



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: February 24, 2026

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Prince William Sound Herring Announcement #1

The intent of this announcement is to provide information on spring 2026 fisheries.

PWS Spring 2026 Herring Fisheries:

The spring herring season will open on March 1, 2026.

The PWS 2026 spring pre-fishery mature biomass estimate of 28,287 short tons is above the minimum spawning biomass threshold of 22,000 tons in the PWS herring management plan. Based on this estimate, an overall GHM of 2,829 tons has been set using a conservative 10% exploitation rate.

PWS District Guideline Harvest Levels for Spring 2026:

Fishery	Tons of Herring
Purse seine sac roe fishery	1,644
Gillnet sac roe fishery	96
Spawn-on-kelp (not in pounds)	226
Spawn-on-kelp (in pounds)	402

Registration Requirements:

To determine effort and assess management options for the spring herring fisheries, the department requests that permit holders and processors intending to participate in sac roe herring or spawn-on-kelp not in pound fisheries register with the Cordova ADF&G office at least a week prior to starting operations. **Permit holders planning on participating in the spawn-on-kelp open-pound fishery are required to register with the Cordova ADF&G office by Sunday, March 15. This registration can be completed by mail (postmarked by March 15), in person, or by telephone by 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 15.**

Fishery Timing & Market Conditions:

The seine and gillnet sac roe fisheries in the PWS District may be opened by emergency order between March 1 and June 30. Given current market conditions, harvest potential is expected to be minimal. Participation will dictate the management structure of the sac roe fisheries. The level of herring available for harvest and limited management resources may make it difficult to prosecute an orderly fishery. Upon completion of the registration

process and upon confirmation of potential participation, management will work with interested parties to assess fishery feasibility and logistics.

The spawn-on-kelp fisheries (both not in pounds and in pounds) may be opened by emergency order between March 1 and June 30 in the District. The spawn-on-kelp in the closed pound fishery will be closed for spring 2026 due to concerns over potential disease transmission to the general herring population.

Kayak Island District Fisheries:

Kayak Island District herring are not included in the PWS GHs, and fisheries in this district will be managed by emergency order on an exploratory basis in consultation with permit holders and processors. Area E-commercial herring permits are required for participation in the Kayak Island District fisheries.