



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of
Fish and Game**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Nick Sagalkin
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DATE: October 31, 2014

THRU: Jeff Wadle
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FROM: Geoff Spalinger
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SUBJECT: 2014 Kodiak Management Area Herring Sac Roe Season Summary

CC:	Regnart	Greer
Fuerst	Keyse	Wilburn
Russell	Foster	Moore
Dorner	Murphy	Dressel
Fox	Bowers	Trident Seafoods
Anderson	Schaberg	Westward Seafoods
Alaska Fresh Seafoods	True World Seafoods	Icicle Seafoods
Global Seafoods		Island Seafoods
Ocean Beauty Seafoods (Alitak and Kodiak)		Alaska Pacific Seafoods
Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee		

Kodiak Management Area 2014 Commercial Herring Fishery Summary

The following is an overview of the 2014 Kodiak Management Area (KMA) commercial herring sac roe fishery. The season dates for the fishery extend from April 15 through June 30.

2014 Sac Roe Fishery Overview

The KMA sac roe fishery began at noon April 15 and the last harvest occurred on May 12. Legal gear for this fishery includes purse seines and gillnets. Guideline harvest levels (GHLs) were set for each section based on stock status. An allocative harvest strategy provides opportunity for gillnet permit holders to harvest approximately 25%, and purse seine permit holders to harvest approximately 75%, of the total preseason GHL for the KMA by district, and when possible separate gear areas were established (5 AAC 27.535). However, after April 30, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) may open any area to either gear type (5 AAC 27.535(e)(1)(C)). Gillnet fishing periods for most sections opened to continuous fishing starting at noon on April 15 as gillnet effort was expected to be minimal. Purse seine fishing periods for most sections were from noon to 9:00 p.m. on odd numbered days, and 9:00 a.m. to noon on even numbered days (e.g. noon to 9:00 p.m. April 15 and 9:00 a.m. to noon April 16). The 24-hour closed period between fishing periods allowed time for accurate assessment of harvests. In any open section, fishing was closed for the season when the GHL was estimated to have been met.

In 2014, the fisheries in the Danger Bay and Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections were managed to enhance the value of the landed product and control harvest rates. Fishing periods for these areas were established by on-the-grounds emergency order. Herring were sampled by purse seine test sets, and time and area restrictions were used to target these fisheries on herring of the largest size and highest roe content. Due to a lower than expected biomass of older age class herring and large numbers of juvenile herring present, the Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections remained closed in 2014.

The total 2014 KMA GHL for both gear types was established at 5,830 tons and 2,463 tons were harvested (Table 1). The initial GHL allocated to purse seine gear was 4,325 tons (74.2% of the initial GHL) and 2,463 tons were harvested. The initial GHL allocated to gillnet gear was 1,505 tons (25.8% of the initial GHL) and 0 tons were harvested. After April 30, several sections were opened to both gear types.

During the 2014 season, 21 purse seine vessels participated in the fishery, which is below the recent 5 year average (Table 1). There was no participation by gillnet vessels in 2014. The price paid per ton of herring at the dock averaged \$100, down from \$230 the previous season. The overall exvessel value of \$246,300 was the lowest on record. Purse seine permit holders averaged \$11,729 (Table 1).

From 2009 through 2013, the annual GHL averaged 5,548 tons, and from 2004 through 2013 averaged 4,606 tons (Table 1). The GHL has ranged from a low of 1,495 tons in 1999 to a high of 6,135 tons in 2011. From 2009 through 2013, the annual harvest averaged 4,425 tons and from 2004 through 2013 averaged 3,704 tons (Table 1). The harvest has ranged from a low of 1,370 tons in 2000 to a high of 5,893 tons in 1994.

Table 1.–Kodiak Management Area herring sac roe fishery harvest summary.

Year	GHL (Tons)	Total Harvest (Tons)	Harvest		Percent Harvest		Units of Gear		Estimated Average Earnings ^a		Price per Ton ^a (\$)
			by Gear Type		by Gear Type		Fished		Seine (\$)	Gillnet (\$)	
			Seine (Tons)	Gillnet (Tons)	Seine	Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet			
2014	5,830	2,463	2,463	0	100%	0%	21	0	\$11,729	\$0	\$100
<u>Averages</u>											
2004 to 2013	4,606	3,704	3,561	143	96%	4%	26	5	\$52,108	\$8,784	\$386
2009 to 2013	5,548	4,425	4,315	110	98%	2%	27	4	\$53,190	\$7,620	\$331

^a Exvessel values are based on dock delivered herring and inseason data.

The fishery was monitored by one ADF&G shore-based field crew and two ADF&G vessels, which were stationed in anticipated herring harvest locations. Crews monitored the fishery to gather effort and harvest data used to manage the fishery and collected commercial catch samples to obtain age, weight, and length (AWL) data. There were 24 emergency orders issued concerning this fishery.

There were a total of 46 sections open to fishing, however 13 sections were exploratory and had little or no historic harvests. Harvests occurred within 8 sections.