

Herring (4 proposals)

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 27.510. Fishing Seasons and periods for the Kodiak Area.

Open the Kodiak Area sac roe herring fishery April 1, as follows:

I would like to see the opening date of the Kodiak Herring Sac Roe fishery be changed, by regulation, from April 15th, until April 1st.

5 AAC 27.510. Fishing Seasons and Periods for Kodiak Area. (a) Unless otherwise provided for by emergency order, herring may be taken during the sac roe season from **April 1** [APRIL 15] through June 30, as follows:

(1) from **April 1** [APRIL 15] through May 7, fishing periods for purse seines are from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days, and from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on even-numbered days if a harvestable surplus is available: from May 8 through June 30, fishing periods for purse seines are from 12:00 noon until 10:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days, and from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on even numbered days if a harvestable surplus is available;

(2) from **April 1** [APRIL 15] through June 30, the fishing periods for gillnets are from 12:00 noon on odd-numbered days until 12:00 noon on even-numbered days;

(3) repealed 4/9/2005

(4) after April 30, a CFEC permit holder must register with the department before participating in the sac roe herring fishery.

(b) Herring may be taken during the food and bait season from September 1 through February 28 only during fishing periods established by emergency order. A CFEC permit holder must register with the department before participating in the food and bait fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the Kodiak Area Sac Roe herring fishery cannot open, by regulation, until April 15th.

Over the past decade or so, Sac Roe Herring fisheries around Alaska have been occurring earlier and earlier in the spring. These fisheries historically take place when the fish come in from deeper water to spawn. The other active sac roe fisheries, in Sitka, AK and Togiak, AK are opened on an EO (Emergency Order) basis, so they can open at any time that herring are observed, then tested; before they spawn. These fisheries have been opening earlier in the spring than normal, and spawns have taken place, much earlier than in the past. This may be due to Climate change, or other factors, but the reality is that herring are coming in to spawn much earlier in the spring, than they have in years past.

Because of the set opening date of the Kodiak Fishery (Currently April 15th) in many recent years, large spawns have taken place, well before the fishery is allowed to open. Therefore, the fish are long gone, or unmarketable because they are "spawned out", before the fishery is legally even allowed to open.

If we do not make this change, harvestable surpluses of Sac Roe Herring in the Kodiak Area will continue to be foregone, and a valuable fishing opportunity will continue to be lost by Kodiak Area Herring fishermen, the local processors, and the Community of Kodiak.

age class structure of the forecasted biomass, the degree of biomass uncertainty as measured by the adequacy of the recent years' aerial survey conditions and coverage, and the following guidelines:

(1) if the projected spawning biomass is 24,000 short tons or more, the department will establish a guideline harvest level of herring based on an exploitation rate between zero and 15 percent;

(2) if the projected spawning biomass is at least 14,000 short tons, but less than 24,000 short tons, the department will establish a guideline harvest level of herring based on an exploitation rate between zero and 12.5 percent;

(3) if the projected spawning biomass is at least 6,000 short tons, but less than 14,000 short tons, the department will establish a guideline harvest level of herring based on an exploitation rate between zero and 10 percent;

(4) if the projected spawning biomass is less than the minimum threshold of 6,000 short tons, the Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery will be closed.

(e) The management strategy for Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery is to target older age classes of herring, and to limit the exploitation rate of recruit age herring, which are fish age five and younger, to 10 percent or less. In order to provide maximum protection to recruit age herring, a further reduction on the exploitation rate set out in (d) of this section, or a complete closure of the affected fisheries may be implemented in the biomass projection, or in season test fishing, indicates a higher percentage of fish are recruit age herring.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak Area Food and Bait Fishery's North Shelikof section cannot presently open because it is regulated by the Kamishak Bay District herring management plan. The Kamishak Management Plan presently closes the North Shelikof section when the spawning biomass in Kamishak is below 6,000 tons. The Kamishak section has not been surveyed in several years, and the surveyed biomass of herring in the North Shelikof section has been much larger than 6,000 tons. The Kodiak Food and Bait fishery should be managed on its own recent stock assessment. This would allow this, sustainable fishery, to provide food and bait herring throughout the state.

PROPOSED BY: Sam Mutch

(EF-F19-024)

PROPOSAL 56

5 AAC 27.535. Harvest strategies for Kodiak Area.

Establish guideline harvest levels for the Kodiak Area food and bait herring fishery, as follows:

The Kodiak Area food and bait fishery should have its regulatory language updated.

Draft Language: 5 AAC 27.535. Harvest strategies for Kodiak Area.(a) The department shall establish guideline harvest levels for the herring food and bait fisheries for each section which may not exceed 10 percent of the guideline harvest level of that section in the previous sac roe season. (b) The department shall manage the remaining districts of the food and bait herring fishery, so that the harvest does not exceed the combined sum of the guideline harvest levels of the individual sections of a district. The department may manage the food and bait fishery by section of a district, if the harvest location, age class composition of the harvest, or biomass estimates indicate a harvest

has occurred on a single herring spawning stock.(c) Sections of a district that are designated exploratory for the sac-roe fishery may be designated exploratory for the food and bait fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak Area Food and Bait Fishery's North Shelikof section cannot presently open because it is regulated by the Kamishak Bay District herring management plan. The Kamishak Management Plan presently closes the North Shelikof section when the spawning biomass in Kamishak is below 6,000 tons. The Kamishak section has not been surveyed in several years, and the surveyed biomass of herring in the North Shelikof section has been much larger than 6,000 tons. The Kodiak Food and Bait fishery should be managed on its own recent stock assessment. This would allow this, sustainable fishery, to provide food and bait herring throughout the state.

PROPOSED BY: Sam Mutch (EF-F19-023)

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 27.535. Harvest strategies for Kodiak Area.

Eliminate allocation and fishing area splits by seine and gillnet gear in the Kodiak herring food and bait fishery, as follows:

Fishing sections designated by the department will be open to both gear types on alternating days (to avoid gear conflict) for the entirety of the season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide more herring fishing opportunity for both seine and gill net fishermen by removing the allocative split and segregated fishing areas.

Currently allocation quotas are designated by assigning the different gear types specific areas and sections to fish within. This management strategy was adopted by the department in the past when there were a large number of seiners and gill netters involved in the fishery, in order to eliminate gear conflicts. In recent history the participation in this fishery has been very low and on some years no participation at all by certain gear types. If we eliminate this rule and revert to the previous management strategy, both gear types would have equal opportunity to fish all open areas.

PROPOSED BY: David Hilty (EF-F19-074)
