

SUBSISTENCE OVERVIEW

Presentation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries Ketchikan, Alaska - January 27, 2025



ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND: SALMON

- Salmon is a primary food source for Southeast residents for thousands of years and in current day
- Traditional food source for Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples
- Most households throughout the region fish with at least one other household
- Salmon for home use are harvested with a variety of methods
- Salmon are frozen, smoked, dried, and jarred for year-round use
- All species of salmon are used by Southeast residents





Southeast resident jars salmon

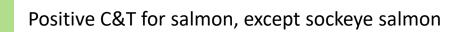


C&T FINDINGS, SALMON

Yakutat C&T Canada Gulf of Alaska

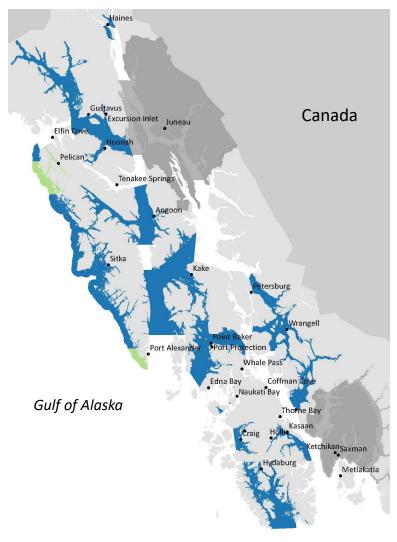






Nonsubsistence Areas

Southeast Alaska C&T





AMOUNTS REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE 4

Districts 1 - 4:

9,068 - 17,503 salmon

Districts 5 - 8, 10, and Section 9-B:

4,120 - 7,345 salmon

Section 9-A and District 13:

10,487 - 20,225 salmon

District 12:

1,100 - 1,700 salmon

District 14:

600 - 1,500 salmon

District 15:

7,174 - 10,414 salmon

Yakutat Area:

5,800 - 7,832 salmon





Haines resident prepares a net



SUBSISTENCE SALMON

Gear

- Drift gillnets, set gillnets, gaffs, spears, beach seines, dip nets, cast nets, hand purse seines
- Varies by management area

Seasons

- Managed by system and species
- Time and area authority

Limits

- Specified in regulation
- Possession and annual
- Varies by system



Haines residents set a net

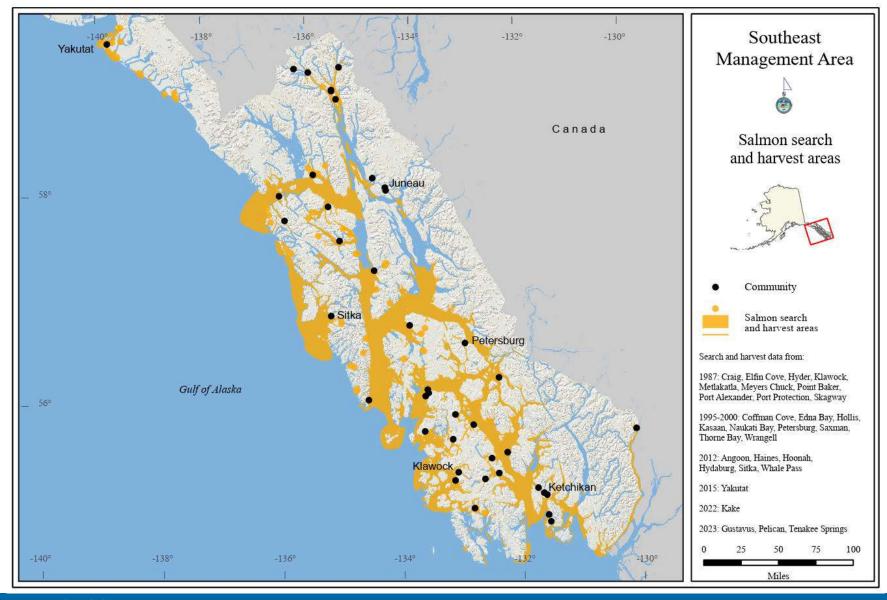


COMPREHENSIVE SUBSISTENCE DATA BY YEAR



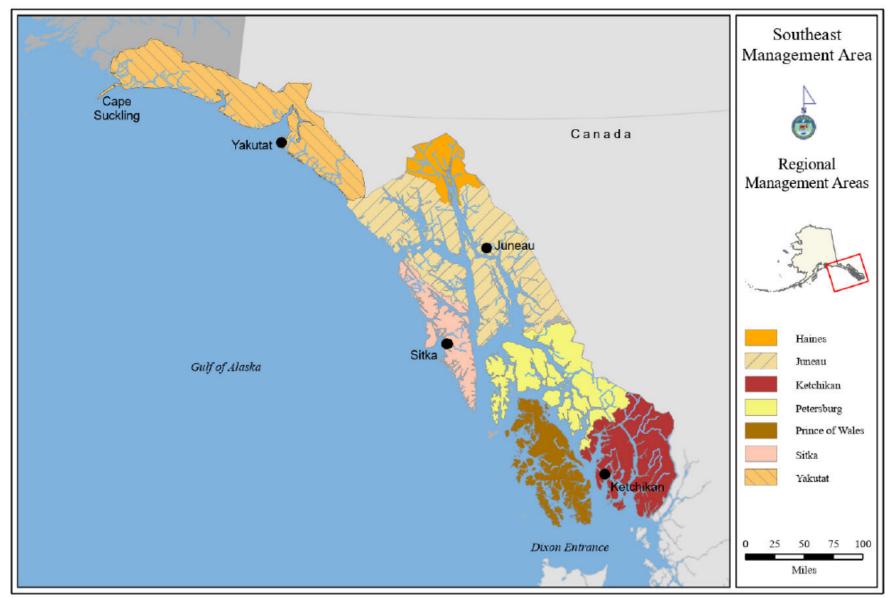


SALMON SEARCH AND HARVEST AREAS





SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT AREAS



Southeast Management Areas

Yakutat

Includes the community of Yakutat

Haines

Includes the communities of Haines, Klukwan, and Skagway

Juneau

Includes the communities of Juneau, Angoon, Hoonah, Tenakee Springs, Gustavus, Pelican, and Elfin Cove

Sitka

Includes the communities of Sitka and Port Alexander

Petersburg/Wrangell

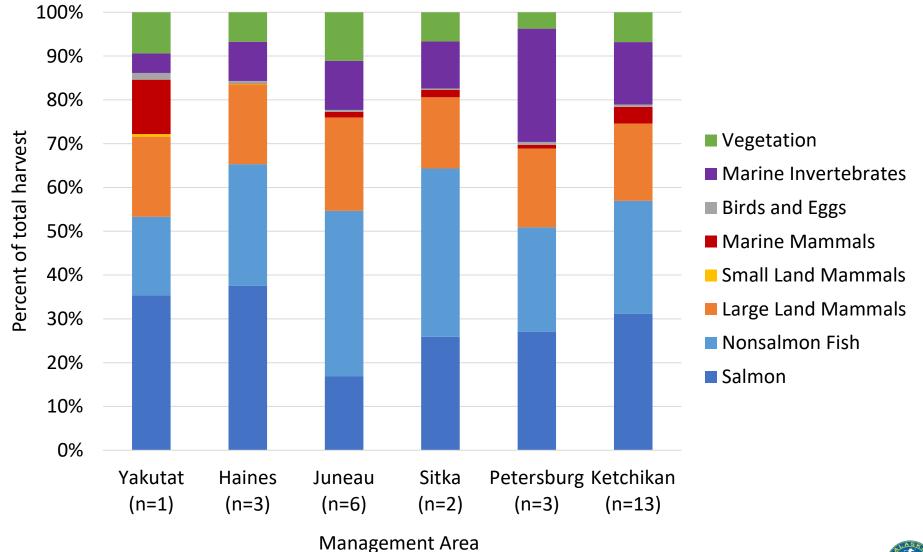
Includes the communities of Petersburg, Wrangell, and Kake

Ketchikan

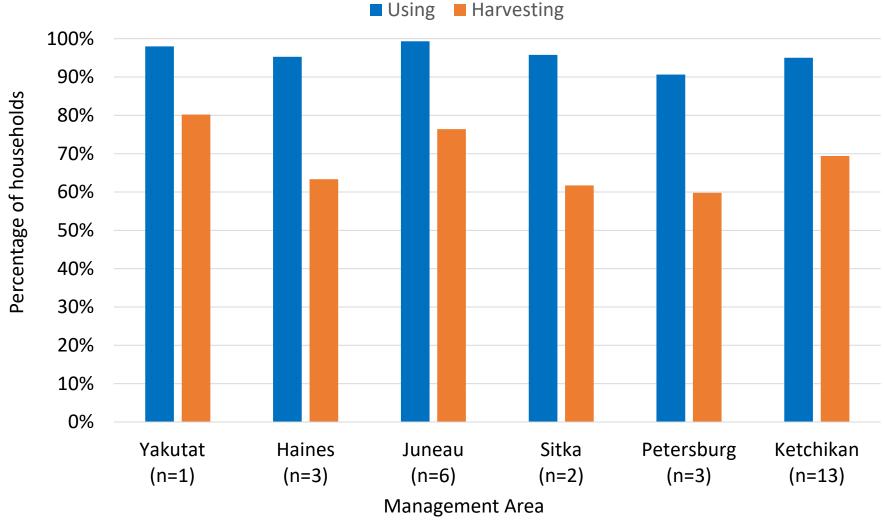
Includes all POW communities, Ketchikan, and Metlakatla



HARVEST COMPOSITION

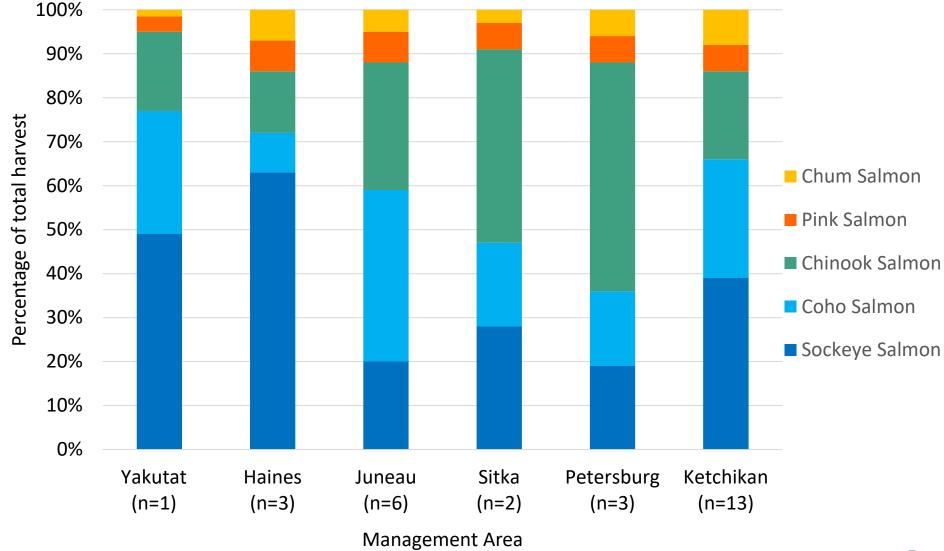


HARVEST AND USE OF SALMON





SALMON HARVEST COMPOSITION



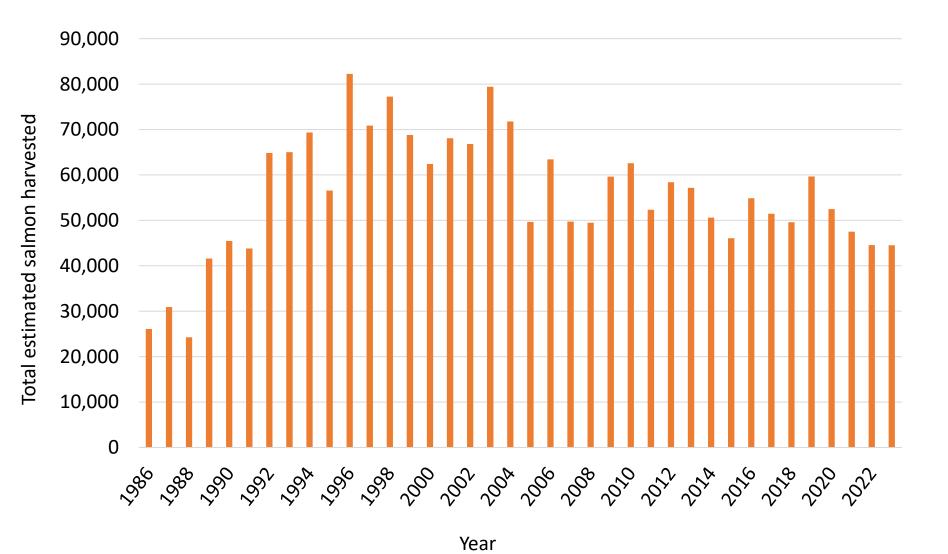
SUBSISTENCE SALMON PERMITS

- Managed by DCF
- Available online
- Harvest reporting
- Trends over time
- Approx 3,000 permits
- 80% return rate

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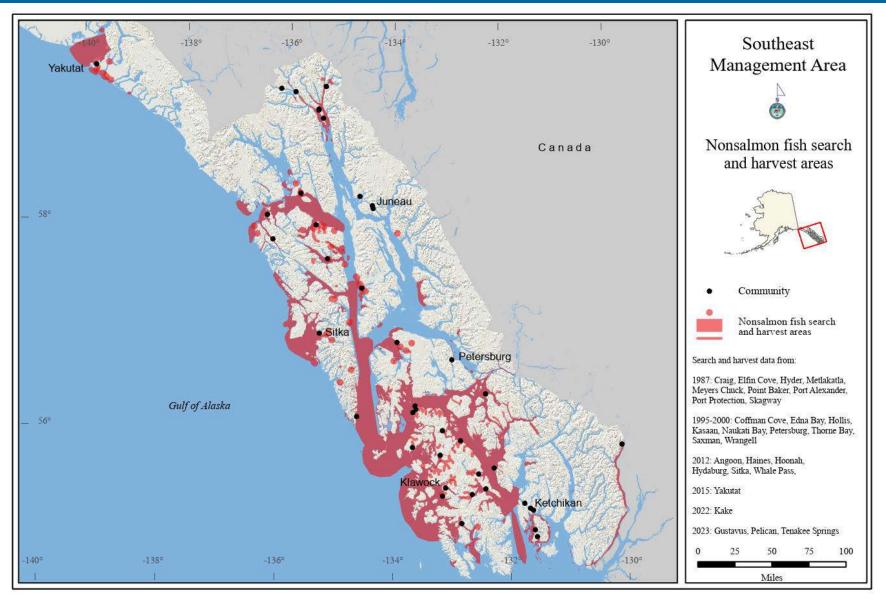


Salmon Harvest Permit Data





Nonsalmon Search and Harvest Areas





Nonsalmon Fish C&Ts

Halibut

 Primary nonsalmon fish harvested by weight by Southeast residents

Eulachon (Hooligan)

Smelt

Bottomfish

Dolly Varden

Steelhead Trout

Herring

- Traditional subsistence food
- Only species with ANS



Klukwan resident processes hooligan oil



ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND: HERRING EGGS

- Northwest Coast activity
- Cultural and nutritional importance
- Sitka long-standing place of prominence in the harvest
- Specialized harvest
- Sharing is paramount
- Distribution and exchange networks move eggs throughout the state and beyond
- Preservation: Historically air dried or packed in salt. Today freezers most common. Eaten fresh.

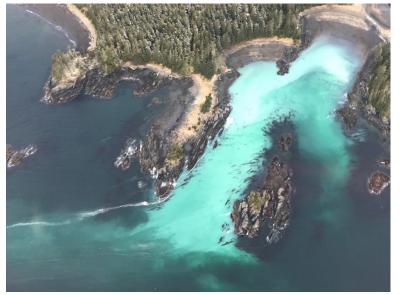


Herring eggs on hemlock branches



Drying herring eggs on branches
Photo courtesy Gathet Museum and Archives

HERRING SPAWN











HERRING EGG HARVESTS















Processing Herring Eggs













HERRING EGGS











Harvest Monitoring Program

HERRING EGG SUBSISTENCE HARVEST SURVEY SITKA, ALASKA

2024

This survey is used to estimate subsistence harvests of herring eggs from Sitka Sound and to describe community subsistence economies. We will publish a summary report which will be available to all households in your community. We share this information with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. We work with the Federal Regional Advisory Councils and with local Fish and Game Advisory Committees to better manage subsistence, and to implement federal and state subsistence priorities.

This project is guided by the research principles adopted by the Alaska Federation of Natives in 1993. We will NOT identify your household. We will NOT use this information for enforcement. Participation in this survey is voluntary. Even if you agree to be surveyed, you may stop at any time.

COMMUNITY ID:	Sitka	313
NTERVIEWER:		
INTERVIEW DATE	:	
	DATA CODED BY:	
	DATA ENTERED BY:	
	SUPERVISOR:	





COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

RESOURCE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA 429 KATLIAN STREET SITKA, AK 99835

907-747-7168

DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE ALASKA DEPT OF FISH & GAME 802 3RD STREET JUNEAU, AK 99801

907-465-3617



Technical Paper No. 508

The Subsistence Harvest of Pacific Herring Spawn in Sitka Sound, Alaska, 2024

by

Lauren A. Sill

and

Terri Barnett

January 2025

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Subsistence





Harvest Monitoring Program

- To conduct in-person interviews with households who harvest herring spawn;
- To produce estimates of the total pounds of herring spawn harvested on hemlock branches, Macrocystis kelp, hair seaweed and "other" substrates; and,
- To identify locations where herring spawn are harvested.

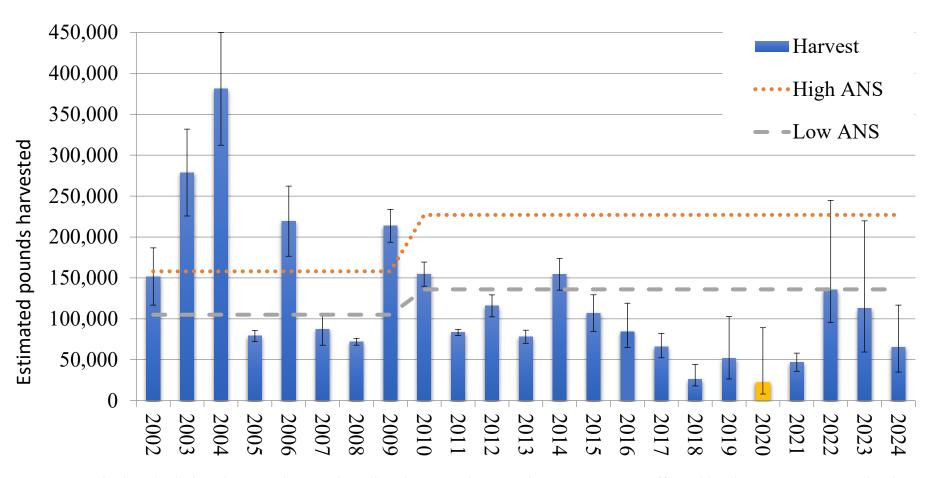








ESTIMATED HERRING EGG HARVEST

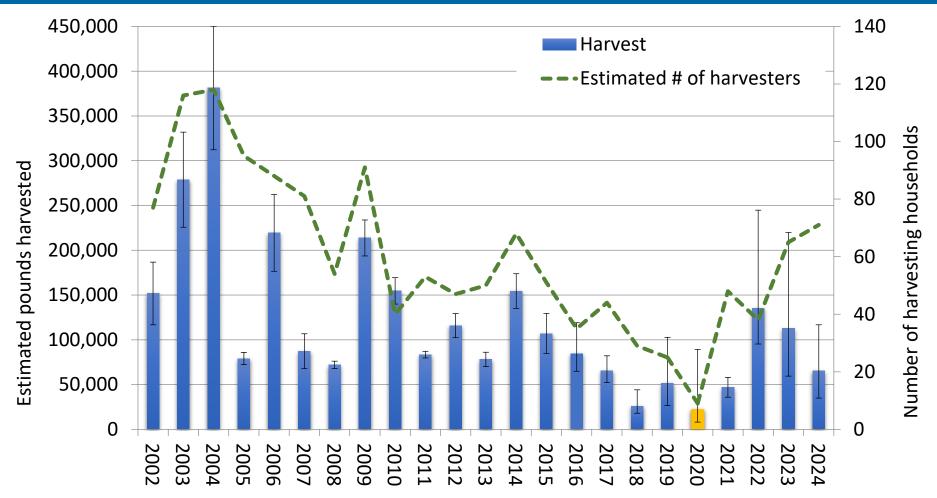


Note The bar depicting the 2020 harvest is yellow because the 2020 harvest year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total pounds useable weight of herring eggs and amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) of herring spawn on all substrates in Sitka Sound, 2002–2024.



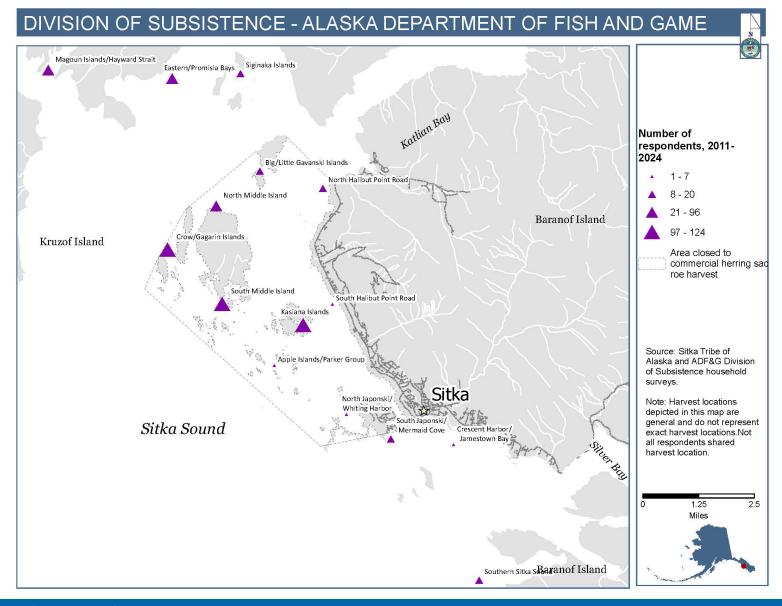
HERRING EGG HARVEST EFFORT



Note The bar depicting the 2020 harvest is yellow because the 2020 harvest year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total pounds of herring eggs, useable weight and number of subsistence harvesters in Sitka Sound, 2002–2024.

HARVEST LOCATIONS, 2011–2024



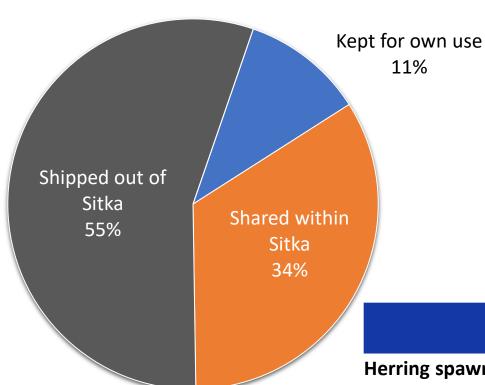


Sharing Herring Eggs, 2010–2024

Region	Frequency of sharing
Southeast	152
Arctic	24
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	24
Mat-Su	17
Outside Alaska	16
Kenai Peninsula	11
Interior	9
Bristol Bay	4
Aleutians	3
Prince William Sound	2



DISTRIBUTION OF HERRING EGG HARVEST



	Kept for own use	Shared within Sitka	Shipped out of Sitka
Herring spawn - all types	11%	34%	55%
Herring spawn on hemlock branches	8%	39%	53%
Herring spawn on kelp	25%	7%	69%
Herring spawn, hair seaweed	33%	48%	19%



ASSESSMENTS

What size vessel did households use to harvest herring spawn in 2024?

Number of					
households	less than 20			Commercial	
responding	feet	20 to 24 feet	Over 24 feet	vessel	Other
38	45%	24%	26%	5%	8%

Do you harvest with other households?

Number of households	Respondents with other h	
responding	Yes	No
38	65.8%	34.2%



ASSESSMENTS

Q: Did you get enough herring eggs for your own household in 2023? Did you get enough to meet your needs for sharing? (n=31)

	Yes	No
For own household:	84%	16%
To share:	71%	29%

Q: In 2023, were you asked for eggs that you could not supply? (n=31)

Yes	No
26%	74%



ADF&G SUBSISTENCE WORK

Current Projects

- Icy Strait Comprehensives
- Klawock Inseason Sockeye Monitoring
- Sitka Herring Surveys

Partnerships

- Klawock Cooperative Association
- Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- Sealaska
- Various local governments and tribal organizations

Project Proposals

- Central POW
- Yakutat Salmon Ethnography
- Salmon Permit Analysis and Harvest Location Distribution





CONTACT US

Lauren Sill

Southern Region Program Manager lauren.sill@alaska.gov (907) 465-3617

Emily Doll

Southeast Subsistence Resource Specialist 2 emily.doll@alaska.gov (907) 267-2368

Community Subsistence Harvest Information System http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/

Division Technical Paper Serieshttp://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications

Thank you to all the Southeast residents who participated in this research!



