

PROPOSAL 171

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Modify spawning biomass threshold minimum and maximum harvest rates for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B, as follows:

5 AAC 27.160(g) is amended to read:

(g) The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B shall be established by the department and will be a harvest rate [PERCENTAGE] that is not less than **10**[12] percent, not more than **15**[20] percent, and within that range shall be determined by the following formula:

$$[\text{Harvest Rate Percentage} = 2 + 8 \left(\frac{\text{Spawning Biomass (in tons)}}{20,000} \right)]$$

$$\text{Harvest Rate} = (0.000002 * \text{Forecast}) + 0.048$$

The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than **26,000**[25,000] tons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department completed an analysis to update the estimated unfished spawning biomass for Sitka Sound herring, upon which the threshold is based, using data through 2022. Based on recent research, and as a precaution recognizing that a harvest rate strategy evaluation has not been completed for Sitka Sound herring, the department proposes a threshold based on 30% of unfished spawning biomass (26,000 tons) and a sliding scale harvest rate of 10-15% (15% maximum at 51,000 tons).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-152)
