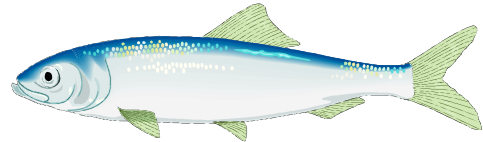


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:
James Jackson, Area Biologist
Geoff Spalinger, Asst. Area Biologist
Todd Anderson, Asst. Area Biologist
Brad Fuerst, Fishery Biologist
Phone: (907) 486-1830
Fax: (907) 486-1847

Kodiak Area Office
351 Research Court
Kodiak, AK 99615

Date Issued: April 10, 2017
Time: 3:00 p.m.

KODIAK COMMERCIAL HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY NEWS RELEASE # 01 For Emergency Order #4-FH-K-01-17

The Kodiak herring sac roe fishery will begin at **noon Saturday April 15, 2017**. All herring **permit holders**, buyers and tender operators participating are required to register at the ADF&G Kodiak office or with ADF&G personnel on the grounds prior to operations. Fishing periods and guideline harvest levels (GHLs) by gear type and section are as follows:

PURSE SEINE GEAR

The first fishing period for **most** sections will begin at **noon Saturday April 15, 2017**. 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) in **only** the following sections:

<u>Alitak District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Eastside District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Inner Marmot District</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(AL20) Inner Alitak	25	(EA21) Three Saints Bay	25	(IM40) Kizhuyak Bay	50
(AL21, 22) Inner and Outer Deadman bays	90	(EA23) West Sitkalidak Strait	50		
(AL41) East Upper Olga Bay	25	(EA30) East Sitkalidak Strait	75		
(AL50) West Upper Olga Bay	25	(EA43) Outer Kiliuda Bay	75		
		(EA44) Inner Kiliuda Bay	40		

PURSE SEINE GEAR (DELAYED OPENING) 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:

<u>Eastside District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(EA50) Outer Ugak Bay	150

PURSE SEINE GEAR (EMERGENCY ORDER) AREAS

The following sections will be open to purse seine gear, but the initial opening will be determined on the amount and quality of herring present:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u> (SA40) Danger Bay	<u>GHL</u> 400	<u>Uganik District:</u> (UG30, 32-34) Village Is., NE Arm, E Arm, and S Arm Uganik Bay	<u>GHL</u> 250
--	-------------------	---	-------------------

The Danger Bay and Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections will be managed by Emergency Order. Test fishing in the Danger Bay Section may begin as early as noon Saturday April 15. Test fishing in the Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections will be delayed until a vessel is available. These sections or portions of these sections will open by EO from an ADF&G management biologist on the grounds. Fishing periods and specific areas to be opened in the Danger Bay and Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections will be determined inseason.

Emergency order fisheries in the Danger Bay and Village Islands/Uganik 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 and limited in area. ADF&G will be seeking volunteer fishing vessels in Danger Bay to make test sets beginning on April 15. Cooperation from fishing vessels and industry technicians are needed to test herring quality in these sections.

GILLNET GEAR

Fishing periods for gillnet sections will begin at **noon Saturday April 15, 2017** and remain **open until further notice**, in the following sections:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u> (WA20) Malina Bay (WA10) Raspberry Strait (NA30) Perenosa Bay (NA50) Tonki (SA10,20,30) Kitoi/Izhut/ MacDonalds Lagoon	<u>GHL</u> 10 10 10 30 40	<u>Uganik District:</u> (UG20) Viekoda Bay (UG21) Terror Bay (UG31) West Uganik Passage	<u>GHL</u> 15 15 35	<u>Alitak District:</u> (AL30) Sulua Bay (AL40) Lower Olga-Moser	<u>GHL</u> 25 25
<u>Northeast District:</u> (NE10) Womens Bay (NE20) Kalsin Bay	<u>GHL</u> 10 10			<u>Eastside District:</u> (EA24) Barling Bay (EA42) Shearwater Bay (EA51) Inner Ugak Bay	<u>GHL</u> 30 50 50

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:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u> (NA20) Delphin Bay (WA40) Bluefox Bay	<u>Mainland Districts:</u> (NM20) Inner Kukak Bay (MM10) Inner Katmai Bay (MM30) Alinchak Bay (MM40) Puale Bay (MM50) Portage Bay (SM10) Wide Bay	<u>Eastside District:</u> (EA10) Kaiugnak Bay (EA20) SW Sitkalidak (EA22) Newman Bay (EA31) Tanginak Anchorage
<u>Alitak District:</u> (AL60) Geese/Twoheaded		

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 GHs to any gear group if the fishery is not likely to result in overharvest of the resource.

GHs and maps of open sections and gear assignments are available at the Kodiak office and in the herring sac roe fishery harvest strategy for the 2017 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.