



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of  
Fish and Game**

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
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December 5, 2017

Mr. David Witherell, Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
604 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear David:

This letter provides an estimate of the mature biomass of Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) in the eastern Bering Sea for the purposes of establishing the 2018 prohibited species catch (PSC) limit per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP. In 2017, there were surveys for Togiak and Port Moller/Port Heiden. The forecast for Togiak is complete and Regional staff members are currently drafting a news release. The department recommends using the sum of the Togiak 2018-forecast biomass and a general indication of population sizes for the other management stocks (long-term medians of aerial survey biomass estimates) as the basis for the 2018 PSC limit. Values for 2018 are contained in the attached tables. The combined biomass for the eastern Bering Sea in 2018 is 201,743 short tons, equivalent to 183,017 metric tons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sherri Dressel".

Sherri Dressel  
Statewide Herring Fisheries Scientist

Table 1. Estimates of Pacific herring mature biomass for spawning aggregations in the eastern Bering Sea, Alaska, for purpose of establishing the 2018 prohibited species catch limit.

| Spawning area           | short tons | metric tons |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Norton Sound            | 34,180     | 31,007      |
| Cape Romanzof           | 5,157      | 4,678       |
| Nunivak Island          | 3,902      | 3,540       |
| Nelson Island           | 5,275      | 4,785       |
| Cape Avinof             | 3,446      | 3,126       |
| Goodnews Bay            | 5,207      | 4,724       |
| Security Cove           | 5,270      | 4,781       |
| Togiak                  | 136,756    | 124,062     |
| Port Moller/Port Heiden | 2,500      | 2,268       |
| Total                   | 201,693    | 182,971     |

Table 2. Pacific herring mature biomass projections for spawning aggregations in the eastern Bering Sea, Alaska, provided to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for the purpose of establishing the 2008-2018 prohibited species catch limits per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP.

| Spawning area           | 2009    | 2010    | 2011    | 2012    | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Norton Sound            | 33,491  | 34,434  | 38,534  | 39,396  | 48,035  | 47,299  | 48,794  | 48,794  | 31,007  | 31,007  |
| Cape Romanzof           | 4,402   | 3,606   | 5,024   | 4,349   | 4,349   | 2,634   | 4,366   | 4,366   | 4,678   | 4,678   |
| Nunivak Island          | 2,849   | 4,176   | 3,014   | 2,612   | 2,612   | 2,068   | 5,132   | 140     | 3,540   | 3,540   |
| Nelson Island           | 4,674   | 4,187   | 4,765   | 4,267   | 4,266   | 3,882   | 27,422  | 27,422  | 4,785   | 4,785   |
| Cape Avinof             | 2,042   | 1,789   | 2,171   | 1,901   | 1,901   | 1,200   | 9,456   | 9,456   | 3,126   | 3,126   |
| Goodnews Bay            | 5,204   | 6,259   | 33,393  | 29,944  | 29,944  | 7,116   | 16,812  | 8,263   | 4,724   | 4,724   |
| Security Cove           | 5,158   | 9,696   | 11,901  | 11,061  | 18,144  | 7,852   | 11,681  | 8,540   | 4,781   | 4,781   |
| Togiak                  | 110,495 | 133,152 | 127,786 | 112,260 | 152,169 | 142,834 | 148,306 | 147,185 | 142,453 | 124,062 |
| Port Moller/Port Heiden | 1,361   | 136     | 680     | 3,629   | 3,382   | 2,268   | 2,268   | 8,932   | 2,184   | 2,268   |
| Total                   | 169,675 | 197,435 | 227,269 | 209,419 | 264,802 | 217,153 | 274,236 | 263,098 | 201,278 | 182,971 |

cc: Steve Whitney, NOAA  
Mary Furuness, NOAA  
Diana Stram, NPFMC  
Scott Kelley, ADF&G  
Chris Siddon, ADF&G  
Trent Hartill, ADF&G