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## Advisory Announcement

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### 2023 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERIES

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): will open by regulation at 12:00 noon, March 17, 2023, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of approximately 7,078 tons. This puts the kelp allocation at the maximum allowed per permit.

The 2022/2023 total GHL for the Craig/Klawock herring stock has been set at 7,761 tons of herring. This GHL is based on the 2022/2023 biomass accounting forecasted mature spawning biomass of 38,804 tons and a harvest rate of 20%. Regulation 5 AAC 27.185(h) states that the winter food and bait fishery is allocated 60% of the GHL and the remaining 40% goes to the herring spawn-on-kelp pound fishery. The Craig winter food and bait fishery closed by regulation on Tuesday, February 28, with an estimated harvest of 683 tons. The unharvested portion of approximately 3,974 will be reallocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery. The initial GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is 3,104 tons. The addition of the unharvested 3,974 tons from the winter food and bait fishery brings the total allocation for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery to 7,078 tons.

The kelp allocation per permit holder in place by regulation 5 AAC 27.185(c) for the 2023 season is as follows:

Single Permit Closed Pound:	600 blades per permit;
Double Permit Closed Pound:	900 blades per permit;
Triple Permit Closed Pound:	1,000 blades per permit;
Quad Permit or more Closed Pound:	1,000 blades per permit;
Single Permit Open Pound:	3,000 blades per permit;
Multiple Permit Open Pound:	9,000 blades per permit.

District 7 (Ernest Sound): **will be closed**. Insufficient herring spawn occurred in the spring of 2022 to generate a forecast. The threshold necessary to conduct a commercial fishery in Ernest Sound is 2,500 tons.

Section 12-A (Tenakee Inlet): **will be closed**. Insufficient herring spawn occurred in the spring of 2022 to generate a forecast. The threshold necessary to conduct a commercial fishery in Tenakee Inlet is 3,000 tons.

Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound): **will be closed**. Insufficient herring spawn occurred in the spring of 2022 to generate a forecast. The threshold necessary to conduct a commercial fishery in Hoonah Sound is 2,000 tons.

All pound operators are reminded that they must have a 2023 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Southern Southeast Alaska Spawn on Kelp pound limited entry permit prior to introducing kelp or herring into their pounds. All *Macrocystis* kelp harvesters must have a 2023 permit to harvest *Macrocystis* kelp prior to harvesting kelp for a closed or open pound. These permits must be in the possession of the pound operator and kelp harvester at all times during fishing operations. *Macrocystis* kelp harvest permits are currently available at all Southeast Alaska Department of Fish & Game offices.

Spawn-on-kelp fisherman and processors should read the 2022 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN for an overview of the management approach and regulations for the 2023 season. The plan is available at local ADF&G offices and can be viewed online at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2022.04.pdf>.

The 2023 Management Plan is complete but may not be published prior to start of the 2023 season; however, the management approach, pertinent regulations, and fishery contacts are the same as those found in the 2022 Management Plan. When published it can be found online at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.herring#management>.

The 2022–2024 Statewide Commercial Herring Fishing Regulations booklet contains detailed regulations for this fishery. Regulations can be found online at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

### **Fishery Contacts**

For information on management of the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp fishery contact:

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

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