

# MEMORANDUM

## State of Alaska DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

TO: Lowell Fair  
Regional Supervisor

DATE: October 25, 2022

THRU: Troy Thynes  
Region I Management Coordinator

FILE NO.: October 5, 2020

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FROM: Whitney Crittenden  
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SUBJECT 2021/22 SEAK Red  
Sea Urchin Fishery

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The commercial harvest of red sea urchin in Southeast Alaska began by regulation on October 1, 2021, with a total guideline harvest level (GHL) of 2,909,900 pounds in Districts 1 and 2. The total harvest for the 2021/22 season was 13,841 pounds which was less than 0.1% of the overall GHL available. Four divers landed product during the 2021/22 season. Exvessel value for the fishery is estimated at \$9,807 with an average of \$0.71 per pound. The season ended on September 30, 2022, with an average roe content of 6.7% for the year.

During the 2021/22 season, one shore-based processor and three vessel-based processors operated in the Ketchikan area. There were 16 landings made by 4 permit holders. The 2021/22 season is ranked 26 of 26 for the commercial harvest of sea urchins and had the fourth lowest participation since the implementation of the sea urchin fishery management plan during the 1996/97 season. The red sea urchin fishery has experienced reduced participation and limited landings in recent years due to poor markets, roe quality, and limited processor availability.

All 12 areas remained open for the entire season. Individual fishery areas and their GHLs are provided in Figure 1. The 2021/22 harvest was limited to three fishery areas, exclusively in District 1. Percy Islands and southern Gravina Island had the highest harvest with 10,708 pounds harvested. The harvest in West Shore of Gravina Island (Subdistrict 101-29) and East Behm Canal (Subdistricts 101-41 and 53) is confidential. There was no harvest in Dixon Entrance and Portland Canal (Subdistrict 101-11), Revilla Channel and southern Clarence Strait (101-21), Bee Rocks (Subdistrict 101-22), Revillagigedo Channel and Felice Strait (Subdistrict 101-23), West Behm Canal (Subdistricts 101-85 and 90), Lower Clarence Strait (Subdistrict 102-20), Clarence Strait (Subdistrict 102-50), Clarence Strait (Subdistrict 102-70), and Clarence Strait (Subdistrict 102-80).

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 2021/22 seasons.

Season	Guideline Harvest Level (lb)	Total Landed (lb)	Average Price Per Pound <sup>a</sup>	Estimated Exvessel Value <sup>b</sup>	Number of Divers	Number of Landings	Average Pounds per Diver	Average Earnings per Diver <sup>a</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
2020/21	2,997,800	33,003	\$0.85	\$27,930	3	38	11,001	\$9,351
2021/22	2,909,900	13,841	\$0.71	\$9,807	4	16	3,460	\$2,452

<sup>a</sup> Based on CFEC (annual) data prior to the 1998/99 season, then based on ADF&G 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 of 1995 through spring of 1996, in exchange for research funds.

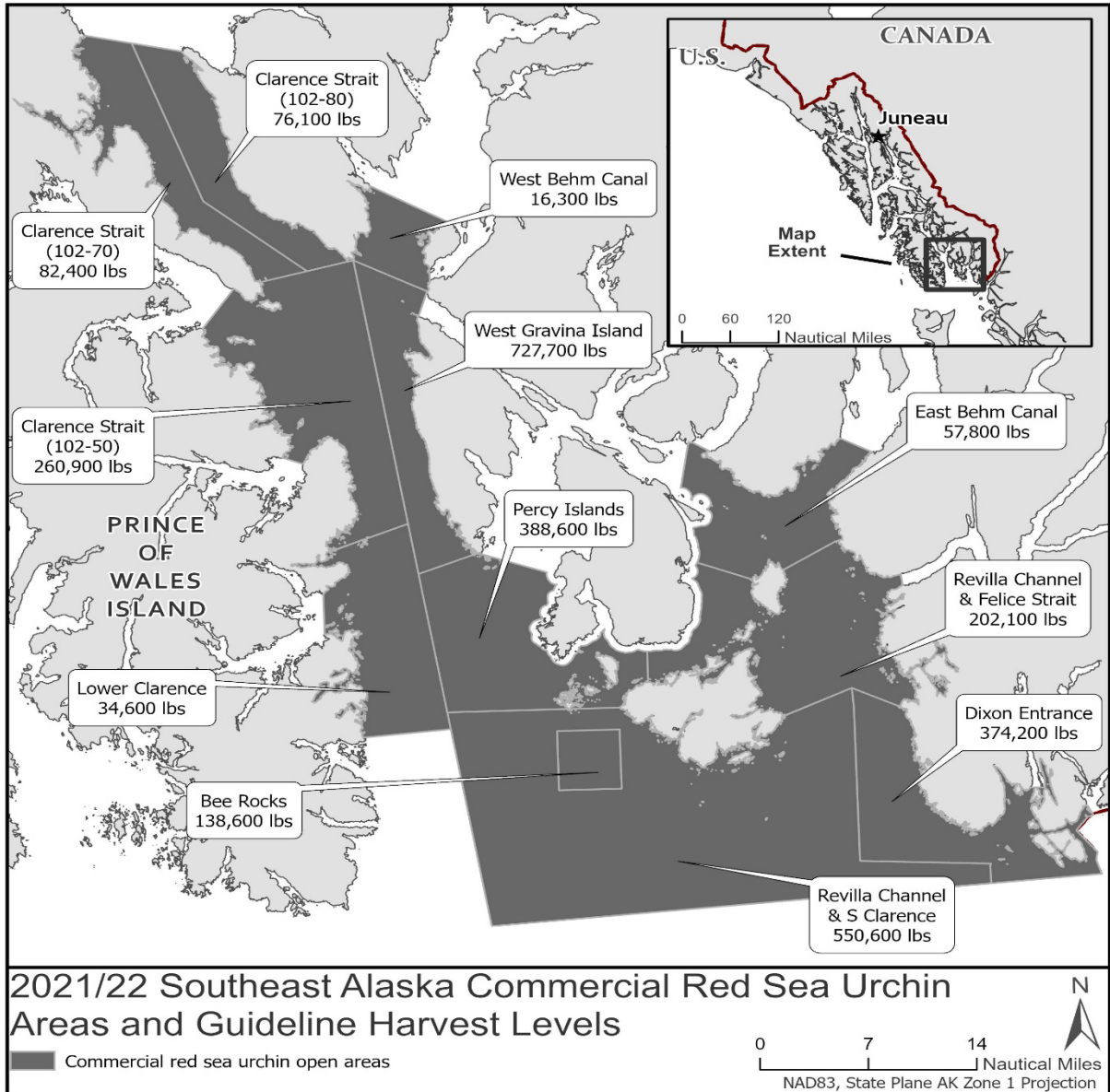


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska red sea urchin commercial harvest areas and GHLs for the 2021/22 season.