

PROPOSAL 190

5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Provide for co-management of herring fisheries with tribal governments.

27.190 would be revised as follows:

For the management of herring fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, the department:

1. **Shall develop a consent-based co-management framework to allow for collaborative management efforts with appropriate local sovereign Tribal Government(s). This co-management framework would be applied to a) determine minimum spawning biomass thresholds below which fishing will not be allowed, b) determine circumstances in which fishing would be allowed, c) determine methodology for other population assessments, including of mortality and of considerations for opening and closing the fishery, and of apt determinants of local herring population health, d) other considerations as appropriate.**
2. **The appropriate Tribal Government may call for an emergency closure at any time if in-season indications make such closure necessary. Such calls will result in immediate closure lasting no less than 48 hours unless the call is rescinded.**

[(1) SHALL IDENTIFY STOCKS OF HERRING ON A SPAWNING AREA BASIS;(2) SHALL ESTABLISH MINIMUM SPAWNING BIOMASS THRESHOLDS BELOW WHICH FISHING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED;(3) SHALL ASSESS THE ABUNDANCE OF MATURE HERRING FOR EACH STOCK BEFORE ALLOWING FISHING TO OCCUR;(4) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED ELSEWHERE, MAY ALLOW A HARVEST OF HERRING AT AN EXPLOITATION RATE BETWEEN 10 PERCENT AND 20 PERCENT OF THE ESTIMATED SPAWNING BIOMASS WHEN THAT BIOMASS IS ABOVE THE MINIMUM THRESHOLD LEVEL;(5) MAY IDENTIFY AND CONSIDER SOURCES OF MORTALITY IN SETTING HARVEST GUIDELINE;(6) BY EMERGENCY ORDER, MAY MODIFY FISHING PERIODS TO MINIMIZE INCIDENTAL MORTALITIES DURING COMMERCIAL FISHERIES.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Management practices by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the sac roe era have resulted in herring population collapses in multiple areas, only some of which have begun to recover. These collapses were foretold by various individuals and entities who warned the Board of Fisheries of impending collapse in multiple instances. The warnings were not heeded.

Current GHs are unreasonably high, recklessly exceeding the years of highest harvest of the harmful herring reduction fishery era. As one example, in recent years, unprecedentedly high-GH fisheries have resulted in greater spatial and temporal pressure on herring in Sitka Sound than ever before.

ADF&G must evolve the management strategy to a consent-based co-management framework with appropriate local Tribal Government wherever commercial herring fishing is being considered.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of subsistence herring egg harvesters and community elders and were informed by prior conversations with many others.

This proposal was informed by the establishment of the Herring Revitalization Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors

(EF-F24-169)
