

**PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 27.832. Seine specifications and operations for Bristol Bay Area.**  
Change the regulatory description for herring purse seine and hand purse seine, as follows:

5 AAC 27.832(a)(2) is amended to read:

(a) A herring purse seine or hand purse seine

...

(2) may not be more than **630** [625] meshes in depth [, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN 600 MESHES MAY HAVE A MESH SIZE LARGER THAN ONE AND ONE-HALF INCHES].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Before 1998, gear specifications and operations for both herring gillnet and seine gear appeared in 5 AAC 27.831. At that time the provision was worded as follows:

(d) A herring purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed 100 fathoms in length and not more than 625 meshes in depth, of which 600 meshes may not have a mesh size larger than one and one-half inches.

In 1998, when the seine specifications and operations were moved into their own section under 5 AAC 27.832, the text was changed to read as it currently reads in 5 AAC 27.832(a):

(a) A herring purse seine or hand purse seine

(1) may not exceed 100 fathoms in length; and

(2) may not be more than 625 meshes in depth, of which no more than 600 meshes may have a mesh size larger than one and one-half inches.

This changed the regulation from allowing a net to have no more than 25 meshes over one and one-half inches to allowing 600 meshes to be over one and one-half inches. The regulation appears to have changed inadvertently during the editing process. This proposal would correct this error and incorporate industry practices in building purse seines. Industry practices use 200.5 mesh strips to construct the base net. This net is then attached at the top and bottom to cork and lead lines with additional meshes. The number of meshes used at the top and bottom varies but can total 25. So to allow for the additional half meshes in the base strips it seemed appropriate to

change the total number of meshes to 630. The industry standard is for a mesh size of one and one-half inches.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-008)  
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**PROPOSAL 89 – 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.** Delete references to sac roe in the Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 27.865 is amended to read:

5 ACC 27.865(b)(7) Delete the words [SAC ROE]

5 AAC 27.865(b)(8) Delete the words [SAC ROE]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Delete all reference to sac roe in the Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. With continuing weak markets for sac roe herring, the highest level of product quality could be other uses of herring than the roe. By removing the reference to "sac roe" could allow development of other product forms leading to new markets thus increasing the value of Togiak herring.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Heyano (HQ-F15-039)  
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**PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.** Change the management plan to allow the department to waive the catch allocation requirement for gillnet and purse seine fleets, as follows:

5 AAC 27.865 is amended to read:

5 AAC 27.865

(b)(8) After the spawn-on-kelp harvest and the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery have been subtracted, the remaining harvestable surplus is allocated to the sac roe fishery. The department **may** [SHALL] manage for a removal of 30 percent of that surplus by the gillnet fleet and 70 percent by the purse seine fleet. To maintain those percentages inseason, the commissioner **may** [SHALL] make adjustments to fishing periods and fishing areas by emergency order. After the gillnet and purse seine fleet have harvested at least 50 percent of each gear group's allocation, the commissioner may allow either fleet to harvest its remaining allocation without further restrictions.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Delete the words "shall" and replace with "may". The current low prices being paid for sac roe herring has resulted in a significant reduction in gillnet effort. Requiring the commissioner to manage for the 70/30

harvest of at least 50% of each gear's allocation places additional unnecessary financial risks for all participants in a marginal profitable fishery in the best of conditions.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Heyano (HQ-F15-040)  
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**PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 27.850. Closed waters in Bristol Bay Area.** Redefine the description of closed waters for the Togiak herring fishery by deleting references to department regulatory markers, as follows:

5 AAC 27.850 is amended to read:

**5 AAC 27.850. Closed waters in Bristol Bay Area.** (a) Metervik Bay is closed to herring fishing north of a line from **a point at** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT] 58° 49.10' N. lat., 159° 47.25' W. long. to **a point at** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT] 58° 49.97' N. lat., 159° 45.75' W. long. This closure does not apply to the taking of herring spawn on kelp.

(b) Ungalikthluk Bay is closed to the taking of herring north of a line from [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT] Rocky Point **at 58° 53.25' N. lat., 160° 14.25' W. long. to a point** [(58° 53.25' N. LAT., 160° 14.25' W. LONG. TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER] at 58° 51.90' N. lat., 160° 09.75' W. long. This closure does not apply to the taking of herring spawn on kelp.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove reference to department regulatory markers from the description of closed waters. The department has switched to latitude and longitude coordinates to define open and closed areas and no longer maintains regulatory markers. Removing references to regulatory markers that are no longer maintained will help clarify the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-004)  
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