



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 13, 2025

CONTACT: Troy Thynes
Region I Management Coordinator
troy.thynes@alaska.gov
(907) 772-3801

2025 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERIES

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): will open by regulation at 12:00 noon, Monday, March 17, 2025, with an initial allocated guideline harvest level (GHL) of 2,414 tons of herring. This puts the kelp allocation at the maximum allowed per permit.

The 2024/25 total GHL for the Craig/Klawock herring stock has been set at 6,036 tons of herring. This GHL is based on the 2024/25 statistical catch-at-age model forecasted mature spawning biomass of 30,182 tons and a harvest rate of 20%. 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 Friday, February 28, 2025, with a confidential harvest. The unharvested portion will be allocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery. The initial allocated GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery was 2,414 tons. The addition of the unharvested herring from the winter food and bait fishery brings the total GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery significantly higher.

The kelp allocation per permit holder under 5 AAC 27.185(c) for the 2025 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.

Aerial surveys of the Craig/Klawock area are scheduled to begin Monday, March 17. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) personnel will be arriving Thursday, March 20, and will be on the grounds monitoring the fishery and can be reached on VHF Channel 10 and 16. Fishery updates will be released after aerial surveys are completed for the day.

District 7 (Ernest Sound): **will be closed**. Insufficient herring spawn occurred to conduct a spawn deposition survey in the spring of 2024.

Section 12-A (Tenakee Inlet): **will be closed**. A spawn deposition survey was conducted in 2024, but a forecast was not developed for the 2024/25 season. Spawning has been inconsistent in recent years with the major spawning events located outside Tenakee Inlet much farther south than the traditional Tenakee stock spawning area. In addition, age, weight, and length information has been insufficient in recent years to develop a forecast.

Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound): **will be closed**. No aerial surveys were conducted in the spring of 2024 and there were no reports of herring spawn.

All pound operators are reminded that they must have a 2025 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 2025 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 ADF&G offices.

Spawn-on-kelp fisherman and processors should read the 2025 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN for an overview of the management approach and regulations for the 2025 season. The plan is now available at local ADF&G offices and can be viewed online at:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2025.06.pdf>.

The 2024–2025 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:

Bo Meredith (bo.meredith@alaska.gov), Justin Breese (justin.breese@alaska.gov), or Whitney Crittenden (whitney.crittenden@alaska.gov).

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220