


POLICY STATEMENT ON MANAGEMENT OF THE
NELSON ISLAND DISTRICT HERRING FISHERY

Due to the importance of subsistence utilization of herring by local residents in the Nelson Island District, special measures are necessary to insure that the subsistence priority required by state law is provided during development of the commercial herring fishery in this area. Regulations necessary for the orderly development of the commercial herring fishery in the Nelson Island District do not in any way restrict the taking of herring or other fish for subsistence purposes. In addition, 5 AAC 01.020 provides that commercial fishermen may retain fish for their subsistence use or for the subsistence use of other persons.

To provide additional protection of the subsistence herring fishery, the following guidelines are provided:

1. The commercial fishery will be allowed to take up to ten percent of the available herring biomass, compared to up to twenty percent for most other fisheries having stocks of similar size and condition.
2. The commercial fishing season will be opened when a biomass of 1000-1500 metric tons or spawning activity is documented.
3. Periodic closures of the commercial fishery will be scheduled, during which time subsistence fishing will be the only activity allowed.
4. Several important subsistence use areas occur throughout the district, including waters north of Cape Vancouver, and specific areas may be closed to commercial fishing to insure the adequacy of subsistence harvests.
5. The department will use all available means, including input from local residents, to insure the adequacy of subsistence herring harvests during the commercial fishing season.

Date: 11/8/84
Fairbanks, Alaska



Ron Jolin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries