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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
Forrest Bowers, Acting Director*



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Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake Street, Room 103  
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Time: 2:45 p.m.

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#### **2015/2016 SOUTHEAST ALASKA WINTER FOOD AND BAIT HERRING FISHERY**

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the 2015/2016 Southeast Alaska winter food and bait herring fishery:

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): **will open 12:00 noon, Monday October 19, 2015** in those waters of Section 3-B west of a line from Blanquiza Point to Point Santa Rosalia to Tranquil Point and in those waters of District 4 north and east of a line from Lontana Point to Diver Point. The guideline harvest level (GHL) is **954 tons**. This GHL is based on a forecasted mature spawning biomass of 12,303 tons and a harvest rate of 12.9 %. The forecast indicates that the predominant age classes in the spawning stock will be age 3 and 4 herring.

The total GHL for the Craig/Klawock area is forecasted to be 1,590 tons. Regulations state that 60% of this GHL goes to the winter food and bait fishery and 40% goes to the Section 3-B spawn-on-kelp pound fishery (5 AAC 27.185 (h)). Additionally, any portion not taken by the winter bait fishery is allocated to the spawn-on-kelp fishery and will be announced by March 15, 2016.

District 7 (Ernest Sound): **will be closed.** The spawning biomass is forecasted to be 1,207 tons, which is below the threshold of 2,500 tons that allows for a fishery.

District 10 (Hobart Bay/Port Houghton): **will be closed.** The spawning biomass is forecasted to be 50 tons, which is below the threshold of 2,500 tons that allows for a fishery.

District 12 (Tenakee Inlet): The spawning biomass forecast is currently being generated and is expected to be completed by the end of October. If the spawning biomass is forecasted to be above the 3,000 ton threshold that allows for a fishery, a separate News Release announcing the GHL for Tenakee Inlet will be issued.

Fishermen and operators of tendering vessels must obtain an ADF&G permit to participate in the Southeast Alaska Winter Food and Bait Herring Fishery (5 AAC 27.179). Permit applications are available at Department of Fish and Game area offices in Ketchikan, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Douglas free of charge.

**For the 2015/16 season, the department is requiring that permits be issued by ADF&G 72 hours prior to commencing fishing operations.** Terms of the permit stipulate: 1) the amount of herring harvested and delivery location be reported to the Ketchikan office for Section 3-B and District 4 by 12:00 noon on the day after fish were harvested; 2) logbook forms must be completed and submitted with Herring Winter Food and Bait

fish tickets; 3) one 5-gallon bucket of herring is to be provided to the department from each delivery for catch sampling purposes.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1H0615.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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