
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2018 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERIES

Sitka... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the Southeast Alaska herring spawn-on-kelp pound fisheries.

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): The 2017/2018 total herring guideline harvest level (GHL) has been set at 2,312 tons. This GHL is based on a forecasted mature spawning biomass of 16,039 tons and a harvest rate of 14.4%. Regulations determine that the winter food and bait fishery is allocated 60% of the GHL and 40% is allocated to the herring spawn-on-kelp fishery. The Craig winter food and bait fishery has closed by regulation with an unharvested portion of 742 tons that will be re-allocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery.

The 2017/2018 Craig /Klawock spawn-on-kelp fishery GHL is 1,667 tons. Based on this GHL, the kelp allocation will be at the maximum tier of 1,500 tons or more and the department will not be requiring any additional regulations to limit the number of pounds or modify fishing time.

New for 2018 will be an expansion of the area open for pounding. Pounds for the taking of herring spawn-on-kelp and seines for the taking of herring for placement in pounds may be operated only in the following location:

(1) in Section 3-B, the waters of the Gulf of Esquibel, San Alberto Bay, Shinaku Inlet, and San Christoval Channel south of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Saint Phillips Island at 55°39.31' N. latitude, east of a line from the northernmost tip of Saint Phillips Island to the northernmost tip of Point Garcia at 55°33.65' N. latitude, 133°26.47' W. longitude, and north of a line from Entrance Point to the southernmost tip of Clam Island to the southernmost tip of Fern Point and east of 133°20' W. longitude. All regulatory closures will remain in effect (Figure 1).

The kelp allocation per permit holder in place for the 2018 season is as follows (5 AAC 27.185(c)):

Single Permit Closed Pounds: 600 blades per permit.

Double Permit Closed Pounds: 900 blades per permit.

Triple Permit Closed Pounds: 1,000 blades per permit.

Quad or more Permit Closed Pounds: 1,000 blades per permit.

Single Permit Open Pounds: 3,000 blades per permit.

Multiple Permit Open Pounds: 9,000 blades per permit.

District 7 (Ernest Sound): will be closed.

Section 12-A (Tenakee Inlet): will be closed.

Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound): will be closed.

All pound operators are reminded they must have a current Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission limited entry permit prior to introducing kelp or herring into their pounds. All *Macrocystis* kelp harvesters must have a kelp harvest permit prior to harvesting kelp for a closed or open pound. These permits must be in the possession of the pound operator and kelp harvester at all times during fishing operations. Kelp harvest permits are currently available in all Southeast Alaska Department of Fish & Game offices.

Spawn-on-kelp fishers and processors should read the 2018 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN for an overview of this fishery for the 2018 season. The plan is expected to be available by March 10. The 2017-2019 Statewide Commercial Herring Fishing Regulations booklet contains detailed regulations for this fishery.



Figure 1. Updated open area for Craig/Klawock (Section 3-B) herring SOK fishery.

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

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