

PROPOSAL 102

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.

Reduce herring bait fishery harvest limit and increase spawn on kelp herring fishery harvest limit in Section 3-B, as follows:

(h) In Section 3-B, the harvest limit for the bait fisheries is 30 percent of the guideline harvest level for the Craig/Klawock herring stock, and the harvest limit for the spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is 70 percent of that harvest guidelines level. Any portion of the harvest limit not taken by the bait fisheries during a calendar year may be taken by the pound fishery during that year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We are respectfully requesting that the herring allocation between the bait fishery and the herring pound fishery, and that the bait fishery be reduced to 30% and the herring pound fishery be at 70%. There is over 200 permits for the herring pound fishery in Southern southeast Alaska, with approximately 120 utilized in the 2017 season. The herring spawn pound fishery has a 1 to 1.5 million dollar impact between the communities of Southeast Alaska, whereas the herring bait fishery had 3 boats that fished and has had little to no impact on the communities in Southeast Alaska. Based upon the 2016-2018 statewide Herring Fishing Regulations, the Southeastern Herring Pound fisheries is regulated to ensure that the herring biomass is not damaged, as we are a catch and release fishery, as well as a healthy herring stock is maintained. Which was documented again this year with over 25 miles of spawn in the Craig/Klawock area. Whereas with the bait fishery (5 AAC 27.179. 1,2,3,4,(b) 1,2,3,4) page 11 in the handbook, there are minimal regulations, controlling or securing the welfare of future herring stock, with a 100% mortality rate, there is no observation done by Fish and Game during this fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Archie and Roseann Demmert

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