

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Headquarters Office
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

CONTACT: James Jackson, Area Biologist
Geoff Spalinger, Asst. Area Biologist
Todd Anderson, Asst. Area Biologist
Brad Fuerst, Fishery Biologist
(907) 486-1830

Released: October 15, 2021

2021 KODIAK COMMERCIAL HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY SEASON SUMMARY

The following is an overview of the 2021 Kodiak Management Area (KMA) commercial herring sac roe fishery. The season dates for the fishery extend from April 1 through June 30.

2021 Sac Roe Fishery Overview

Several regulation changes occurred at the January 2020 Board of Fisheries meeting in Kodiak. The season start date was changed from April 15 to April 1. The allocative management plan that assigned GHLS and sections by gear type was removed, and both gear types can now fish the same sections. Fishing periods were also changed so that purse seine permit holders and gillnet permit holders fish on alternating days. Purse seine fishing periods remained the same, gillnet fishing periods were changed to be from noon on even-numbered days to noon on odd-numbered days.

The total 2021 GHL was 7,895 tons, the largest in the history of the sac roe fishery (Table 1). Thirteen purse seine permit holders harvested 7,903 tons, which was also the largest in the history of the fishery. There was no participation by gillnet permit holders in the 2021 season (Table 1).

With the earlier opening date, effort was initially concentrated in the Eastside District where purse seiners harvested 2,679 tons. After most sections in the Eastside District closed, effort shifted toward the Westside of Kodiak and Afognak Islands. Approximately 2,088 tons were harvested in the Uganik District, 1,240 tons in the Afognak Districts, and 951 tons in the Uyak District. The first harvest occurred on April 1 and last harvest was on May 3.

Thirteen purse seine vessels delivered herring, the most since 2015 (Table 1). The price paid per ton of herring at the dock averaged \$165, which was similar to recent seasons. The overall exvessel value of approximately \$1,300,000 was the highest since 2013. Purse seine permit holders averaged \$100,307 (Table 1).

The recent 5-year average GHL was 1,823 tons, while the recent 10-year average was 3,504 tons (Table 1). The 2021 GHL of 7,895 tons was the largest ever. From 2016 through 2020, the annual harvest averaged 971 tons and from 2011 through 2020 averaged 1,934 tons (Table 1). The 2021 harvest of 7,903 tons was the largest ever.

Table 1.—Kodiak Management Area herring sac roe fishery harvest summary.

Year	GHL (Tons)	Total Harvest (Tons)	Harvest				Units of Gear		Estimated Average Earnings ^a		Price per Ton ^a (\$)
			by Gear Type		Percent Harvest		Making Delivery		Seine	Gillnet	
			Seine (Tons)	Gillnet (Tons)	Seine	Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet	(\$)	(\$)	
2021	7,895	7,903	7,903	0	100%	0%	13	0	\$100,307	\$0	\$165
<u>Averages</u>											
2011 to 2020	3,504	1,934	1,916	20	99%	1%	12	1	\$24,746	\$1,057	\$158
2016 to 2020	1,823	971	971	0	100%	0%	4	0	\$20,797	\$0	\$127

^a Exvessel values are based on dock delivered herring and inseason data.

The fishery was monitored by two ADF&G vessels, which were stationed in anticipated herring harvest locations. The vessels monitored the fishery to gather effort and harvest data used to manage the fishery and collected commercial catch samples to obtain age, weight, and length (AWL) data.

There were a total of 47 sections open to fishing, however 13 sections were exploratory and had little or no historic harvests. Harvests occurred within 21 sections. There were 17 emergency orders issued concerning this fishery.