

**PROPOSAL 101**

**5AAC 27.365. Prince William Sound Herring Management Plan.**

Adopt a new exploratory fishery for herring in the eastern portion of the Prince William Sound Management Area, as follows:

5AAC 27.365 Prince William Sound Herring Management Plan

b) The management plan for herring fisheries in Prince William Sound assumes that all of those fisheries (ADD) (NORTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE PUGET TO CAPE CLEARE, FROM ZIAKOF POINT TO CAPE HINCHINBROOK AND FROM STRABERRY HILL TO WHITEHED) use a single stock of herring which may be harvested at the rate of zero to 20 percent of the spawning biomass. (Leave the remainder of (b) intact

ADD new (f) PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND WATERS SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE PUGET TO CAPE CLEARE, FROM ZIAKOF POINT TO CAPE HINCHINBROOK AND FROM STRAWBERRY HILL TO WHITSHED WILL BE MANAGED AS EXPLORATORY IN COORDINATION WITH ADFG WITH A MINIMUM HARVEST OBJECTIVE OF 500 TONS WITH EXISTING GEAR REGULATIONS AND NO GEAR ALLOCATIONS.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently Prince William Sound Herring are all considered a single stock. About 15 years ago a significant biomass of herring has been spawning in the vicinity of Kayak Island. There has been samples collected and sporadic aerial surveys conducted documenting this phenomenon. In 2023 over 32 miles of spawn was observed in this area. Unfortunately this population is not being considered part of the Price William Sound stock and is not included in the overall assessment of the Prince William Sound herring population even though it is within the defined boundaries of area E.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** I had conversations with other interested parties as well as ADFG representatives

**PROPOSED BY:** Rob Nelson

(EF-F24-043)

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