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

Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director

Contact:
Greg Buck, Area Research Biologist
Phone: (907) 267-2355
Fax: (907) 267-2442

Anchorage Regional Office
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518

Date Issued: October 3, 2016

2017 TOGIAK HERRING FORECAST

The 2017 Togiak herring forecast and harvest allocations are listed below for the Togiak District sac roe and spawn-on-kelp fishery, and the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery. This forecast is based on a maximum 20% exploitation rate of the projected biomass as defined in regulation 5 AAC 27.865 Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.

Table 1. 2017 Togiak District Pacific herring biomass and harvest forecast and allocation by fishery and gear.

	Biomass (Short Tons)	Harvest (Short Tons)
Forecasted Biomass	130,852	
Total Allowable Harvest (20% exploitation rate)		26,170
Togiak Spawn-on-Kelp Fishery (Fixed Allocation)		1,500
Remaining Allowable Harvest		24,670
Dutch Harbor Food/Bait Allocation (7% of remaining allowable harvest)		1,727
Remaining Allowable Harvest for Togiak District Sac Roe Fishery:		22,943
Purse Seine Allocation (70%)		16,060
Gill Net Allocation (30%)		6,883

2017 TOGIAK HERRING FORECAST SUMMARY

The Pacific herring spawning biomass in the Togiak District was not estimated in 2016 nor was any estimation made of the age composition of the 2016 harvest due to budget cuts. Traditionally, the department has used an age structured assessment (ASA) model to forecast the spawning biomass of Togiak herring. The ASA model requires estimates of the spawning biomass as well as estimates of the age composition of the spawning biomass and the harvest. Because that data is no longer available to us, we forecast the 2017 biomass as the average spawning biomass for all years for which we have data (1978-2015) less 10% in order to be conservative. This method produces an estimate of 130,852 tons (Table 1). Because we are not using the ASA model for the 2017 forecast we have no predictions regarding age composition or

individual size of herring for 2017. As the department ceased estimating the spawning biomass of Togiak herring in 2015, the historical average used here is a static number and unless the budget situation changes we will not be able to estimate spawning biomass or age composition in the future. The current management plan calls for a forecast based on an estimated biomass but we no longer have the budget to estimate the biomass of this stock. This forecast strategy therefore, should be viewed as a temporary measure until a more long term strategy for this fishery can be developed.