

**PROPOSAL 188**

**5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area.**

Limit the number days and limit the number of hours in a day commercial herring activity may occur, require observers for commercial herring fishing, require reporting of bycatch in fishery announcements, and limit the overall commercial harvest of herring in Southeast Alaska to 15,000 tons.

27.190 would be revised with the following additions designed to avoid extreme pressure on herring stocks during commercial fishing activity:

For the management of herring fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, the department:

**1. Shall manage commercial herring fisheries to reduce fishing pressure as follows:**

1. **Commercial herring fishing activity may not occur on a third consecutive day at any time or on more than 7 days in any 30-day period in any management area.**
2. **Herring fishing activity may not take place for more than 8 hours on any given day in any management area.**
3. **All herring fishing activity must be in line of sight of observers monitoring for excessive high-grading, responsible test-setting, or excessive disturbance, corralling, and manipulation of herring schools.**
4. **Total commercial catch of herring in Southeast Alaska shall not exceed 15,000 tons per year.**
5. **Bycatch from herring fisheries must be recorded and reported in fishery announcements.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Sustained sac roe seine fishing activity in localized areas causes depletion of aggregating pre-spawn herring in those areas and leads to reduced spawn in adjacent bays and shorelines. This impacts reasonable opportunity for subsistence and has possible long-lasting impacts on herring recruitment in specific areas of Sitka Sound, as herring are known to return to their natal grounds to spawn with high fidelity. Additionally, ADF&G vessel sounding activities on pre-spawning herring in pursuit of higher-value herring schools contribute to large scale-disturbance on spawning grounds from this fishery, including increased reporting of "false spawn" events in fishing-adjacent areas, wherein stressed males release milt in the absence of eggs and therefore fail to reproduce.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of harvesters and elders and informed by prior conversation with many others.

This proposal was informed by the establishment of the Herring Revitalization Committee.

**PROPOSED BY:** Herring Protectors

(EF-F24-175)

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