

PROPOSAL 163

5 AAC 27.195. Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery.

Establish equal share quotas for the Sitka sac roe purse seine fishery, as follows:

Assign equal quota shares in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery as follows: For the G01A herring fishery, the quota shall be divided equally amongst all permit holders who currently own a permit for that fishery.

Under 5 AAC 27.195 part (a), include a section that establishes an equal quota share management strategy that allocated an equal share of the guideline harvest level each year to each G01A permit holder.

Suggested regulation would read: 5 AAC 27.195 (a) (3) manage the purse seine fishery so that each G01A permit holder is allocated an equal portion of the guideline harvest level. The Department shall open the fishery by emergency order and may impose conditions that allow for and orderly and controlled fishery including limiting the number of vessels on the grounds at any given time and allowing for consolidation of more than one permit on each vessel participating in the fishery, provided that the permit holders are onboard the vessel while fishing and delivering.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current management of the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery creates an extremely dangerous fishery that results in multiple damages to vessels, nets, and persons involved in the fishery. Further it does not adequately address the needs for conservation of the resource and the ability to meet the concerns of the subsistence users.

If this issue is not addressed the fishery will remain dangerous and expensive to manage. The Department of Public Safety and the United States Coast Guard will spend thousands of dollars trying to control the fishery. The issues of conservation won't be addressed and it will not address the concerns of the subsistence users. With an equal quota share permit some permits could be held by persons not wanting to harvest their share of the quota thereby adding to the escaping biomass and providing for more subsistence harvest opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Charles Olson

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