

PROPOSAL 164

5 AAC 27.195. Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery.

Establish equal share quotas for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring purse seine fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 27.195 would be amended to read:

(c) A permit holder of a CFEC permit in the G01A fishery may not retain more herring in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe fishery than the annual amount of herring equal quota share that is specified by the department. The department shall determine the annual amount of herring equal quota share by dividing the annual harvest objective by the number of CFEC permits and interim use permits eligible to be fished in the fishery.

(d) When participating in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery, a person holding a CFEC permit or interim permit for that fishery must retain in that persons possession and present for inspection on board the vessel on which that person is registered to fish, a copy of each completed fish ticket issued to that person during the current season. The permit holder shall provide each buyer with the total weight of herring that the permit holder has landed to date in the fishery for that year.

(e) If a person harvest exceeds the permit holders equal quota share established under (c) and (d) of this section for that year, by not more than ten percent, the department shall reduce the permit holders equal quota share for the following year by the amount of the overage. The adjusted quota share is the permit holders quota share for that year. If a permit holders harvest exceeds the permit holders equal quota share by more than ten percent, the proceeds from the sale of the overage in excess of then percent shall be surrendered to the state. A permit holder may not assume that the ability to adjust a equal quota share under this section is an opportunity to knowingly exceed a quota share or to exceed the equal quota in an amount greater than ten percent as such actions may be prosecuted under AS 16.05.722 or AS 16.05.723

(f) If a permit holders harvest is less than the permit holders equal quota share established under (c) or (d) of this section for that year, the department shall increase the permit holders equal quota share only for the following year by the amount of underage that does not exceed ten percent of the equal quota share.

(g) In the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe fishery, herring may only be taken daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm from March 1 until April 30. Permit holders must register with the department before fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Sitka Sound commercial sac roe fishery is one of the most hazardous fisheries in the state. Fishermen are put into small areas for even smaller amounts of time to fight over the resource. Vessels are routinely in collisions, vessels have rolled over, gear is frequently destroyed and injuries are not uncommon. Fishermen and insurance companies have frequent claims, and the State of Alaska, USCG and local law enforcement are forced to spend limited and valuable resources to patrol the derby fishery. This is not only costly to the fishermen and government, but taking these limited enforcement resources away from their usual duties to monitor a derby makes the residents of the

region less safe. We, permit holders in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe fishery, would like this dangerous derby style fishery to end. We should not have to needlessly risk our equipment and crew just to go fishing.

There are several fisheries in the State of Alaska that are managed under a equal quota share system. These are the PWS sablefish fishery, Northern SE sablefish fishery and Southern SE sablefish fishery. These are all some of the safest and orderly fisheries in the state. These fisheries require very little enforcement and in season management. GHL's are never exceeded and the resources are healthy. We, permit holders in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery, would like to be managed under a similar safe and orderly system.

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