

**PROPOSAL 188 – 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.**

Allocate 15% of the unharvested Togiak sac roe herring guideline harvest level to the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery, as follows:

Boards Support note: *this proposal will be heard at both the Bristol Bay Finfish and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik Areas Finfish meetings, and it will be voted on at the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik Areas Finfish meeting.*

5 AAC 27.865 is amended to read:

...

(5) after the herring spawn-on-kelp harvest and the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery have been subtracted, the remaining harvestable surplus is allocated to the Togiak District herring fishery;

(A) the department shall manage for a removal of 30 percent of that surplus by the gillnet fleet and 70 percent by the purse seine fleet, [EXCEPT THAT THE ALLOCATIONS IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE 20 PERCENT BY THE GILLNET FLEET AND 80 PERCENT BY PURSE SEINE FLEET THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022;]

(B) if the Togiak District herring sac roe guideline harvest level is not achieved in a given year, 15 percent of the remaining guideline harvest level shall be allocated to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery; the Togiak District herring sac roe guideline harvest level is considered to have been achieved if 90 percent is harvested by May 31;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is currently an increased demand for bait from Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands fixed gear fisheries, while sac roe herring fisheries targeting Eastern Bering Sea herring stocks have been inactive for several years. Herring harvested in the Aleutian Islands provides a cost-effective bait solution for the fixed gear fisheries. The Eastern Bering Sea mature herring biomass estimate in 2025 was 265,000mt and the only directed fisheries currently targeting these stocks are the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery and nominal subsistence fisheries. Increasing the amount of Dutch Harbor food and bait herring harvest by reallocating unharvested Togiak sac roe guideline harvest level would fill a bait need without impacting other directed herring uses.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Board of Fisheries.

(HQ-F26-030)

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