

**2026 Southeast Alaska Herring Spawn-On-Kelp
Pound Fishery Management Plan**

by

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February 2026

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries



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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H_A
gram	g	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	base of natural logarithm	e
hectare	ha	at	@	catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilogram	kg	compass directions:		coefficient of variation	CV
kilometer	km	east	E	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
liter	L	north	N	confidence interval	CI
meter	m	south	S	correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
milliliter	mL	west	W	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
millimeter	mm	copyright	©	covariance	cov
		corporate suffixes:		degree (angular)	$^\circ$
Weights and measures (English)		Company	Co.	degrees of freedom	df
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	Corporation	Corp.	expected value	E
foot	ft	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than	>
gallon	gal	Limited	Ltd.	greater than or equal to	\geq
inch	in	District of Columbia	D.C.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
mile	mi	et alii (and others)	et al.	less than	<
nautical mile	nmi	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	less than or equal to	\leq
ounce	oz	exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.	logarithm (natural)	ln
pound	lb	Federal Information Code	FIC	logarithm (base 10)	log
quart	qt	id est (that is)	i.e.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
yard	yd	latitude or longitude	lat or long	minute (angular)	'
		monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	not significant	NS
Time and temperature		months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	null hypothesis	H_0
day	d	registered trademark	®	percent	%
degrees Celsius	°C	trademark	™	probability	P
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	United States (adjective)	U.S.	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
degrees kelvin	K	United States of America (noun)	USA	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
hour	h	U.S.C.	United States Code	second (angular)	"
minute	min	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	standard deviation	SD
second	s			standard error	SE
Physics and chemistry				variance	
all atomic symbols				population sample	Var
alternating current	AC			sample	var
ampere	A				
calorie	cal				
direct current	DC				
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH				
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO. 1J26-04

**2026 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

by

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February 2026

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This document should be cited as follows:

Dupuis, A., S. Forbes, B. Meredith, and K. Taylor. 2026. 2026 Southeast Alaska herring spawn-on-kelp pound fishery management plan. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report No. 1J26-04, Douglas.

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ABSTRACT

This management plan provides an overview of the management approach, permit requirements, and regulations for the 2026 herring spawn-on-kelp (SOK) pound fisheries in Southeast Alaska. A herring SOK pound fishery will only occur in the Section 3-B (Craig/Klawock) area. The forecasted mature spawning biomass in Section 3-B is 47,302 tons of herring (95% prediction interval: 32,457–105,112) for the 2025/2026 season. This biomass estimate allows for a 15% harvest rate and a combined guideline harvest level (GHL) of 7,095 tons for the winter food and bait and the SOK fishery. The minimum GHL available to the Section 3-B SOK fishery is 2,838 tons, allowing for full kelp allocation.

Keywords: Pacific herring, *Clupea pallasii*, herring pound, *Macrocystis* kelp, allocation, management plan, spawn-on-kelp

INTRODUCTION

This plan provides an overview of the 2026 management approach, permit requirements, and regulations for Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* harvest in the Southeast Alaska spawn-on-kelp (SOK) fisheries. 5 AAC 27.185 *Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7* establishes the regulatory framework for the Southeast Alaska SOK fisheries and provides for fisheries in Sections 3-B (Craig/Klawock), 12-A (Tenakee Inlet), 13-C (Hoonah Sound), and in District 7 (Ernest Sound).

A *closed-pound fishery* involves capturing sexually mature herring and releasing them into a net impoundment in which kelp is suspended. The herring are released from the pound after they spawn on the suspended kelp, and the kelp with eggs attached is then sold. An *open-pound fishery* involves suspending kelp from a floating frame structure in an area where herring are spawning. The herring are not impounded but instead are allowed to naturally spawn on the suspended kelp. The kelp blades with eggs are removed from the water and then sold. In Southeast Alaska herring SOK fisheries, a closed or an open pound may be operated by one or more Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holders.

The 2025/2026 season (October 1–September 30) herring guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Craig/Klawock area stock is 7,095 tons of herring¹. Forty percent (2,838 tons) is allocated to the SOK fishery plus any unharvested portion of the winter food and bait quota. The current GHL for the Craig/Klawock SOK fishery corresponds to an allocation range of *1,500 or more* tons of kelp; this allocation range provides for the maximum allowable number of kelp blades for each permit holder by pound type.

No fishery will occur in Ernest Sound during the 2025/2026 season. A forecast was not generated due to the small amount of herring spawn observed in 2025. In 2026, Ernest Sound will be monitored throughout the duration of historical spawn timing. If enough herring spawn is observed and funding allows, a spawn deposition survey may be conducted.

No fishery will occur in Hoonah Sound during the 2025/2026 season. In 2025, no herring or herring spawn were observed, therefore no forecast was generated for the 2025/2026 season. Future assessments and fisheries are dependent on available funding and documentation of herring spawn.

No fishery will occur in Tenakee Inlet during the 2025/2026 season. In 2025, approximately 5.8 nmi of herring spawn was documented for this stock, including 4.2 nmi on the Catherine Island

¹ During the 2025 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting in Ketchikan, the Board of Fisheries adopted regulations that reduced the maximum harvest rate for Southeast Alaska herring from 20% to 15% (5 AAC 27.190 [4]).

shoreline and 1.6 nmi from Peninsular Point north to Little Basket Bay on the Chichagof Island shoreline. No spawn was observed inside Tenakee Inlet, and a spawn deposition survey was not conducted, precluding a forecast for the 2025/2026 season. In 2026, the stock will be monitored throughout historical spawn timing. If enough herring spawn is observed and funding allows, a spawn deposition survey may be conducted.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The management of Southeast Alaska herring fisheries is based on the forecast of spawning biomass, population age structure, recruitment, size-at-age, past spawning success, and the availability and distribution of herring.

Herring populations are assessed annually to determine whether individual spawning stocks are above threshold and to determine the appropriate harvest rate (see *Sliding Scale Harvest Rate* section on next page). As specified in 5 AAC 27.190. *Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area*, harvest of a particular spawning stock is not allowed unless an assessment of the abundance and general condition of that spawning stock has been conducted and the estimated biomass is above the minimum spawning biomass threshold level. The threshold level is the herring biomass needed to meet minimum spawning and allocation requirements. The established threshold levels for the SOK fishing areas are: Craig–5,000 tons; Ernest Sound–2,500 tons; Tenakee–3,000 tons; and Hoonah Sound– 2,000 tons. A variety of methods have been used to assess the status of herring populations in Southeast Alaska (Hebert 2024). Before 1970, herring abundance was assessed through visual estimates made from vessels using depth sounders and sonar immediately prior to spawning or on wintering aggregations. The extent of herring spawn (measured as cumulative miles of unique shoreline with observed spawn) was documented by aerial or skiff surveys. A computer-assisted hydroacoustic survey method was developed in the early 1970s and used extensively from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s. Spawn deposition surveys were first conducted for Sitka Sound herring in 1976 and continue to be a key component of current assessment methods. The spawn deposition method combines calibrated diver estimates of herring egg deposition on the spawning grounds along with estimates of total area receiving spawn, average fecundity, average weight-at-age, and age composition to yield an estimate of spawning biomass. In the 1980s and early 1990s, estimates of spawning biomass from a given year were used as the forecast to set GHs for individual spawning stocks for the following year.

Beginning in 1993, the department began using age-structured assessment (ASA) models to forecast abundance for selected spawning stocks with sufficient historical stock information. The ASA are used to forecast herring biomass for several of the larger stocks in Southeast Alaska, including Craig/Klawock. ASA models rely on a time series of estimated total egg deposition, spawner-age composition, catch-age composition, weight-at-age, and harvest. Estimates of fecundity are also included in the model. The models estimate recruitment, maturation, and natural mortality and apply them to an estimate of spawning biomass from a given year to forecast mature biomass for the following year. The ASA model was an important development because gains in herring biomass due to recruitment, growth, and maturity are often not equal to the loss of biomass due to natural and fishery mortality, as was assumed when using the prior year spawn deposition estimate for forecasting biomass. The ASA method is currently used to forecast herring biomass for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery.

Beginning in 1995, the department began using a biomass accounting (BA) method to forecast abundance for stocks without sufficient historical stock information for ASA modeling. The BA

method has been used to establish the fishery GHL in Hoonah Sound (most recent forecast in 2016), Ernest Sound (the most recent forecast in 2017), and was used to forecast the 2023 mature biomass of Craig herring. The Hoonah Sound forecast uses the estimated survival, estimated maturity, and fecundity relationship derived from the ASA model for the nearby Seymour herring stock. A median historical level of recruitment of age-3 herring specific to Hoonah Sound is also applied to forecast biomass. The Ernest Sound forecast uses the estimated survival, estimated maturity, and fecundity relationship derived from the ASA model for the nearby Craig herring stock. A median historical recruitment of age-3 herring specific to Ernest Sound is also applied to forecast biomass. The BA model was used to forecast the 2023 mature biomass of the Craig herring stock for 3 reasons: biometric time constraints, near certainty that the forecast would be above threshold, and a high likelihood that the forecast would result in GHLS that would not constrain the bait or pound fisheries (taking into account historical bait harvest levels and maximum blade allocation). The ASA model was used to forecast the 2024, 2025, and 2026 mature biomass of herring in Craig.

SLIDING SCALE HARVEST RATE

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted regulations that reduced the maximum harvest rate from 20% to 15% for most other Southeast Alaska commercial herring fisheries. The department proposed this harvest rate strategy based on recent research indicating that more precautionary harvest rates are advisable to protect herring populations from falling to low biomass and low productivity states (DFO 2021, 2023, DFO 2024). This updated harvest rate strategy is in effect for the 2026 fisheries. This approach maintains annual harvest rates between 10% and 15% of the forecast for spawning stocks when the forecasted biomass is greater than established threshold levels. When the spawning stock biomass is at the threshold level, a 10% harvest is allowed. For stocks other than Sitka Sound, the allowable harvest increases an additional 2% for every spawning stock biomass increase of an amount equal to the threshold level and reaches a maximum of 15% when the population is 3.5 times or more of the threshold level (Figure 1).

The harvest rate percent for any multiple of the threshold level from 1 to 3.5 can be estimated by performing the following calculation:

$$\text{Harvest Rate} = (8 + 2 \left[\frac{\text{Forecast Spawning Biomass (tons)}}{\text{Threshold}} \right]) / 100 \quad (2)$$

HERRING STOCK STATUS AND HISTORICAL FISHERY PERFORMANCE

CRAIG/KLAWOCK (SECTION 3-B)

Herring fisheries have occurred in Section 3-B since the 1960s. The first commercial harvest was in the form of a wild SOK fishery in the Craig/Klawock area, beginning in the early 1960s, that ended in 1967. A small winter bait herring fishery began in 1965. Initial harvests were small, less than 5 tons through 1973, and a formal GHL was never established. The use of hydroacoustic surveys began in 1973, and during the subsequent years, the winter bait harvest increased with an average harvest of 1,147 tons from 1973 through 1991. The Section 3-B SOK fishery was established by the board in 1992. The GHL for the Section 3-B stock was allocated between the winter food and bait fishery and the herring SOK fishery. When the fishery was created in 1992, the GHL allocation was 85% for the winter food and bait fishery and 15% for the SOK fishery. In

1998, the allocation was modified to 60% to the winter food and bait fishery, with the remaining 40% and any unharvested portion of the food and bait fishery allocated to the herring SOK fishery. Since 1992, the Craig/Klawock herring GHL has averaged 3,500 tons, ranging from a low of 626 tons in 2000 to a high of 19,456 tons in 2021 (Table 1). The herring SOK fishery effort, harvest, spawning dates, fishery dates, and product values are summarized in Table 2.

The forecasted mature spawning biomass for the Craig/Klawock stock for the 2025/2026 season is 47,302 tons of herring. The 2025/2026 Craig/Klawock forecast was derived using the ASA model. This forecast allows for a 15% harvest rate, for a total GHL of 7,095 tons for the winter food and bait and SOK fisheries. Therefore, the GHL is 4,257 tons to the winter food and bait fishery, and 2,838 tons to the SOK fishery. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G or department) anticipates the dominant age class in the forecast (by numbers) to be age-4 (60%).

The 2025/2026 Craig/Klawock winter food and bait fishery will close by regulation on February 28, 2026. All unharvested winter food and bait quota will be added to the GHL for the SOK fishery. The initial allocation of 2,838 tons for the Section 3-B SOK GHL falls within the allocation range of *1,500 tons or more*, which corresponds to the maximum allowable number of kelp blades per permit holder by pound type.

Herring spawning normally occurs in the Craig/Klawock area between mid-March and early April. The earliest spawning observed since the mid-1970s was March 9, and the latest date of initial spawning was April 9 (Table 1). In 2025, the main spawn event in the Craig/Klawock area began on March 24, 2025.

ERNEST SOUND (DISTRICT 7)

The Ernest Sound SOK pound fishery was created in January 2003 by the BOF. Additionally, the BOF created a herring bait pound fishery that is allocated 10% of the area's GHL. The bait pound fishery is similar to other herring fisheries in that its allocation is based upon the GHL remaining after the herring food and bait fisheries occur. Any remaining GHL from the winter food and bait fishery or the bait pound fishery after March 15 is allocated to the SOK fishery. SOK fisheries in Ernest Sound have occurred intermittently and at various levels of effort and harvest since the first fishery occurred in 2004 (Table 3). From 2004 through 2025, there have been 6 years in which SOK GHLS were allotted. Effort varied from zero participants in 2011 to 129 in 2014 (Table 4).

A forecast was not developed for 2026 because no spawn deposition survey was conducted. Therefore, no commercial herring fisheries will occur in Ernest Sound during the 2025/2026 season. The recent 10-year average of 3.2 nmi of spawn observed is well below the long-term average (1991–2025) of 5.9 nmi (Table 3). Historical spawning biomass, forecast, GHLS, spawning dates, harvest, and fishery dates are summarized in Tables 3 and 4.

ADF&G will monitor Ernest Sound herring spawn in 2026. If herring spawn is substantial, samples of spawning herring may be collected, and a spawn deposition survey may be conducted.

TENAKEE INLET (SECTION 12-A)

The Tenakee Inlet herring stock has been the target of a winter food and bait fishery since the 1978/1979 season. During seasons that the estimated spawning biomass was above the 3,000-ton threshold, the GHL ranged from a low of 200 tons in the initial season to a peak of 1,700 tons in the 1985/1986 season and has averaged 650 tons since 1990 (Table 5). Regulations adopted by the BOF in January 2003 provide for a SOK fishery in Tenakee Inlet if sufficient GHL remains at the

close of the winter food and bait fishery. The SOK fishery occurred for the first time in April 2003. Summaries of the Tenakee Inlet SOK fisheries are presented in Table 6.

ADF&G has conducted aerial surveys in Tenakee Inlet since the early 1970s, documenting the total miles of spawn each season to provide an indication of herring stock size or biomass. Aerial surveys were supplemented with hydroacoustic surveys from 1979 through 1986. Spawn deposition surveys began in 1987 as the most reliable and accurate means to assess the spawning biomass but have not been consistently conducted in Tenakee Inlet since 2015.

The Tenakee Inlet stock includes herring that spawn within the inlet itself, along the Chichagof and Catherine Islands shorelines in Chatham Strait between South Passage Point and Point Lull, and in the entrance of Peril Strait east of the longitude of Point Moses. This spawning stock has exhibited cycles of abundance. After a decade of fisheries, the stock declined below threshold in the early 1990s, and no fisheries took place until the 1996/1997 season. Good recruitment led to nearly a decade of harvestable surplus until the forecasted biomass again declined below threshold in 2006. Aerial spawn surveys and spawn deposition dive surveys conducted in 2008 indicated a significant increase in spawning biomass to the levels seen in 1997–1999. However, surveys conducted since 2009 again indicate a decreasing trend in mature spawning biomass. The herring spawn mileage observed in 2014, 2015, and 2017 was approximately 2.0 nmi each year, but no herring spawn was documented within the inlet in 2016. Since 2017, observed spawn mileage within Tenakee Inlet had shown a continual decline: 1.4 nmi in 2018, 0.5 nmi in 2019, 0.15 nmi in 2020, and none observed in 2021 or 2022. In 2023, 1.4 nmi of spawn was observed inside the entrance of Tenakee Inlet in the vicinity of South Passage Point and in 2024, 4.7 nmi of spawn was observed between Crab Bay and South Passage Point. In 2025, no spawn was observed inside the inlet.

The spawning dates in 2025 were April 21–30, which began earlier than the long-term average date of first spawn of April 27. Spawning in Tenakee Inlet has generally occurred between the last week in April and the first week in May (Table 5). Historically, herring have spawned primarily in Tenakee Inlet along the southern shoreline between Saltery Bay and South Passage Point, with the core areas centered east and west of the Kadashan River flats. Herring spawn has also been documented intermittently along the Chatham Strait shoreline from South Passage Point south to Point Hayes, and more recently extending south to Point Lull on Catherine Island and west of Point Hayes along the northern entrance of Peril Strait. Most spawn observed in the last 6 seasons (2020–2025) has been along the Chatham Strait shoreline. The 2025 Chatham Strait spawning event was similar to 2023 and 2024 with nearly 6.0 nmi of spawn observed outside of Tenakee Inlet and most substantial spawning events occurring from the Peninsular Point vicinity south to Point Lull.

No commercial herring fisheries will occur in Tenakee Inlet during the 2025/2026 season. Aerial surveys will begin in mid-April of 2026.

HOONAH SOUND (SECTION 13-C)

ADF&G began monitoring the Hoonah Sound herring stock in 1971. From 1990 through 2015, an average of 10.3 nmi of herring spawn was observed with an estimated average spawning biomass of 4,9238 tons (Table 7). From the emergence of the Hoonah Sound SOK fishery in 1990 through 2015, the stock had averaged 10.3 nmi of spawn and 6,149 tons of estimated spawning biomass (Table 7). The highest estimated herring spawning biomass of 19,975 tons was observed in 2008. No spawn has been observed in Hoonah Sound since 2015.

When the SOK fishery was established in Hoonah Sound in 1990, the minimum threshold at which a fishery could occur was reduced from 2,000 tons to 1,000 tons. In 2015, to be more consistent with similar sized stocks around the region, the threshold in Hoonah Sound was increased to 2,000 tons. A summary of historical herring spawn timing and herring SOK harvest in Hoonah Sound is available in Tables 7 and 8. There has been no Hoonah Sound SOK fishery since a limited open-pound fishery occurred in 2013.

No estimate of spawning biomass has been generated since 2015. The biomass in this area sharply decreased from the third largest stock in the region in 2008 to one of the smallest in 2012 and based on aerial surveys, appears to have remained at a very low level since that time. There was no forecast for the 2025/2026 season; therefore, no commercial fishery will occur in Hoonah Sound in 2026.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The following is a calendar of events to be considered by pound operators for the 2026 herring season.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 4 | Advisory Announcement of the 2026 Ernest Sound, Hoonah Sound, and Tenakee Inlet closures, and the final 2026 Craig/Klawock GHL. |
| March 17 | The Craig/Klawock fishery will open to seining of herring for placement in pounds effective 12:00 noon. |
| May 31 | Pounds and all associated equipment in support of the fishery must be completely removed from the waters of the herring pound fishing area in Section 3-B. This includes the area covered by extreme high tide. |

REGULATIONS

GENERAL SPAWN-ON-KELP REGULATIONS

The regulatory framework for the SOK fishery is found in 5 AAC 27.185. *Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.*

Placement and Release of Herring in Pounds

Herring may be placed in or added to a pound for 4 days, starting with the initial placement of herring in a pound. After 11:59 p.m. on the fourth day, no additional herring may be added to the pound (5 AAC 27.185 [q]). All herring in the pound must be released by 12:00 noon on the seventh day after the initial placement of herring in a pound (5 AAC 27.185 (s)). Under 5 AAC 27.185 (s), the first day is defined as the day herring are first placed into a pound. Once herring have been released or SOK product has been harvested, no additional herring or kelp may be introduced into a pound (5 AAC 27.185 (q)). Permit holders must take responsibility to ensure that when adding herring to a pound, captured herring are not concurrently swimming out of the pound, as this would constitute a violation of 5 AAC 27.185 (q). When releasing herring, at least one full side of the pound's webbing must be lowered a minimum of 2 feet below the surface of the water (5 AAC 27.185 (s)).

Post-Harvest Requirements

After a permit holder releases herring and harvests product from the pound, the permit holder must maintain the webbing in place for at least 4 weeks. To optimize hatching success, the permit holder must position egg-covered webbing in the original size and configuration of the pound structure with adequate water circulation on all sides. The webbing support system must be above the surface of the water and clearly marked as per 5 AAC 27.185 (k).

Harvest and Production

Each permit holder's SOK blades must remain separate from other permit holder's SOK blades until after processing and grading is completed. Permit holders will be allowed to harvest all SOK produced in their pounds. A permit holder's fish ticket must report only the SOK they harvested from their pound with the amount of blades used on the fish ticket. Each permit holder fishing a jointly operated pound shall be issued a fish ticket and the sum of the weights of those tickets shall equal the total weight of product produced in the jointly operated pound. For any product that has been delivered on the grounds to a licensed processor, the processor (not the permit holder) will be required to contact ADF&G with delivery weight for each landing on board.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BUYERS

Reporting requirements for buyers and processors of SOK product from Southeast Alaska SOK fisheries can be found in 5 AAC 27.187 *Buyer and processors reporting requirements for spawn on kelp in pounds for the Southeastern Alaska Area*. Buyers, processors, and permit holders should read and become familiar with these reporting requirements.

CLOSURE OF SOME POUND TYPES

ADF&G may close fishing for some pound types, if necessary, to avoid exceeding the GH. In years when the GH is low, instead of closing the fishery, ADF&G may instead close the fishery to certain pound types, such as single or double closed. There will be no restrictions on pound types for the 2026 Craig/Klawock SOK fishery.

OTHER REGULATIONS

Additional regulations pertaining to the pound fisheries can be found in the 2024–2025 Statewide Commercial Herring Fishing Regulations booklet under Chapter 27, Article 4, Southeast Alaska area under the following sections: 5 AAC 27.110 *Fishing seasons for Southeastern Alaska Area* (f), 5 AAC 27.130 *Lawful gear for Southeastern Alaska Area* (d), and (e); 5 AAC 27.185 *Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries* (a) through (dd); 5 AAC 27.187 *Buyer and processors reporting requirements for spawn on kelp in pounds for the Southeastern Alaska Area*; harvesting requirements for *Macrocystis kelp* in 5 AAC 37.100 *Permits*; and 5 AAC 37.300 *Harvesting requirements for macrocystis kelp*.

Under 5 AAC 27.185 (w) all pounds and associated equipment used in these fisheries must be removed from the water by a specific date for a specific area. In Section 3-B, a permit holder shall completely remove all pounds and associated equipment from the waters by May 31. ADF&G and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers are advising permit holders that any pounds, nets, buoys, lines, and anchors left on the grounds will be removed and impounded or destroyed.

It is the responsibility of permit holders to carefully review and follow these regulations.

HARVEST AND ALLOCATION OF KELP FOR 2026

A permit issued by ADF&G is required to harvest kelp for use in pounds (5 AAC 37.900). Kelp harvest permits may be obtained from local ADF&G offices. Kelp blades will be allocated equally among permit holders fishing the same type of gear. The amount of kelp allowed for harvest for each permit holder is based on the kelp allocation table as indicated under regulation 5 AAC 27.185 (c) plus an allowance for breakage and loss during transport.

SECTION 3-B (CRAIG/KLAWOCK)

- Single permit closed pound—600 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp
- Double permit closed pound—900 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp
- Triple permit closed pound—1,000 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp
- Quadruple permit or more closed pound—1,000 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp
- Single permit open pound—3,000 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp
- Multiple permit open pounds—9,000 blades of *Macrocystis* kelp

FISHERY CONDUCT AND MANAGEMENT

The Craig/Klawock herring pound fishery will be the only SOK fishery in Southeast Alaska in 2026.

ADF&G will be closely monitoring herring activity using vessel and aerial surveys as well as communication with the harvesters. Results of aerial surveys will be announced by department advisory announcements on the day that an aerial survey occurs and will usually be updated on the grounds on Marine VHF Channel 10. Herring survey data collected by ADF&G from aerial and boat surveys will be available online through the interactive herring spawn maps located on the ADF&G's website². Regulation 5 AAC 27.185 (q) prevents a permit holder from releasing any herring from their pound when they are adding fresh herring.

To avoid mortality, the transport of herring to the pound site should be done with the pound itself or in a net pen that can be pushed or towed. Net pens used only for transporting herring must be marked *Tow Pound* and include the CFEC permit number of a participating permit holder. Transporting with a purse seine is discouraged except for very short distances. Pound operators should slowly push pounds or tow the pound alongside to avoid propellor wash and prevent crushing herring against the net. Permit holders are asked to avoid making and holding large sets to avoid herring mortality and stress.

Although regulations determine the maximum allowable number of kelp blades that can be harvested and placed in each permit holder's pound, permit holders are encouraged to fish the number of blades which will provide the maximum overall quality and value of their product rather than simply to fish the total amount allowed. Other measures have successfully been used in the fishery that may be considered when trying to maximize SOK quality and value, including the following:

² Interactive Maps. Commercial Herring Fisheries: Southeast Alaska and Yakutat. 2021-. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Juneau, AK. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.herring#maps>.

- 1) Pound nets may be shaped with internal frames to provide the full net volume.
- 2) Kelp depths in the pound can be matched with the depth of active spawning by testing spawn deposition with a weighted string.
- 3) Fishing and transferring to pounds should only occur once herring are fully mature.
- 4) Top-off sets may be added over a 4-day period once herring have been initially introduced.
- 5) Herring density in the pound should be closely monitored since successful spawning is inhibited by excessive crowding.
- 6) Web depth may be adjusted (consistent with specifications under 5 AAC 27.130 (e)(1)(C) or 5 AAC 27.185 (cc) to provide good water exchange.

OPEN WATERS

In Section 3-B, certain areas are open to the operation of pounds for taking of herring SOK and seines for taking of herring for placement in pounds. Those areas are shown in Figure 2, and include:

- Gulf of Esquibel
- San Alberto Bay
- Those waters of Shinaku Inlet and San Christoval Channel south of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Saint Philip Island at 55°39.31' N lat, 133°25.12' W long, east of a line from the northernmost tip of Saint Philip Island to the northernmost tip of Point Garcia at 55°33.65' N lat, 133°26.47' W long, and north of a line from Entrance Point at 55°31.16' N lat, 133°08.69' W long to the southernmost tip of Clam Island at 55°30.98' N lat, 133°09.45' W long to the southernmost tip of Fern Point 55°30.05' N lat, 133°16.97' W long.

CLOSED WATERS

In Section 3-B, certain areas are closed to the operation of pounds for taking of herring SOK and seines for taking of herring for placement in pounds. Those areas are shown in Figure 2, and include:

- Klawock Inlet and Big Salt Lake east of the longitude of the northern point of Wadleigh Island at 133°07.57' W long.
- Those waters of San Christoval Channel in the main channel enclosed by a line from 55°35.62' N lat, 133°20.00' W long to 55°35.17' N lat, 133°20.00' W long to 55°33.37' N lat, 133°17.52' W long to 55°33.50' N lat, 133°17.28' W long.
- Those waters of Fish Egg and Ballenas Islands south of 55°31.00' N lat, north of the southernmost tip of Cape Suspiro at 55°27.47' N lat, 133°08.40' W long, and east of the longitude of Ballena Island Shoal Light at 133°13.25' W long.

OTHER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

Prospective pound operators are advised to consider other agency requirements for constructing and operating pounds in Craig/Klawock, Ernest Sound, Tenakee Inlet, and Hoonah Sound. Pound operators are urged to contact the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the U.S. Coast

Guard (USCG) to determine other regulations and requirements. Phone numbers for those agencies are listed below.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ADNR manages the use of tidelands and submerged lands seaward of mean high water. Contact ADNR at (907) 465-3400.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The U.S. Forest Service has jurisdiction over and manages most of the lands above mean high tide. People who plan to use National Forest land in connection with the fishery must apply for a special use permit from USFS prior to any occupancy. Special use permit applications are available from local USFS offices. Completed applications should be submitted well in advance of operations to ensure that a permit is received in time for the fishery. Examples of use needing a permit include (but are not limited to) camping or storage of gear on National Forest land in conjunction with the commercial fishery. Contact USFS at (907) 225-3101.

U.S. NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Marine mammal interactions should be reported to NMFS at (907) 586-7221.

U.S. COAST GUARD

Structures such as floating fish pens are subject to the requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 33, Part 64. This regulation requires an owner to apply for a USCG permit and to install and maintain a light or other private aid to navigation if the USCG determines it to be necessary to protect maritime navigation.

Herring pounds used in the SOK pound fishery do not require permits for private aids to navigation at this time, provided the owners:

- Place 2 signs on opposite corners of the structure. These signs will be worded “Danger, Fish Pens” (Figure 4).
- Place a single, all-points white light on one corner of structures less than 400 square feet in size.
- Place a single, all-points white light on every corner of structures larger than 400 square feet in size.
- Anchor fish pens within the boundary areas specified in ADF&G regulation 5 AAC 27.185 (f) (Figures 2 and 23).

If all these conditions are not met, the permit holder must apply to the USCG for an individual *Private Aids to Navigation Permit*. If you have questions, call the USCG Aids to Navigation office, at (907) 463-2254.

REFERENCES CITED

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). 2021. Stock status update with application of management procedures for Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* in British Columbia: Status in 2021 and forecast for 2022. Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, Science Response 2021/039.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). 2023. Management strategy evaluation update and evaluation of upper stock reference point options for Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* in British Columbia, Canada. Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, Science Response 2023/002.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). 2024. Stock status update with application of management procedures for Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* in British Columbia: Status in 2023 and forecast for 2024. Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, Science Response 2024/001.
- Hebert, K. 2024. Southeast Alaska 2024 herring stock assessment surveys. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 24-25, Anchorage.

LIST OF CONTACTS

The following ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries personnel may be contacted regarding this management plan:

Bo Meredith, Justin Breese, and Whitney Crittenden Area Management Biologists Ketchikan Area Office	2030 Sea Level Dr., Suite 205 Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 (907) 255-5195
Aaron Dupuis and Anthony Walloch Area Management Biologists Sitka Area Office	304 Lake St. Rm. 103 Sitka, Alaska 99835 (907) 747-6688
Scott Forbes and Raymond Vinzant Area Management Biologists Douglas Regional Office	P.O. Box 110024 Juneau, Alaska 99811 (907) 465-4250
Katie Taylor, Tom Kowalske, and Emily Klosterman Area Management Biologists Petersburg Area Office	P.O. Box 667 Petersburg, Alaska 99833 (907) 772-3801
Quinn Smith Herring Research Biologist Douglas Regional Office	P.O. Box 110024 Juneau, Alaska 99811 (907) 465-6393
Troy Thynes Region I Management Coordinator Petersburg Area Office	P.O. Box 667 Petersburg, Alaska 99833 (907) 772-3801
Anne Reynolds Manney Region I Supervisor Ketchikan Area Office	2030 Sea Level Dr., Suite 205 Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 (907) 255-5195

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.—Craig/Klawock herring stock size and winter bait fishery summary, 1990–2025.

Season ^a	Nautical miles of spawn	Spawn dates	Forecasted pre-fishery biomass (tons) ^c	Total GHL (tons)	SOK GHL ^b (tons)	SOK Permits Fished	SOK Harvest (tons)
1990/91	22.0	4/2–5	18,350	2,814	N/A	N/A	N/A
1991/92	23.0	3/22–4/10	17,800	2,623	403	227	25.7
1992/93	8.4	3/27–4/2;4/16–19	12,350	1,602	240	21	5.3
1993/94	8	4/4–4/12	7,996	874	135	84	16.8
1994/95	5.5	3/28–3/31	6,778	726	109	146	25.4
1995/96	9.9	3/22–4/12	6,263	641	100	154	37.6
1996/97	13.2	4/8–4/19	6,755	1,025	100	143	21.9
1997/98 ^c	12.5	3/30–4/6	7,018	758	504	148	23.5
1998/99	15.4	3/23–3/28	6,951	750	648	103	36.0
1999/00	12.9	3/22–4/5	6,013	626	280	0	0.0
2000/01	16.7	4/1–4/7	9,091	1,058	913	51	26.9
2001/02	18	3/31–4/7	8,387	952	861	89	41.7
2002/03	11.2	3/31–4/7	6,045	630	485	118	69.2
2003/04	12	3/26–4/7	13,204	1,754	1,597	95	49.3
2004/05	18	4/9–4/14	15,577	2,217	1,664	70	118.2
2005/06	8.2	3/30–4/3	14,262	1,955	1,266	34	29.0
2006/07	22.3	4/3–4/12	13,768	1,860	1,283	47	44.5
2007/08	11	4/3–4/12	14,213	1,945	1,380	122	148.5
2008/09	17	4/3–4/10	14,213	1,945	1,803	137	137.3
2009/10	18.7	4/5–4/14	14,870	2,074	1,953	107	116.7
2010/11	14.8	4/1–4/7	17,886	2,710	2,402	52	70.0
2011/12	14.9	4/3–4/8	34,235	6,847	6,538	64	98.2
2012/13	15.3	3/31–4/4	23,391	4,060	3,739	131	137.8
2013/14	13.6	4/1–4/5	26,085	4,808	4,544	138	***
2014/15	11.5	3/27–4/1	15,803	2,363	1,308	133	***
2015/16	12.3	3/25–3/30	12,303	1,590	692	129	***
2016/17	22.8	3/24–4/9	7,833	872	349	116	69.9
2017/18	17.3	3/29–4/1	16,039	2,312	1,602	132	205.3
2018/19	28.9	3/27–4/6	22,810	3,906	2,895	140	203.1
2019/20	56.1	4/6–4/12	55,072	11,014	10,119	147	283.6
2020/21	34.2	4/8–4/14	97,282	19,456	18,916	139	262.6
2021/22	36.4	4/8–4/15	63,250	12,650	12,252	119	193.5
2022/23	29.4	4/1–4/6	38,804	7,761	7,019	79	127.8
2023/24	23.8	3/21–3/27, 4/4	33,580	6,716	6,458	60	92.8
2024/25	16.1	3/21–4/6	30,182	6,036	5,847	123	192.2
2025/26	ND	ND	47,302	7,095	2,838 ^d	ND	ND
16–25 avg	27.7		37,716	7,231	6,615	118	181.2
91–25 avg	18.0		20,413	3,503	2,953	106	93.9

Note: *** indicates data is confidential. ND indicates data forthcoming. Guideline harvest limit is abbreviated to GHL. Spawn or kelp is abbreviated to SOK.

^a Spawn year is second year of regulatory season listed in the adjacent year column.

^b SOK GHL includes carryover from unharvested winter food and bait GHL.

^c Herring allocation changed to 60% for the winter food and bait fishery and 40% to the pound fishery for the 1997/98 season.

^d 2026 SOK GHL unadjusted for unharvested winter food and bait fishery GHL.

Table 2.—Craig/Klawock herring spawn-on-kelp (SOK) fishery summary, 2010–2025.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Herring SOK GHL (tons) ^a	1,953	2,402	6,538	3,739	4,544	1,308
SOK harvest (tons)	116.7	70	98.2	137.8	***	***
Exvessel value ^f	\$884,715	\$728,147	\$2,099,002	\$3,099,002	***	***
Average price/lb	\$3.80	\$5.13	\$10.69	\$12.00	***	***
Average income	\$8,268	\$14,003	\$32,795	\$23,656	***	***
Number of pounds	63	34	35	80	75	76
Number of landings	107	52	64	131	136	135
Kelp blade allocation	^b	^b	^b	^b	^b	^b
Kelp blade harvest (tons)	8.2	4.6	5.3	9.3	19.2	19.2
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Herring SOK GHL (tons) ^a	692	349	1,602	2,895	10,119	18,916
SOK harvest (tons)	***	69.9	205.3	203.1	283.6	262.6
Exvessel value ^f	***	\$932,917	\$3,262,900	\$3,300,000	\$3,256,000	\$2,150,000
Average price/lb	***	\$6.68	\$7.95	\$8.15	\$5.73	\$4.77
Average income	***	\$8,042	\$24,533	\$23,358	\$21,853	\$15,468
Number of pounds	46	19	66	73	75	80
Number of landings	133	116	133	141	149	158
Kelp blade allocation	^c	^d	^e	^e	^e	^e
Kelp blade harvest (tons)	9.2	10.2	9.4	9.8	11.4	12.5
	2022	2023	2024	2025		
Herring SOK GHL (tons) ^a	12,252	7,019	6,458	5,847		
SOK harvest (tons)	193.5	127.8	92.8	192.2		
Exvessel value ^f	\$2,437,880	\$1,950,471	\$2,117,340	\$4,133,778		
Average price/lb	\$6.30	\$7.65	\$11.23	\$10.75		
Average income	\$20,063	\$25,006	\$33,083	\$31,798		
Number of pounds	60	41	33	67		
Number of landings	131	87	64	130		
Kelp blade allocation	^e	^e	^e	^e		
Kelp blade harvest (tons)	9.1	8.6	8.6	11.9		

Note: *** indicates data is confidential. Guideline harvest limit is abbreviated to GHL. Spawn on kelp is abbreviated to SOK.

- ^a The GHL was updated to include the total SOK quota which includes the carryover from unharvested winter bait.
- ^b 600 blades for a single closed pound, 750 blades for a double closed pound, 1,125 blades for a triple closed pound.
- ^c 300 blades for a single closed pound, 400 blades for a double closed pound, 700 blades for a triple closed pound.
- ^d 500 blades per permit with 6 permit holders per pound structure.
- ^e 600 blades for a single closed pound, 900 blades for a double closed pound, 1,000 blades for a triple closed pound.
- ^f Exvessel value estimated from raw fish ticket data.

Table 3.—Ernest Sound herring stock and fishery summary, 1990–2025

Season ^a	Nautical miles of spawn	Spawn Dates	Forecasted pre-fishery biomass (tons)	Total GHL ^c (tons)	SOK GHL (tons)	SOK Permits Fished	SOK Harvest (tons)
1990/91	—	—	1,000	—	—	—	—
1991/92	9.1	4/16–4/23	3,000	—	—	—	—
1992/93	9.0	4/23–4/25	2,650	200	—	—	—
1993/94	8.4	4/24–4/27	684	0	—	—	—
1994/95	6.5	4/23–4/27	2,544	255	—	—	—
1995/96	6.9	4/16–4/24	2,744	280	—	—	—
1996/97	0.0 ^b	4/16–4/20	4,852	377	—	—	—
1997/98	11.8	4/9–4/15	—	0	—	—	—
1998/99	1.8	4/5–4/8	5,381	662	***	—	—
1999/00	9.1	4/8–4/13	—	0	—	—	—
2000/01	6.9	4/10–4/12	—	0	—	—	—
2001/02	4.8	4/15–4/18	1,653	0	—	—	—
2002/03	8.5	4/10–4/19	2,407	0	—	—	—
2003/04	7.1	4/11–4/16	6,592	875	775 ^d	64	56.1
2004/05	10.1	4/22–4/25	1,906	0	—	—	—
2005/06	7.9	4/6–4/12	2,284	0	—	—	—
2006/07	7.0	4/20–4/22	1,955	0	—	—	—
2007/08	7.0	4/20–4/25	9,060	1,382	***	13	9.8
2008/09	6.6	4/17–4/19	4,545	529	***	4	2.5
2009/10	7.8	4/15–4/18	2,879	297	—	—	—
2010/11	8.1	4/14–4/19	5,080	613	***	0	0
2011/12	8.9	4/16–4/22	2,682	272	—	—	—
2012/13	5.4	4/13–4/16	3,509	379	***	81	64.6
2013/14	3.7	4/15–4/19	7,613	1,073	***	***	***
2014/15	5.5	4/7–4/11	1,991	0	—	—	—
2015/16	4.4	4/10–4/12	1,207	0	—	—	—
2016/17	4.4	4/14–4/18	—	—	—	—	—
2017/18	3.5	4/24–4/25	—	—	—	—	—
2018/19	8.2	4/19–4/30	—	—	—	—	—
2019/20	0.5	4/8	—	—	—	—	—
2020/21	0.6	4/14–4/15	—	—	—	—	—
2021/22	2.6	4/14	—	—	—	—	—
2022/23	1.9	4/24–5/6	—	—	—	—	—
2023/24	4.2	4/9–4/11	—	—	—	—	—
2024/25	1.9	4/6	—	—	—	—	—
2025/26	ND	ND	—	—	—	—	—
2016–25 avg	3.2		1,207	—	—	—	—
1991–25 avg	5.9		3,401	300	***	***	***

Note: En dashes indicate no data. *** indicates data is confidential. ND indicates data forthcoming. Spawn on kelp is abbreviated to SOK and guideline harvest limit is abbreviated to GHL.

^a Spawn year is second year of regulatory season listed in the adjacent year column.

^b 2003/2004 GHL includes 90 tons carryover from the bait pound fishery.

Table 4.—Ernest Sound spawn-on-kelp (SOK) fishery summary, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2014.

	2004	2008	2009
GHL (tons)	875	1,382	529
GHL available for SOK (tons) ^a	775	***	***
SOK harvest (tons)	56.1	9.8	2.5
Exvessel value ^f	\$514,900	\$131,100	\$18,400
Average price/lb	\$4.59	\$6.87	\$3.67
Average income/permit	\$8,046	\$10,091	\$4,590
Number of permits	64	13	4
Number of pounds	51/6/0/1 ^a	1/6/0/0 ^a	0/2/0/0 ^a
Number of landings	64	13	4
Kelp blade allocation	c	d	e
Kelp blade harvest (tons)	2.3	14.7	1.2
Fishery open–closed	4/1–5/10	4/1–5/10	4/1–5/10
Fishing occurred	4/10–4/17	4/16/–4/24	4/17–4/21
Harvest occurred	4/14–1/17	24-Apr	21-Apr
	2011	2013	2014
GHL (tons)	613	379	1,073
GHL available for SOK (tons) ^a	***	***	***
SOK harvest (tons)	0	64.6	***
Exvessel value ^f	\$0	\$1,574,700	***
Average price/lb	\$0	\$12.25	***
Average income/permit	\$0	\$19,441	***
Number of permits	0	81	129
Number of pounds	0	1/5/1/22/0 ^c	25/52/0 ^a
Number of landings	0	81	129
Kelp blade allocation	e	e	d
Kelp blade harvest (tons)	0	3.2	14.5
Fishery open–closed	4/1–5/10	4/1–5/10	4/1–5/10
Fishing occurred	NA	4/10–4/16	4/12–4/20
Harvest occurred	NA	4/15–4/16	4/18–4/20

Note: *** indicates data is confidential. NA indicates no harvest. Guideline harvest limit is abbreviated to GHL. Spawn on kelp is abbreviated to SOK.

^a The GHL was updated to include the total SOK quota which includes the carryover from unharvested winter bait.

^b Single/double/triple/open.

^c 1,000 blades single closed/1,000 blades double closed/1,000 blades triple closed/2,500 blades single-open/7,500 multiple permit open.

^d 1,000 blades single closed/2,000 blades double closed/1,000 blades triple closed/2,500 blades single-open/7,500 multiple permit open.

^e 200 blades single closed/400 blades double closed/500 blades triple closed/1,500 blades single-open/4,500 multiple permit open.

^f Exvessel value estimated from raw fish ticket data.

Table 5.—Tenakee Inlet herring stock and fishery summary, 1990–2025.

Season ^a	Nautical miles of spawn	Spawn dates	Forecasted pre-fishery biomass (tons)	Total GHL (tons)	SOK GHL (tons) ^b	SOK Permits Fished	SOK Harvest (tons)
1990/91	4.3	4/25–5/4	2,000	–	–	–	–
1991/92	0	–	400	–	–	–	–
1992/93	6.4	4/21–4/23	200	–	–	–	–
1993/94	0.3	4/24–4/26	904	–	–	–	–
1994/95	0.1	4/26	400	–	–	–	–
1995/96	18.1	5/6–5/14	200	–	–	–	–
1996/97	14.4	4/26–5/7	10,889	300	–	–	–
1997/98	12.4	4/24–4/29	8,226	825	–	–	–
1998/99	11	4/18–4/28	7,765	1,023	–	–	–
1999/00	13.8	4/27–5/3	4,829	542	–	–	–
2000/01	12.2	4/21–5/1	7,109	906	–	–	–
2001/02	15.4	4/23–4/27	6,726	840	–	–	–
2002/03	12.2	4/17–4/28	4,731	528	180	59	47.6
2003/04	13	4/28–5/3	3,794	399	***	85	98.7
2004/05	8.9	4/26–5/2	4,362	476	476	91	93.7
2005/06	5.9	5/2–5/6	2,238	–	–	–	–
2006/07	4.4	4/23–4/26	–	–	–	–	–
2007/08	11.4	4/25–5/8	–	–	–	–	–
2008/09	6.9	4/24–4/30	6,931	875	621	83	64.1
2009/10	2.7	5/7–5/9	5,109	583	–	–	–
2010/11	1	5/9	–	–	–	–	–
2011/12	4.6	4/20–4/23	–	–	–	–	–
2012/13	5.4	5/7–5/10	–	–	–	–	–
2013/14	1.9	4/28–4/30	7,525	557	***	71	84.4
2014/15	2.3	4/22–4/25	927	–	–	–	–
2015/16	0	–	2,223	–	–	–	–
2016/17	2.1	5/13–5/16	–	–	–	–	–
2017/18	1.4	5/7–5/9	–	–	–	–	–
2018/19	0.6	5/12–5/14	–	–	–	–	–
2019/20	1.9	5/5–5/7	–	–	–	–	–
2020/21	1.7	4/20–4/23	–	–	–	–	–
2021/22	0.1	4/28	–	–	–	–	–
2022/23	7.6	4/24–5/4	–	–	–	–	–
2023/24	10.6	4/16–4/20	–	–	–	–	–
2024/25	5.8	4/21–4/30	–	–	–	–	–
2025/26	ND	ND	–	–	–	–	–
16–25 avg	3.2		–	–	–	–	–
91–25 avg	6.3		4,166	650	426	78	78

Note: En dashes indicate no data as a forecast wasn't produced, the fishery hadn't been established, or a fishery did not occur. *** indicates data is confidential. ND indicates data forthcoming. Guideline harvest limit is abbreviated to GHL. Spawn on kelp is abbreviated to SOK.

^a Spawn year is second year of regulatory season listed in the adjacent year column.

^b SOK GHL includes carryover from unharvested winter food and bait GHL.

Table 6.—Tenakee Inlet herring Spawn-on-kelp (SOK) fishery summary, 2003–2005, 2009, and 2014.

	2003	2004	2005
GHL (tons)	528	399	476
GHL available for SOK ^a (tons)	180	***	476
SOK harvest (tons)	47.6	98.7	93.7
Exvessel value ^e	\$580,500	\$981,500	\$512,900
Average price/lb	\$6.10	\$4.68	\$2.53
Average income/permit	\$10,560	\$11,680	\$5,640
Number of permits participating	55	85	98
Number of pounds	1/15/8/0 ^b	1/32/6/2/2 ^c	1/29/13/3 ^b
Number permits landing product	59	85	91
Kelp allocation (blades)	200/400/550/0 ^b	300/500/500/2000 ^b	300/500/500/2000 ^b
Kelp blade harvest (tons)	17.7	19.5	26.9
Fishery open–closed	4/6–5/6	4/6–5/6	4/6–5/5
Fishing occurred	4/25–4/28	4/28–5/1	4/27–4/30
Harvest occurred	4/30–5/4	5/3–5/6	5/2–5/4
	2009	2014	
GHL (tons)	875	557	
GHL available for SOK ^a (tons)	621	***	
SOK harvest (tons)	64.1	84.4	
Exvessel value ^e	\$558,900	\$1,155,300	
Average price/lb	\$4.36	\$6.85	
Average income/permit	\$6,500	\$16,270	
Number of permits participating	86	78	
Number of pounds	11/27/7/0 ^b	2/25/5/1 ^d	
Number permits landing product	83	71	
Kelp blade allocation	400/500/500/0 ^b	300/500/500/0 ^b	
Kelp blade harvest (tons)	21.3	20.6	
Fishery open–closed	4/6–5/5	4/6–5/4	
Fishing occurred	4/28–5/1	4/27–5/1	
Harvest occurred	5/2–5/5	5/2–5/4	

Note: *** indicates data is confidential. Guideline harvest limit is abbreviated to GHL.

^a The GHL was updated to include the total SOK quota which includes the carryover from unharvested winter bait.

^b Single/double/triple/test.

^c Single/double/triple/long line/test.

^d Single/double/triple/quadruple.

^e Exvessel value estimated from raw fish ticket data.

Table 7.—Hoonah Sound herring spawning stock and spawn-on-kelp (SOK) fishery summary, 1990–2015.

Season ^a	Nautical miles of spawn	Spawn dates	Forecasted pre-fishery biomass (tons)	SOK GHL (tons)	SOK permits fished	SOK harvest (tons)
1989/90	10	4/13–4/28	4,000	150	99	12.0
1990/91	8.7	4/19–4/24	2,350	150	83	13.6
1991/92	10.8	4/22–4/24	2,175	150	108	23.1
1992/93	5.7	4/27–4/29	5,714	150	64	14.8
1993/94	9	4/21–4/23	1,099	150	110	33.3
1994/95	4.5	4/20–4/21	2,450	150	125	28.7
1995/96	10.1	5/02–5/9	274	–	–	–
1996/97	14.5	4/25–4/28	7,108	1,400	125	64.3
1997/98	14.5	4/23–4/27	4,255	700	115	85.6
1998/99	13.8	4/27–5/1	4,548	778	86	93.8
1999/00	13	4/27–4/30	2,683	356	84	36.0
2000/01	13.7	4/27–5/1	2,720	366	87	66.2
2001/02	11.9	4/25–4/27	6,320	1,264	98	136.6
2002/03	16.7	4/23–4/27	3,036	427	108	141.6
2003/04	11.1	4/22–4/29	6,037	1,207	107	236.1
2004/05	10.3	4/18–4/25	4,357	728	94	181.7
2005/06	9	4/23–4/26	4,119	669	79	162.1
2006/07	16.5	4/46–5/2	4,168	681	91	159.4
2007/08	14.5	4/23–4/30	11,191	2,238	101	228.1
2008/09	10.3	4/22–4/27	– ^b	2,238	101	234.7
2009/10	12.3	4/22–4/28	15,912	3,182	101	290.4
2010/11	12.6	4/20–5/5	15,073	3,015	89	193.7
2011/12	4.9	4/20–4/23	10,696	2,139	73	186.5
2012/13	2.4	5/7–5/9	1,244	130	–	–
2013/14	3.2	5/5–5/8	833	–	–	–
2014/15	4.2	4/24–5/6	721	–	–	–
90–15 avg	10.3	–	4,923	975	96.7	119.2

Note: En dashes indicate no data as a forecast wasn't produced, the fishery hadn't been established, or a fishery did not occur. Guideline harvest limit is abbreviated to GHG. Spawn on kelp is abbreviated to SOK. Due to funding, comprehensive aerial surveys have not been conducted since 2016. There has been no herring spawn observed, nor a biomass estimate generated since 2015 in Hoonah Sound.

^a Spawn year is second year of regulatory season listed in the adjacent year column.

^b No forecast was conducted for 2009 to reduce biometric staff workload; the high spawn deposition estimate in 2008 made a forecast unnecessary given the low utilization of herring in the pound fishery; the 2008 GHG was used for 2009.

Table 8.—Hoonah Sound herring spawn-on-kelp (SOK) detailed fishery summary, 2003–2013.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Herring GHL (tons)	427	1,207	728	669	681
SOK harvest (tons)	141.6	236.1	181.7	162.1	159.4
Exvessel value ^d	\$1,922,500	\$2,071,347	\$1,117,568	\$1,943,422	\$4,491,070
Average price/lb	\$6.79	\$4.36	\$2.93	\$6.00	\$14.09
Average income	\$17,800	\$19,541	\$11,889	\$24,600	\$49,352
Number of pounds	49/1/3 ^a	92/12/2 ^b	81/5/3 ^c	17/45 ^a	67/12 ^a
Number selling product	108	106	94	79	91
Kelp blade allocation	500/300/750 ^a	1,000/1,000/ 3,000 ^b	1,000/1,000/ 1,500 ^c	2,500/1,000/ 1,500 ^a	2,500/1,000/ 1,500 ^a
Kelp blade harvest (tons)	30.2	63	59.2	68.4	61.3
Fishery open–closed	4/6–4/25	4/6–4/28	4/6–4/28	4/6–4/27	4/6–5/4
Fishing occurred	4/19–4/24	4/20–4/25	4/19–4/28	4/18–4/23	4/23–4/29
Harvest occurred	4/24–4/27	4/26–4/28	4/25–4/28	4/23–4/27	4/30–5/4
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Herring GHL (tons)	2,238	2,238	3,182	3,015	2,139
SOK harvest (tons)	228.1	234.7	290.4	193.7	186.5
Exvessel value ^d	\$5,221,568	\$2,332,514	\$2,580,517	\$1,820,952	\$4,033,078
Average price/lb	\$11.47	\$4.97	\$4.44	\$4.70	\$10.81
Average income	\$51,699	\$23,094	\$25,550	\$20,460	\$55,248
Number of pounds	98/3 ^a	99/4 ^a	97/2 ^a	85/4 ^a	83/4 ^a
Number selling product	101	101	101	89	73
Kelp blade allocation	3,000/2,000/ 1,500 ^a				
Kelp blade harvest (tons)	100.6	98.3	89.5	84.9	77.6
Fishery open–closed	4/6–5/02	4/6–4/30	4/6–4/30	4/6–4/30	4/6–5/15
Fishing occurred	4/22–4/27	4/22–4/25	4/21–4/25	4/20–4/24	4/19–4/21
Harvest occurred	4/27–5/1	4/26–4/29	4/22–4/28	4/26–4/29	4/26–4/27
	2013				
Herring GHL (tons)	130				
SOK harvest (tons)	0				
Exvessel value ^d	\$0				
Average price/lb	\$0				
Average income	\$0				
Number of pounds	3 open				
Number selling product	0				
Kelp blade allocation	600 open				
Kelp blade harvest (tons)	7,940				
Fishery open–closed	4/6–5/15				
Fishing occurred	NA				
Harvest occurred	NA				

Note: NA indicates no harvest. Guideline harvest limit is abbreviated to GHL. Fisheries did not occur in 2014–2025 since the biomass forecast was either below the 1,000-ton threshold or no survey was conducted due to minimum herring spawn observed.

^a Double closed pounds/single closed pounds/triple closed pounds.

^b Double closed pounds/single closed pounds/open pounds.

^c Single permit closed pound/double permit closed pound/triple permit closed pounds.

^d Exvessel value estimated from raw fish ticket data.

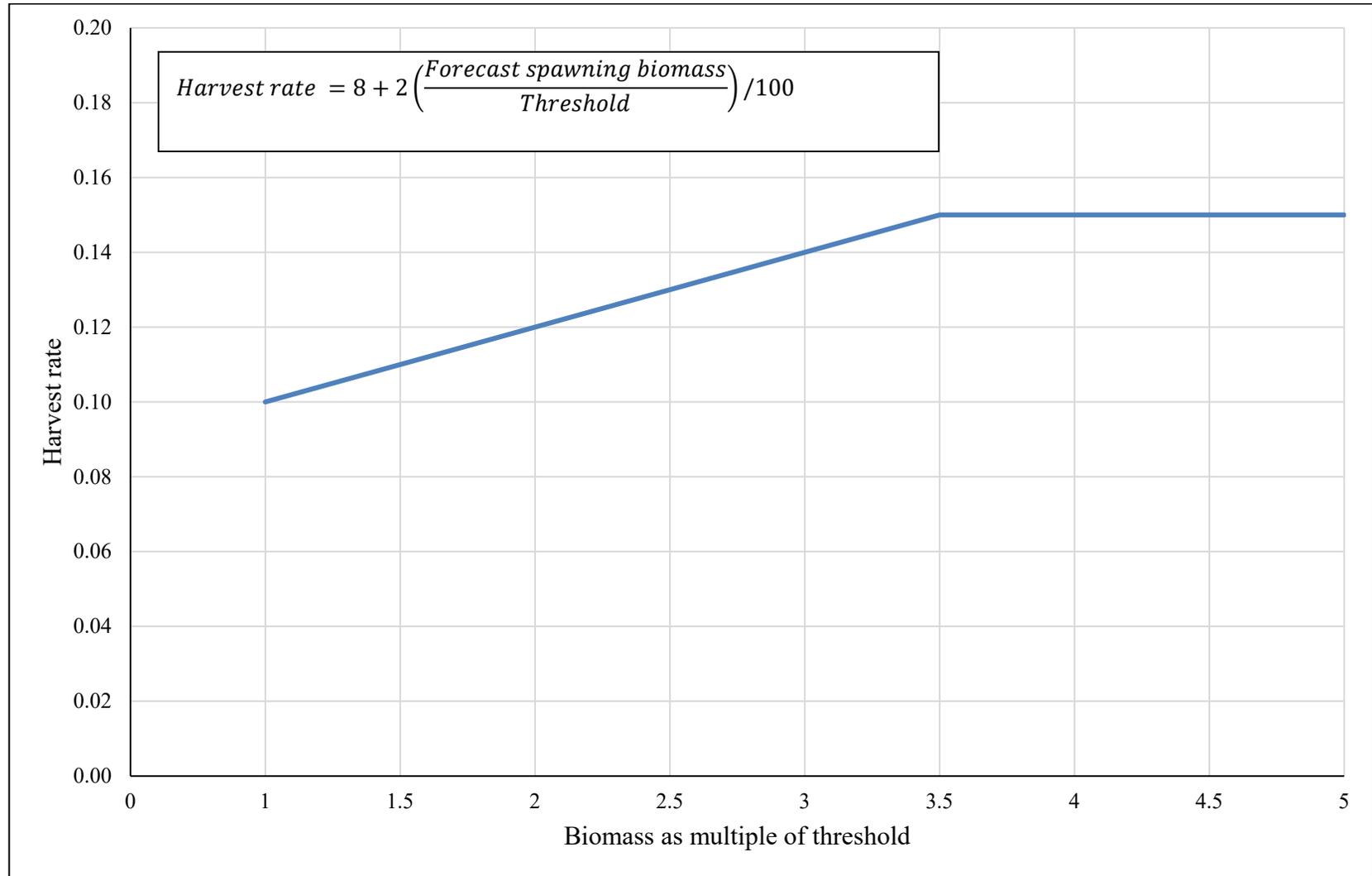


Figure 1.—Generalized harvest strategy for Southeast Alaska herring (excluding Sitka Sound). The allowable percent annual harvest is plotted against the estimated biomass of mature herring expressed as a multiple of the established harvest threshold level (i.e., forecast spawning biomass/threshold).

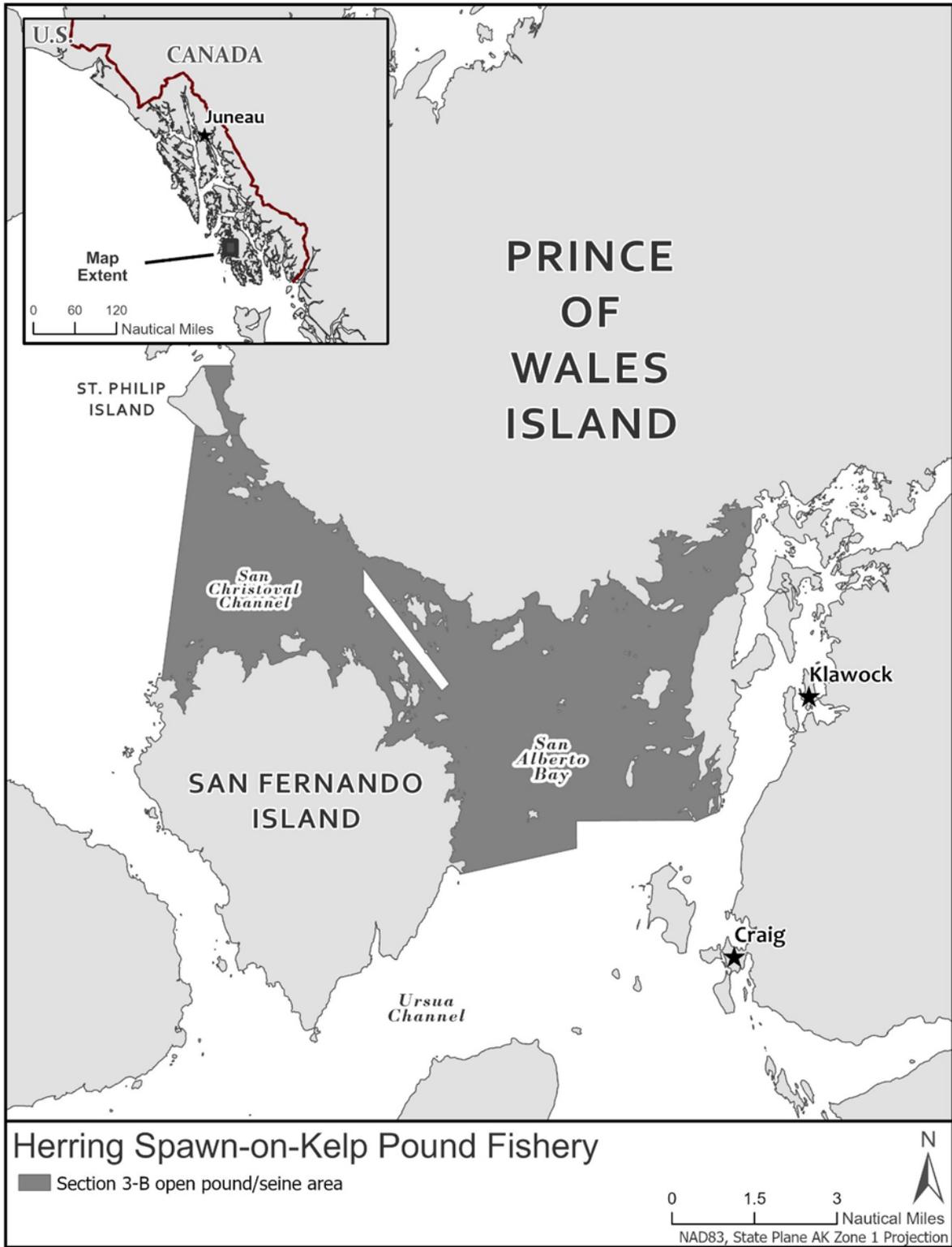


Figure 2.—Craig/Klawock (Section 3-B) herring spawn-on-kelp fishery open area.

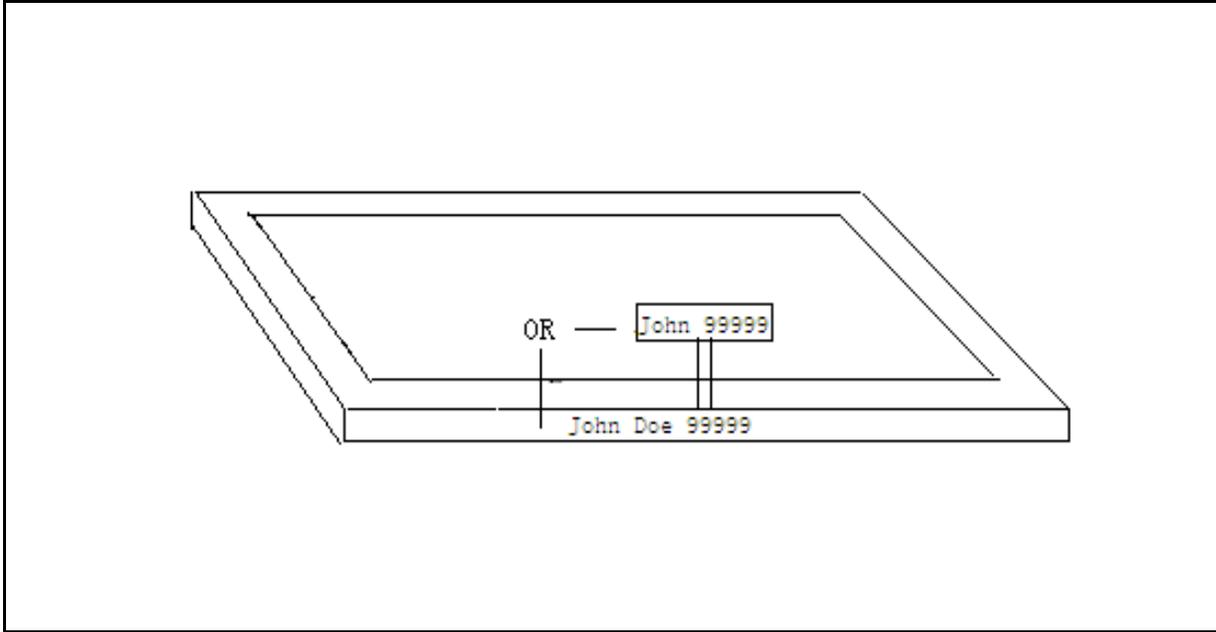


Figure 3.—Diagram of a herring pound showing 2 alternative methods of marking herring pounds.

Note: Regulations require vertical signs with the permit holder’s first and last name and five-digit CFEC permit number (5 AAC 27.185(k)). Letters and numbers must be at least 6 inches high and at least one-half inch wide, must contrast with the background and must be always above the waterline.

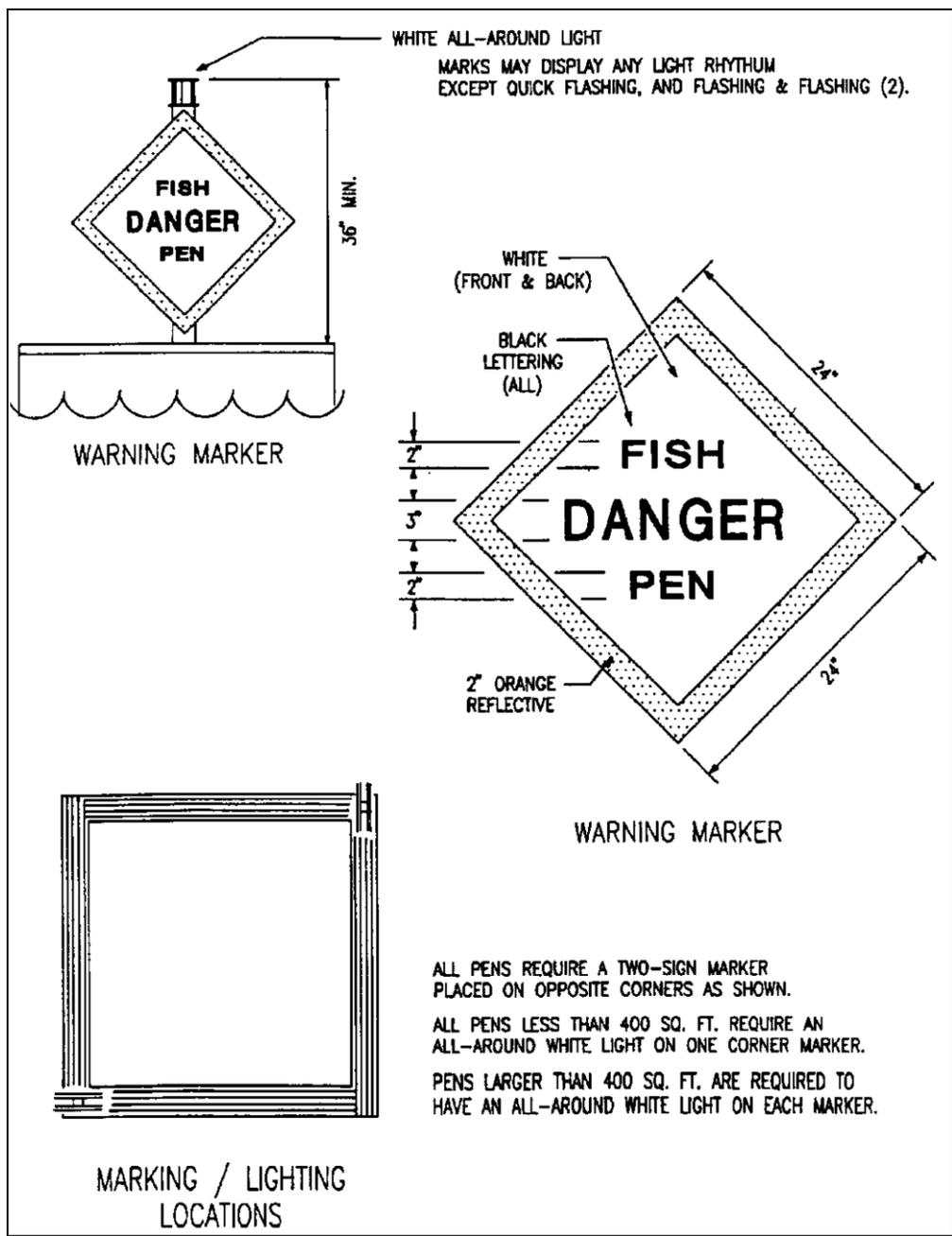


Figure 4.—U.S. Coast Guard requirements for marking pounds.