

PROPOSAL 107

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.

Establish a herring spawn on kelp commercial fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B, as follows:

In the district 13A and 13B Sitka Sac Roe fishery, if there is a minimum of 1500 tons left unharvested, they could be allocated to the existing Northern Roe on Kelp Fishery. It would be a minimum of a 2 person per pound fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is times when the Sitka Sac Roe fishery will leave thousands of tons unharvested because they are “garbage fish” i.e. too small. These could be used by the northern roe on kelp fishery. This fishery could only happen if 1500 tons minimum were left unharvested. This would be all the roe on kelp fishery needs. There would be no guarantee of a fishery, just a possible opportunity. Reasoning behind this number is there are 110 permit holders, 2 permit holders per pound, and each pound can hold 20 tons of herring which would be 1100 total tons of herring needed, but 1500 tons would be a safe amount to open a fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Svenson (HQ-F17-055)

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C and District 7.

Expand the open area for the spawn on kelp herring pound fishery in Section 3-B, as follows:

The Sse spawn on kelp boundary shall expand to include waters of San Christoval channel and the gulf of Esquibel south of a line from the northern most tip of St Phillips island to Point Garcia permanently.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To expand the southern southeast spawn on kelp boundary to include waters of San Christoval channel and the gulf of Esquibel south of a line from the northern most tip of St Phillips island to Point Garcia permanently.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-F17-023)

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.

Allow no more than four Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission limited entry permit holders to operate in a single pound structure in the Southeastern Alaska Area herring spawn on kelp fishery, as follows:

Stick to the Regulations in place. If the GHL does not permit a "regular" fishery, with 24/7 fishing hours from the time it opens and the normal allocated kelp blade numbers, then do not have a fishery at all.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to propose that there be no more than four Roe-On-Kelp permits in one pound structure to be a requirement, It could remain an option, but not a requirement, regardless of the GHL in order to have a fishery like there was in spring of 2017 in the Southern Southeast Alaska area. It is a logistical nightmare for the fisherman and law enforcement. We had too much time invested and could not fish. The fish went by the traditional pounding grounds at night or too deep of water and were uncatchable until they were 5 miles north west and spawning in an area where no pound structures were staged to properly execute a fishery. By the time there was enough spawn to lift the restrictions, it was all over. wasted money and resources.

PROPOSED BY: Houston Vaughan

(EF-F17-024)

PROPOSAL 110

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.

Allow the department to close fishing to some herring pound types to manage the fishery within the allowable guideline harvest level, as follows:

5 AAC 27.185(b) is amended to read:

(b) In Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7, a herring spawn-on-kelp CFEC permit holder may jointly operate an open pound with one or more other herring spawn-on-kelp CFEC permit holders and a closed pound with one or more other herring spawn-on-kelp CFEC permit holders. A permit holder operating an open pound may use fronds or individual kelp blades in the open pound, but may not use both during a fishing season.

(xx) The department may close fishing for some pound types listed in 5 AAC 27.185 (c) and 5 AAC 27.185 (dd)(2) if necessary to avoid exceeding the guideline harvest level.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the 2015 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish board meeting, the kelp allocation table was modified to give incentives for permit holders to join into multi-permit, combined pounds. In addition, there was no kelp allocation and thus no fishery, when the guideline harvest level (GHL) was less than 250 tons. This was initially effective as the number of structures decreased from 76 in 2015 to 46 in 2016.

The modification to the kelp allocation tables did not provide the incentives needed for the unexpected drop in GHL that occurred in the 2017 season. In order to remain within the GHL of 349 tons, the department determined that no more than 20 herring pounds could be allowed. This number of pounds was determined using the GHL of 349 tons and assumptions of 20 tons of herring per pound and 125 permits participating in the fishery. The department closed the fishery to herring

pounds with fewer than six permit holders by invoking 5 AAC 27.185 (q) which allows the department to restrict the transfer of herring into pounds, effectively limiting the fishery to 20 pound structures.

The department is asking that language be added to the regulation to make clear that the department may close any of the pound types to fishermen in order to achieve the appropriate number of pound structures and thus manage the fishery within the GHL.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-109)

PROPOSAL 111

5 AAC 27.130. Lawful gear for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Define and allow closed half pound structures in the Southeastern Alaska Area herring spawn on kelp fishery, as follows:

Give the department the resources to allow pounds with half the surface square footage as those defined in 5 AAC 27.130 (e)(1)(C).

Draft Regulatory Language:

5 AAC 27.130(e)(1)(C)(vi) If the commissioner determines that " half pounds" will contribute to the conservation of a resource or management of the fishery, the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow pounds as defined in 5 AAC 27.130 (e)(1)(C) with half of the surface square footage and a minimum of half of the required permit holders to be used.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2016, the number of pound structures Craig/Klawock herring pound fishery was 46. The 2017 Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the Craig/Klawock herring pound fishery was 349 tons. The department estimates that 20 tons of herring are used per pound structure, which only allows for 17.5 pounds on the grounds to remain within the 2017 GHL, and the department is only allowing a minimum of six permit holders to per closed pound.

By only allowing six permit holders per closed pounds this forces permit holders to work with permit holders that are not part of the original group and are not necessarily on the same page regarding management of the pound.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Svenson (HQ-F17-009)

PROPOSAL 112

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.

Use a conversion factor applied to final product weight to determine harvest in the Southeastern Alaska Area herring spawn on kelp fishery, as follows:

(C) Guideline Harvest Range for Herring (Tons)

(D) Guideline Harvest Range for Herring (Tons)

A harvest of 0,273 tons of spawn-on-kelp per ton of herring shall be allowed in the open pound fishery for spawn-on-kelp. The closed pound fishery should be shut down until the dead loss of herring and a harvest metric based on weight can be determined.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game did a study in Sitka and determined a percentage of harvest, based on weight, that represents the extraction from the herring biomass when harvesting spawn-on-kelp using the open pound method. This study was based upon the open pound experimental fishery conducted in 1998 & 1999. The regulations should now use weight, in the open pound fishery, as the determining factor for herring spawn on kelp harvest, not the number of kelp blades.

PROPOSED BY: Darrell Kapp

(EF-F17-080)
