



Advisory Announcement
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2026 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERIES

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): will open by regulation at 12:00 noon, Tuesday, March 17, 2026, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of over 2,838 tons of herring. This puts the kelp allocation at the maximum allowed per permit.

The 2025/26 total GHL for the Craig/Klawock herring stock has been set at 7,095 tons of herring based on the 2025/26 statistical catch-at-age model forecasted mature spawning biomass of 47,302 tons and a harvest rate of 15%. 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]). 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 unadjusted GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is 2,838 tons. The Craig winter food and bait fishery closed by regulation on Saturday, February 28, 2026, with a confidential harvest. The unharvested portion of the winter food and bait fishery GHL will be allocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery resulting in a significantly higher GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fishery.

The kelp allocation per permit holder under 5 AAC 27.185(c) for the 2026 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 Friday, March 20. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) personnel will be arriving Thursday, March 19, 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 2025.

Section 12-A (Tenakee Inlet): **will be closed.** A spawn deposition survey and age, weight, and length sampling were not conducted in the spring of 2025. 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.

Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound): **will be closed.** No aerial surveys were conducted in the spring of 2025 and there were no reports of herring spawn.

All pound operators are reminded that they must have a 2026 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 2026 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 2026 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN for an overview of the management approach and regulations for the 2026 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.2026.04.pdf>.

The 2025–2026 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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