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Advisory Announcement

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2026 TOGIAC GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The 2026 Togiak herring guideline harvest level is 23,798 short tons. This was set by applying a 15% harvest rate to a long-term median of aerial survey biomass estimates (1981–2024) with confidence ratings greater than 0.25 (158,650 short tons). The Togiak District sac roe and spawn-on-kelp fishery, and the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery harvest allocations are listed below. The gear group allocation specified in the *Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan* 5AAC 27.865(b)(5) is 70% purse seine and 30% gillnet in the Togiak District. The following represents the allocations and quotas based on current regulations and a 15% exploitation rate.

Table 1.—The 2026 Togiak District Pacific herring biomass and harvest forecast and allocation by fishery and gear.

	Biomass (Short Tons)	Harvest (Short Tons)
Biomass Estimate	158,650	
Guideline Harvest Level (15% exploitation rate)		23,798
Togiak Spawn on Kelp Fishery (Fixed Allocation)		1,500
Remaining Allowable Harvest		22,298
Dutch Harbor Food/Bait Allocation (7% of remaining allocation)		1,561
Togiak District Sac Roe Fishery		20,737
Purse Seine Allocation (70%)		14,516
Gillnet Allocation (30%)		6,221

The Togiak herring stock was assessed using a statistical catch-at-age (SCAA) model from 1992 to 2022. However, in years 2023 through 2025 there was no commercial gillnet or purse seine sac roe harvest of Togiak herring due to lack of processor interest, precluding biological sampling and use of the SCAA model. Since 1978, this marks the third consecutive year without sac roe harvest or biological sampling, the fourth consecutive year without gillnet harvest, and the first year without aerial surveys due to budget constraints for an inactive fishery. Herring biological samples are fishery-dependent and with no fishery conducted in 2023, 2024, or 2025, there were no samples with which to estimate the age and weight compositions of the stock for the assessment. Therefore, instead of the SCAA model, the long-term median (1981–2024) of aerial survey biomass estimates with confidence rating of greater than 0.25, was used to set harvest limits if a directed herring fishery returns in 2026. Recognizing that harvest rate strategy evaluations have not been completed for Togiak herring in over 20 years, the department has established a maximum harvest rate of 15%. This rate is expected to decrease for Togiak herring stocks in the absence of continued data collection and stock assessment.