

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area. Establish a management plan for herring spawning aggregates that have been below threshold, as follows:

5 AAC 27.190 *Herring Management Plan for Southeast Alaska Area.* For the management of herring fisheries in the Southeast Alaska Area, the department

- (1) shall identify stocks of herring on a spawning area basis;
- (2) shall establish minimum spawning biomass thresholds below which fishing will not be allowed;
- (3) shall assess the abundance of mature herring for each stock before allowing fishing to occur;
- (4) except as provided elsewhere, may allow a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate between 10 percent and 20 percent of the estimate spawning biomass when that biomass is above the minimum threshold level;
- (5) may identify and consider sources of mortality in setting harvest guideline;
- (6) by emergency order, may modify fishing periods to minimize incidental mortalities during commercial fisheries;
- (7) shall allow spawning biomass to exceed minimum biomass thresholds for five (5) consecutive years before fishing can occur.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the *Southeast Alaska Sac Roe Herring Fishery Management Plan* harvests Pacific herring stocks exceeding minimum biomass thresholds determined by Alaska Department of Fish and Game. These thresholds are a measure of biomass available, but care needs to be taken when harvesting stocks that have not recently met the threshold limit in place for that stock. Stocks that have been depressed, but recently show a spike in biomass, could be at risk of overharvest or be unsustainable if conservative measures, such as meeting thresholds for five consecutive years, are not put in place. Current thresholds do not allow for stocks to rebuild to pre-fishery biomasses and are managed under a shifted baseline.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (EF-C14-173)

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area. Establish a management plan for herring spawning aggregates that have been below threshold, as follows:

5 AAC 27.190 *Herring Management Plan for Southeast Alaska Area.* For the management of herring fisheries in the Southeast Alaska Area, the department:

- (1) shall identify stocks of herring on a spawning area basis;
- (2) shall establish minimum spawning biomass thresholds below which fishing will not be allowed;
- (3) shall assess the abundance of mature herring for each stock before allowing fishing to occur;

- (4) except as provided elsewhere, may allow a harvest of herring as an exploitation rate between 10 percent and 20 percent of the estimate spawning biomass when that biomass is above the minimum threshold level;
- (5) may identify and consider sources of mortality in setting harvest guideline;
- (6) by emergency order, may modify fishing periods to minimize incidental mortalities during commercial fisheries;
- (7) shall allow spawning biomass to exceed minimum biomass thresholds for five (5) consecutive years before a fishery can occur.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the Southeast Alaska Sac Roe Herring Fishery Management Plan harvests Pacific herring stocks exceeding minimum biomass thresholds determined by Alaska Department of Fish and Game. These thresholds are a measure of biomass available, but care needs to be taken when harvesting stocks that have not recently met the threshold limit in place for the stock. Stocks that have been depressed, but recently spike in biomass, could be at risk of overharvest or be unsustainable if conservation measures, such as meeting thresholds for five consecutive years, are not in place. Current thresholds do not allow for stocks to rebuild to pre-fishery biomasses.

PROPOSED BY: Organized Village of Kasaan (HQ-F14-037)

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area. Require a commercial herring fishery to occur when herring biomass is above minimum threshold, as follows:

That the wording of the section be changed to read "except as provided elsewhere, shall allow a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate of between 10 percent and 20 percent of the estimated spawning biomass when that biomass is above the minimum threshold level."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The section reads "except as provided elsewhere, may allow a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate between 10 percent and 20 percent of the estimated spawning biomass when that biomass is above the minimum threshold level." I would like to change the wording "may allow a harvest" to "shall allow a Harvest."

If the minimum threshold is met, there should be a fishery. The science is there to protect the stock and threshold levels are set so harvest will not be detrimental to the stock. The department needs to adhere to their science and not use arbitrary "feelings" if a fishery is opened or not.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-C14-028)
