

# MEMORANDUM

## State of Alaska DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

TO: Lowell Fair  
Regional Supervisor

DATE: October 9, 2020

THRU: Troy Thynes  
Region I Management Coordinator

FILE NO.: October 5, 2020

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FROM: Whitney Crittenden  
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SUBJECT 2019/20 SEAK Red  
Sea Urchin Fishery

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The 2019/20 commercial red sea urchin fishery began by regulation on October 1, 2019, with a total guideline harvest level (GHL) of 3,529,800 pounds in Districts 1 and 2. A harvest of 194,312 pounds was taken by 18 divers leaving 94% of the GHL. Ex-vessel value for the fishery is estimated at \$190,426 with an average of \$0.98 per pound. The season ended on September 30, 2020, with an average roe content of 5.93% for the year.

Alaska Board of Fisheries actions during the February 2006 meeting in Ketchikan, Alaska remained in effect for the 2019-20 season and included: extended open fishing time from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily; elimination of the sunset clause allowing a person to obtain a permit instead of having an onboard observer when there is processing of red sea urchins onboard; allowance of unprocessed red sea urchins to leave state waters with a call-in without first being inspected by a representative of the department; and a fundamental change in how often the department requires assessment surveys. The change was if any given area's harvest is less than 50% of the total GHL, then that area will be open for up to six years before an additional department survey is required.

During the 2019/20 season, three shore-based processors operated in the Ketchikan area. In addition, there were three other permit holders who direct-marketed their own product and shipped red sea urchins from Ketchikan. There were 157 landings made by 18 permit holders.

No management area reached its GHL for the season. Bee Rocks (Subdistrict 101-22) had the highest harvest with 93,067 pounds harvested of the 290,700-pound GHL. There was no harvest in East Behm Canal (Subdistricts 101-41 and 53), Lower Clarence Strait (Subdistrict 102-20), and Clarence Strait (Subdistrict 102-70). The total harvest was 193,686 pounds for District 1 and 626 pounds for District 2.

A monthly processor logbook was submitted to the department at the end of each month. Logbook data was used to obtain roe percentage and the final price paid by the processors.

Table 1. Registration Area A (Southeast Alaska) commercial red sea urchin harvest, effort, and value 1980/81 through 2019/20 seasons.

Season	Guideline Harvest Level (lb)	Total Landed (lb)	Average Price Per lb <sup>a</sup>	Estimated Ex-vessel Value <sup>b</sup>	Number of Divers	Number of Landings	Average lb per Diver	Average Earnings per Diver <sup>d</sup>
1980/81 <sup>b</sup>				Confidential				
1981/82 <sup>b</sup>				Confidential				
1982/83 <sup>b</sup>				Confidential				
1983/84	—	23,303	\$0.12	\$2,796	4	9	5,826	\$699
1984/85	—	188,023	\$0.17	\$31,906	16	84	11,751	\$1,994
1985/86	—	58,303	\$0.13	\$7,288	8	32	7,288	\$911
1986/87	—	890,092	\$0.14	\$125,335	26	459	34,234	\$4,821
1987/88 <sup>b</sup>				Confidential				
1988/89	—	223,883	\$0.41	\$91,106	11	128	20,353	\$8,282
1989/90	—	23,617	\$0.25	\$5,833	9	33	2,624	\$648
1990/91	—	174,233	\$0.26	\$45,823	6	91	29,039	\$7,637
1991/92	—	428,220	\$0.30	\$128,894	37	256	11,574	\$3,484
1992/93	—	143,485	\$0.29	\$41,467	17	108	8,440	\$2,439
1993/94	—	0	—	0	0	0	—	—
1994/95 <sup>c</sup>	3,000,000	2,088,395	\$0.45	\$944,329	1	1,391	2,088,395	\$944,329
1995/96 <sup>c</sup>		877,212	\$0.52	\$458,508	1	705	877,212	\$458,508
1996/97	6,093,579	4,929,280	\$0.38	\$1,878,056	150	3,483	32,862	\$12,520
1997/98	4,255,364	4,083,877	\$0.34	\$1,408,397	129	2,465	31,658	\$10,918
1998/99	4,822,700	3,075,095	\$0.40	\$1,230,038	62	1,524	49,598	\$19,839
1999/00	5,748,700	2,676,456	\$0.38	\$1,017,053	47	1,094	56,946	\$21,639
2000/01	6,806,700	2,373,993	\$0.36	\$854,637	56	842	42,393	\$15,261
2001/02	5,689,300	2,720,241	\$0.34	\$924,882	32	995	85,008	\$28,903
2002/03	5,309,900	3,578,493	\$0.32	\$1,133,706	36	1,265	99,403	\$31,492
2003/04	5,095,100	2,834,872	\$0.33	\$895,369	40	1,019	70,872	\$22,384
2004/05	5,518,300	1,801,893	\$0.32	\$576,605	31	651	58,125	\$18,600
2005/06	5,753,100	1,024,282	\$0.31	\$317,527	17	354	60,252	\$18,678
2006/07	5,599,500	622,501	\$0.33	\$205,425	11	209	56,591	\$18,675
2007/08	5,599,500	710,718	\$0.36	\$283,030	10	266	71,072	\$23,303
2008/09	5,440,100	354,697	\$0.34	\$125,403	9	121	39,411	\$13,934
2009/10	5,059,800	506,959	\$0.29	\$147,150	11	201	46,087	\$13,377
2010/11	4,950,000	276,745	\$0.34	\$93,913	3	103	92,248	\$31,304
2011/12	3,274,500	160,540	\$0.41	\$65,821	3	58	53,513	\$21,940
2012/13	3,275,300	357,679	\$0.37	\$133,082	8	125	44,710	\$16,635
2013/14 <sup>b</sup>	3,275,300		Confidential		10		Confidential	
2014/15	3,310,700	634,430	\$0.37	\$234,739	12	233	52,869	\$19,562
2015/16	3,838,900	677,202	\$0.49	\$331,829	12	314	56,434	\$27,652
2016/17	3,690,000	265,715	\$0.61	\$162,086	9	114	29,524	\$18,010
2017/18	3,435,100	298,770	\$0.68	\$203,164	13	161	22,982	\$15,628
2018/19	3,453,700	268,306	\$0.74	\$198,316	12	137	22,356	\$16,526
2019/20	3,529,800	194,312	\$0.98	\$190,426	18	157	10,795	\$10,579

<sup>a</sup> Based on CFEC (annual) data prior to the 1998-1999 season, then based on ADF&G seasonal fish ticket data.

<sup>b</sup> Confidential information, ≤ 3 permits participating.

<sup>c</sup> Department test fishery. GHL is the agreed test fishery maximum poundage taken during spring 1995–spring 1996, in exchange for research funds.

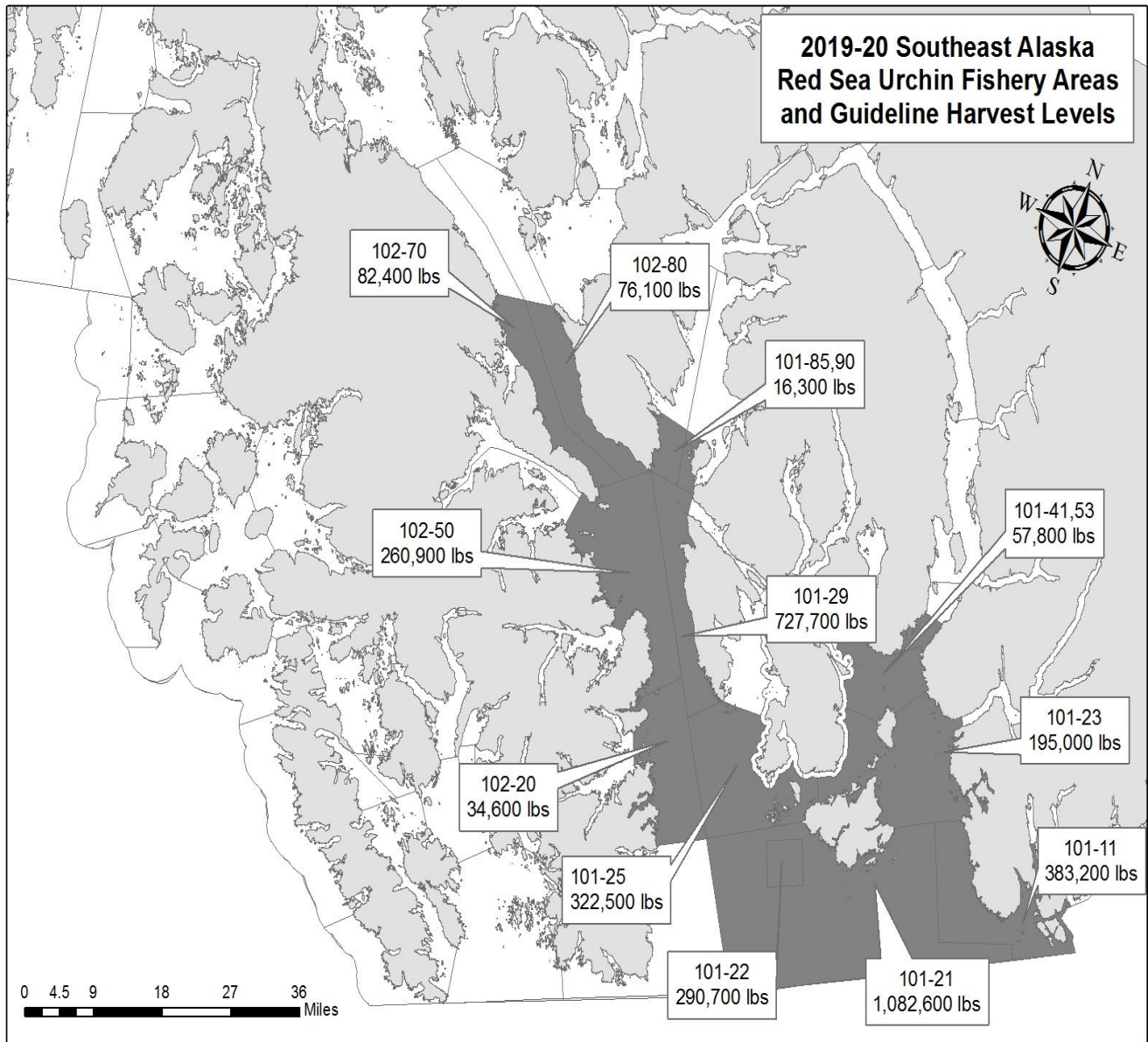


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska red sea urchin commercial harvest areas for the 2019/20 season and respective GHLs.