

**PROPOSAL 56**

**5 AAC 27.510. Fishing seasons and periods for Kodiak Area.**

Modify the fishing season and periods for the Kodiak Management Area to increase commercial herring fishing opportunity as follows:

**5 AAC 27.510. Fishing seasons and periods for Kodiak Area.**

(1) [FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH MAY 7] fishing periods for purse seines are from **9:00 a.m.** [12:00 NOON] until **9:00** [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];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Operating hours for herring are an awkward artifact of the past. A gillnet fishery in all practicality no longer exists, and coordination between processors, harvesters, and the department is much improved from when the current regulatory structure was implemented. Extending daily fishing periods would facilitate a more orderly fishery providing fishermen with more time to focus harvest on higher quality fish. The fishery would still be managed based on harvest volumes and biomass and would not increase exploitation rates.

**PROPOSED BY:** Darren Platt

(HQ-F23-059)

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