

## **PROPOSAL 95**

### **5 AAC 27.300. Description of Prince William Sound, 5 AAC 27.305. Fishing Districts, Subdistricts, and Sections, and 5 AAC 27.365. Prince William Sound Herring Management Plan.**

Make numerous changes to management of commercial herring fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:

**5 AAC 27.300. Description of Prince William Sound Area.** The Prince William Sound Area **includes all waters of Alaska between 148° 50.25' W. long. (near Cape Fairfield) and 144° W. long. (near Cape Suckling)** [HAS AS ITS WESTERN BOUNDARY A LINE EXTENDING SOUTH FROM CAPE FAIRFIELD, AS ITS EASTERN BOUNDARY A LINE EXTENDING SOUTH FROM CAPE SUCKLING AND AS ITS SOUTHERN BOUNDARY 59° N. LAT.]

### **5 AAC 27.305. Fishing districts, Subdistricts and Sections.**

**(a) Prince William Sound District: all waters of the Prince William Sound Management Area, excluding the Kayak Island District. (b) Kayak Island District: all waters from a line from a point at 60° 01.16' N. lat., 144° 00.00' W. long., to a point at 59° 57.98' N. lat., 144° 00.00' W. long., to a point at 59° 44.29' N. lat., 144° 36.12' W. long., to a point at 60° 17.13' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long., to Hook Point at 60° 20.11' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long.**  
**[REPEALED]**

**5 AAC 27.365. Prince William Sound District Herring Management Plan.** (a) The purpose of the Prince William Sound **District** herring management plan in this section is to describe management strategies for all Prince William Sound **District** herring fisheries and to provide for an optimum sustained yield and an equitable allocation for all user groups. (b) The management plan for herring fisheries in **the** Prince William Sound **District** assumes that all of these fisheries use a single stock of herring which may be harvested at the rate of zero to 20 percent of the spawning biomass. The management year for herring is **January 1 through December 31** [JULY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30]. Guideline harvest levels are established before the **sac roe fisheries** [FOOD AND BAIT SEASON] in the **spring** [FALL] and are based upon the final spawning biomass estimate from the previous year, cohort analysis, and projected recruitment. The minimum spawning biomass threshold is **8400** [22,000] tons, and no fishery may be opened if the estimated spawning biomass is below this threshold level. The department may allow, based upon age class strength, a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate between zero and 20 percent of the projected spawning biomass when that biomass is between 8400 [22,000] tons and 42,500 tons. The department may allow a harvest of herring at a maximum exploitation rate of 20 percent when the total projected spawning biomass is greater than 42,500 tons.

(c) The guideline harvest of herring is allocated by fishery as follows:

- (1) purse seine sac roe fishery: 58.1 percent;
- (2) gillnet sac roe fishery: 3.4 percent;
- (3) food and bait fishery: 16.3 percent;
- (4) spawn-on-kelp not in pounds: 8.0 percent; and
- (5) spawn-on-kelp in pounds: 14.2 percent.

(d) Harvest quotas for the spawn-on-kelp fisheries are derived as follows:

- (1) spawn-on-kelp not in pounds: one ton of spawn-on-kelp may be taken for every eight tons of herring allocated to this fishery;

(2) spawn-on-kelp in pounds: the spawn-on-kelp in pounds harvest objective will be set based on the ratio of one ton of spawn on kelp for every 12.5 tons of herring allocated to this fishery; the commissioner, or an authorized designee, shall manage the fishery to achieve this harvest objective by restricting those persons holding a CFEC permit to participate in the fishery to a specified number of kelp blades annually based on the number of permit holders registered under 5 AAC 27.334(a) to fish with pounds, and to an equal portion of the guideline harvest of herring allocated in (c)(5) of this section based on the total number of permit holders.

**(6) 80 percent of the unharvested remainder of spring sac roe fisheries may be allocated to the fall food and bait fishery.**

**5 AAC 27.XXX. Harvest strategies for the Kayak Island District. (a) this district does not have a history of commercial herring harvest and may be opened to fishing on an exploratory basis with no specified guideline harvest level; Prince William Sound Area herring fisheries CFEC permit holders may participate in this exploratory district using the gear standard specified on their permits; the district listed as exploratory under this paragraph may be opened or closed, based on inseason information such as observed.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Updates to the PWS herring management plan and lowering GHJ back to historical levels. These levels were changed in the 1990s and the fishery has remained closed ever since, disenfranchising historic users and an entire generation of younger commercial fisherman who could use a spring fishery and income but have not been able to participate due to this change.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** I utilized the language from an ADFG originated proposal for the majority, however modified the GHJ level back to the proper historical level.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenneth Jones

(HQ-F24-006)

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