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**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: September 26, 2024*

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**2024/25 SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING WINTER FOOD AND BAIT  
FISHERY**

The 2024/25 Southeast Alaska herring winter food and bait fishery opens by regulation October 1. Herring spawn deposition dive surveys for winter food and bait fisheries were completed for the Craig/Klawock and Tenakee Inlet areas in 2024. A finalized forecast for the Craig/Klawock area is not available at this time but based on the 2024 spawn deposition estimate the overall guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2024/2025 season is expected to be more than adequate to allow for the winter food and bait fishery to begin October 1. A formal forecast and GHL will be available and announced in December. The Tenakee Inlet area spawn deposition estimate was above the minimum threshold of 3,000 tons. This was the first year since 2013 that Tenakee Inlet had spawn observed similar to historical levels. No formal forecast was generated, and the fishery will not open for the 2024/25 season. If the biomass continues to be above threshold for consecutive seasons a fishery may occur.

Section 3-B and District 4 (Craig/Klawock): will open at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, October 1, 2024, in those waters of Section 3-B west of a line from Blanquital Point at 55°37.36' N lat, 133°23.86' W long to Point Santa Rosalia at 55°34.19' N lat, 133°24.84' W long to Point Cuerdo at 55°28.51' N lat, 133°19.00' W long to Point Miraballes at 55°25.87' N lat, 133°05.22' W long and in those waters of District 4 north and east of a line from Lontana Point at 55°12.25' N lat, 133°20.12' W long to Diver Point at 55°11.02' N lat, 133°14.36' W long with the following restriction:

Trocadero Bay: will be closed east of the longitude of the westernmost tip of Canoe Point at 133°01.48' W long.

District 7 (Ernest Sound): will be closed. Spawn increased from levels observed in 2020–2023 but was insufficient to justify a spawn deposition survey. Therefore, a forecast for the 2024/25 season was not generated.

District 10 (Hobart Bay/Port Houghton): will be closed. Minimal herring spawn was reported or observed, and a spawn deposition survey was not conducted in 2024. Due to budget constraints, only one department survey was conducted. Therefore, a forecast for the 2024/25 season was not generated.

District 12 (Tenakee Inlet): will be closed. A total of 10.6 nautical miles (nmi) of spawn was observed in 2024 including 4.8 nmi inside Tenakee Inlet and extending south along the Chatham Strait shoreline to Basket Bay and 5.8 nmi observed from Basket Bay south to Lull Point. A spawn deposition survey was conducted in 2024, but no forecast was generated for the 2024/25 season.

Fishermen and operators of tender vessels must obtain an ADF&G permit to participate in the winter food and bait fishery (5 AAC 27.179) prior to fishing. For the 2024/25 season, the 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; and 2) one 5-gallon bucket of herring is to be provided to the department from each delivery for sampling purposes. Permit applications are available at ADF&G area offices in Ketchikan, Sitka, Petersburg, and Douglas.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1H1524.

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

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| <i>ADF&amp;G</i> | 225-5195         | 772-3801          |                 | 747-6688     | 465-4250      | 766-2830      | 784-3255       |
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