

PROPOSAL 103

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

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

(h) In Section 3-B, the harvest limit for the bait fisheries is 35 (60) percent of the guideline harvest level for the Craig/Klawock herring stock, and the harvest limit for the spawn-on- kelp pound fishery is 65(40) percent of that guideline harvest level. Any portion of the harvest limit not taken by the bait fishery 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? I would like to change the allocation of guideline harvest limit for the bait fisheries, which is currently set at 60 percent of the GHL for the Craig/Klawock herring stock, and the GHL for the spawn-on- kelp pound fishery, which is currently set at 40 percent of that guideline harvest level for the Craig/Klawock herring stock.

The S.O.K. Fishery provides greater economic value for its average of 135 participants, than the bait herrings average of 3 participants. Average exvessel value for the 5 year period 2009-2013 (2013-2016 are confidential) was 1.6 million dollars. Average exvessel value for the bait fishery is undetermined due to confidentiality, but according to the last 5 years harvest data, average harvest was 2340 tons annually. Furthermore, in the SOK fishery the herring are released when the fishery is over, providing a chance for the herring to return the following year. While in the bait fishery, 100% mortality is expected.

In years of low GHL, 2017 for an example, SOK participants suffer a 50% reduction in blade allocation when our GHL falls below 400 tons.

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