

*\*This proposal will be heard at the LCI and Kodiak meetings, and deliberated at the Kodiak meeting.*

## **PROPOSAL 44**

### **5 AAC 27.465. Kamishak Bay District Herring Management Plan.**

Amend the *Kamishak Bay District Herring Management Plan* to remove restrictions to the Shelikof Strait food and bait herring fishery, as follows:

#### **Draft Language: 5 AAC 27.465. Kamishak Bay District Herring Management Plan.**

(a) The purpose of the Kamishak Bay District herring management plan under this section is to promote and maintain the viability of the herring stock in the Kamishak Bay District and stabilize the commercial fishery targeting the herring stock by using conservative management strategies that support a biologically sound and sustainable commercial fishery. This management plan describes the management strategies used to set and implement the guideline harvest levels for the Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery.

(b) The management year for Kamishak Bay herring stock is July 1 through June 30.

(c) The guideline harvest level for the following spring Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery will be based on the projected biomass as determined by the most recent aerial surveys, age class composition, historical mortality, recruitment trends, and other relevant data that is collected by the department.

(d) The maximum allowable exploitation rate for the Kamishak Bay herring stock is 15 percent of the spawning biomass. The department will determine the exploitation rate based on the age class structure of the forecasted biomass, the degree of biomass uncertainty as measured by the adequacy of the recent years' aerial survey conditions and coverage, and the following guidelines:

(1) if the projected spawning biomass is 24,000 short tons or more, the department will establish a guideline harvest level of herring based on an exploitation rate between zero and 15 percent;

(2) if the projected spawning biomass is at least 14,000 short tons, but less than 24,000 short tons, the department will establish a guideline harvest level of herring based on an exploitation rate between zero and 12.5 percent;

(3) if the projected spawning biomass is at least 6,000 short tons, but less than 14,000 short tons, the department will establish a guideline harvest level of herring based on an exploitation rate between zero and 10 percent;

(4) if the projected spawning biomass is less than the minimum threshold of 6,000 short tons, the Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery will be closed.

(e) The management strategy for Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery is to target older age classes of herring, and to limit the exploitation rate of recruit age herring, which are fish age five and younger, to 10 percent or less. In order to provide maximum protection to recruit age herring, a further reduction on the exploitation rate set out in (d) of this section, or a complete closure of the affected fisheries may be implemented in the biomass projection, or in season test fishing, indicates a higher percentage of fish are recruit age herring.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kodiak Area Food and Bait Fishery's North Shelikof section cannot presently open because it is regulated by the Kamishak Bay District herring management plan. The Kamishak Management Plan presently closes the North Shelikof section when the spawning biomass in Kamishak is below 6,000 tons. The Kamishak section has not been surveyed in several years, and the surveyed biomass of herring in the North Shelikof section has been much larger than 6,000 tons. The Kodiak Food and Bait

fishery should be managed on its own recent stock assessment. This would allow this, sustainable fishery, to provide food and bait herring throughout the state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sam Mutch

(EF-F19-024)

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