets in each area may be required to achieve this goal. One or two department biologists will be on board during harvesting.

The State will be paid at the base price for any overages of any herring above the original quote amount up to 20%. The State will be paid two times the base price of the original quote on any herring that exceed 20% of the original bid incurred during the fishery (Base price is considered to be \$30,000 divided by the amount of the herring quoted).

Quotations will only be accepted from a current CFEC permit holder for the Southeast Alaska Herring Sac-Roe fishery, a current CFEC permit holder in the Southeast Alaska Herring Winter Bait fishery, or from a company licensed to process herring in Southeast Alaska.

ADF&G, Commercial Fisheries staff in Sitka will coordinate management and supervision of this program. Requests for Quotation (RFQ) bid forms are available from the Sitka, ADF&G office upon request. In the case of equal, low bids, the winner will be drawn from a hat.

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

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