
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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SEYMOUR CANAL HERRING FISHERY UPDATE

Juneau. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that no fishery will be opened for Seymour Canal herring in 2016. Although the preliminary forecast for the 2016 Seymour Canal herring stock is 5,113 tons and above the 3,000 ton threshold, the department is concerned about the majority of the spawning biomass being largely unavailable to gillnet gear.

The forecast indicates that the mature biomass in 2016 will consist of 6% age-3, 75% age-4, 2% age-5, 1% age-6, 9% age-7, and 7% age-8+. Given the small size of the predominant age class (age-4 herring are forecast at 57.6 gm) very few will be available to the existing gillnet gear and a conservative management approach is warranted. Foregoing a fishery in 2016 will allow the strong class of age-4 fish to grow to a more harvestable size and fully recruit into the spawning biomass in future years.

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