
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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SOUTHEAST ALASKA WINTER FOOD AND BAIT HERRING FISHERIES

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the Southeast Alaska winter food and bait herring fishery will open in the following areas at **12:00 noon, Friday, November 30, 2012.**

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the winter bait fishery for Craig/Klawock is **2,436 tons**. This GHL is based on a forecasted mature spawning biomass of 23,391 tons and a harvest rate of 17.4%. The forecast indicates that the primary age classes in the spawning stock will be age 5 herring.

The fishery **will be open** in those waters of Section 3-B west of a line from Blanquizal 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 2,436 ton winter bait GHL is 60% of the total GHL of **4,060 tons** for Section 3-B for the 2012/2013 season, the remaining 40% is allocated to the Section 3-B Herring Spawn On Kelp In Pounds 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 15, 2013.

District 7 (Ernest Sound): The GHL for Ernest Sound is **341 tons**. This GHL is based on a forecast of mature spawning biomass of **3,509 tons** and a harvest rate of 10.8%. The forecast indicates that the primary age class in the spawning stock will be age 4. The fishery **will be open** in the waters of District 7 with the following restrictions:

Zimovia Strait and Anita Bay: will be closed north of a line from Thoms Point to a point on the Etolin shoreline at 56°07.13' N. latitude, 132°07.01' W. longitude.

Bradfield Canal, Blake Channel, and Eastern Passage: will be closed north of a line from 56°12.25' N. latitude, 131°55.28' W. longitude to 56°11.66' N. latitude, 131°53.41' W. longitude.

The winter bait GHL is 90% of the total GHL of **379 tons** for the 2012/2013 season. Any portion of the GHL not taken by the winter bait fishery is allocated to the herring spawn-on-kelp pound fishery. If the remaining guideline harvest level is less than 50 tons, there will be no spawn-on-kelp pound fishery (5 AAC 27.185 (i)). Any remaining GHL available for the spawn-on-kelp fishery will be announced by March 15, 2013.

District 10 (Hobart Bay/Port Houghton): The spawning biomass forecast has not been developed at the time of this release. However, herring spawn deposition in the Hobart Bay has been below historical averages and the forecast is expected to be below the threshold of 2,000 tons that would allow a fishery for the 2013 season.

District 12 (Tenakee Inlet): No forecast will be developed for 2013 due to low spawning biomass the past several seasons and there being no current age data available to produce a forecast. There will be no winter bait fishery in the 2012/13 season.

Fishermen and operators of tendering vessels must obtain an ADF&G permit to participate in the Southeast Alaska food and bait herring fishery (5 AAC 27.179). Permit applications are available at Department of Fish and Game area offices in Ketchikan, Sitka, Petersburg, and Douglas free of charge. In order for the Department to assess the amount of fishing effort that will occur and make plans for on-the-grounds management, **permit applications must be submitted to the department before fishing operations can commence. The department will set a date fishing operations may commence that will be within 14 days after the department receives the permit application.** 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; to the Petersburg office for District 7 and District 10; and to the Juneau Office for District 12 by 9:00 a.m. 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 of 30 tons or more for catch sampling purposes.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1H1012.

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

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