
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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Time: 1:30 p.m.

2018/2019 SOUTHEAST ALASKA WINTER FOOD AND BAIT HERRING FISHERY

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the 2018/2019 Southeast Alaska winter food and bait herring fishery.

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): **will open at 12:00 noon, Thursday, October 18, 2018**, in those waters of Section 3-B west of a line from Blanquital Point to Point Santa Rosalia to Tranquil Point and in those waters of District 4 north and east of a line from Lontana Point to Diver Point. The guideline harvest level (GHL) is **2,344 tons**. This GHL is based on a forecasted mature spawning biomass of 22,810 tons and a harvest rate of 17.1 %. The forecast indicates that the predominant age classes in the spawning stock will be age-4 and age-5 herring.

The total GHL for the Craig/Klawock area is forecasted to be 3,906 tons. Regulations state that 60% of this GHL goes to the winter food and bait fishery and 40% goes to the Section 3-B spawn-on-kelp pound fishery (5 AAC 27.185 (h)). Additionally, any portion not taken by the winter bait fishery is allocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery and will be announced by March 5, 2019.

District 7 (Ernest Sound): **will be closed.** Minimal herring spawn was observed, and a spawn deposition survey was not conducted in 2018. Therefore, a forecast for the 2018/19 season was not generated.

District 10 (Hobart Bay/Port Houghton): **will be closed.** Minimal herring spawn was observed, and a spawn deposition survey was not conducted in 2018. Therefore, a forecast for the 2018/19 season was not generated.

District 12 (Tenakee Inlet): **will be closed.** Minimal herring spawn was observed, and a spawn deposition survey was not conducted in 2018. Therefore, a forecast for the 2018/19 season was not generated.

Fishermen and operators of tendering vessels must obtain an ADF&G permit to participate in the Southeast Alaska Winter Food and Bait Herring Fishery (5 AAC 27.179). Permit applications are available at ADF&G area offices in Ketchikan, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Douglas free of charge.

For the 2018/19 season, the department is requiring that permits be issued by ADF&G 72 hours prior to commencing fishing operations. Terms of the permit stipulate: 1) the amount of herring harvested and delivery location be reported to the Ketchikan office for Section 3-B and District 4 by 12:00 noon on the day after fish were harvested; 2) logbook forms must be completed and submitted with fish tickets; 3) one 5-gallon bucket of herring is to be provided to the department from each delivery for catch sampling purposes.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1H0418.

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

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