



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Headquarters Office

1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526  
Main: 907.465.4210  
Fax: 907.465.2604

November 24, 2020

Mr. David Witherell, Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
604 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Witherell:

This letter provides an estimate of the mature biomass of Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) in the eastern Bering Sea for the purposes of establishing the 2021 prohibited species catch (PSC) limit per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP. In 2020, there were surveys for the Togiak and Port Moller/Port Heiden stocks; none of the other eastern Bering Sea stocks were surveyed. The forecast for Togiak is complete and department staff members are currently drafting an advisory announcement that will update the public on current stock status and fishery harvest limits. The department recommends using the sum of the Togiak 2021-forecast biomass and a general indication of population sizes for the other management stocks (long-term medians of aerial survey biomass estimates) as the basis for the 2021 PSC limit. Values are contained in the attached tables. The combined biomass for the eastern Bering Sea in 2021 is estimated to be 300,140 short tons, equivalent to 272,281 metric tons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sherri Dressel".

Sherri Dressel  
Statewide Herring Fisheries Scientist

Table 1. Estimates of Pacific herring mature biomass for spawning aggregations in the eastern Bering Sea, Alaska, for purpose of establishing the 2021 prohibited species catch limit.

<u>Spawning area</u>	<u>short tons</u>	<u>metric tons</u>
Norton Sound	34,180	31,007
Cape Romanzof	3,638	3,300
Nunivak Island	4,921	4,464
Nelson Island	5,420	4,916
Cape Avinof	2,083	1,890
Goodnews Bay	5,207	4,724
Security Cove	5,249	4,762
Togiak	236,742	214,768
Port Moller/Port Heiden	2,700	2,449
Total	300,140	272,281

Table 2. Pacific herring mature biomass projections (mt) for spawning aggregations in the eastern Bering Sea, Alaska, provided to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for the purpose of establishing the 2013-2021 prohibited species catch limits per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP.

<u>Spawning area</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Norton Sound	48035	47,299	48,794	48,794	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007
Cape Romanzof	4,349	2,634	4,366	4,366	4,678	4,678	3,300	3,300	3,300
Nunivak Island	2,612	2,068	5,132	140	3,540	3,540	4,464	4,464	4,464
Nelson Island	4,266	3,882	27,422	27,422	4,785	4,785	4,916	4,916	4,916
Cape Avinof	1,901	1,200	9,456	9,456	3,126	3,126	1,890	1,890	1,890
Goodnews Bay	29,944	7,116	16,812	8,263	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724
Security Cove	18,144	7,852	11,681	8,540	4,781	4,781	4,762	4,762	4,762
Togiak	152,169	142,834	148,306	147,185	142,453	124,062	197,355	195,793	214,768
Port Moller/ Port Heiden	3,382	2,268	2,268	8,932	2,184	2,268	2,291	2,350	2,449
Total	264,802	217,153	274,236	263,098	201,278	182,971	254,709	253,207	272,281

cc: Steve Whitney, NOAA  
 Mary Furuness, NOAA  
 Diana Evans, NPFMC  
 Rachel Baker, ADF&G  
 Forrest Bowers, ADF&G  
 Chris Siddon, ADF&G  
 Karla Bush, ADF&G