

## Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Headquarters Office

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

November 24, 2021

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 2022 prohibited species catch (PSC) limit per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP. In 2021, 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 2022-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 2022 PSC limit. Values are contained in the attached tables. The combined biomass for the eastern Bering Sea in 2022 is estimated to be 420,948 short tons, equivalent to 381,876 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 2022 prohibited species catch limit.

| <b>Spawning area</b>    | <b>short tons</b> | <b>metric tons</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 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                  | 357,536           | 324,350            |
| Port Moller/Port Heiden | 2,715             | 2,463              |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>420,948</b>    | <b>381,876</b>     |

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 2014-2022 prohibited species catch limits per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP.

| <b>Spawning area</b>        | <b>2014</b>    | <b>2015</b>    | <b>2016</b>    | <b>2017</b>    | <b>2018</b>    | <b>2019</b>    | <b>2020</b>    | <b>2021</b>    | <b>2022</b>    |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Norton Sound                | 47,299         | 48,794         | 48,794         | 31,007         | 31,007         | 31,007         | 31,007         | 31,007         | 31,007         |
| Cape Romanzof               | 2,634          | 4,366          | 4,366          | 4,678          | 4,678          | 3,300          | 3,300          | 3,300          | 3,300          |
| Nunivak Island              | 2,068          | 5,132          | 140            | 3,540          | 3,540          | 4,464          | 4,464          | 4,464          | 4,464          |
| Nelson Island               | 3,882          | 27,422         | 27,422         | 4,785          | 4,785          | 4,916          | 4,916          | 4,916          | 4,916          |
| Cape Avinof                 | 1,200          | 9,456          | 9,456          | 3,126          | 3,126          | 1,890          | 1,890          | 1,890          | 1,890          |
| Goodnews Bay                | 7,116          | 16,812         | 8,263          | 4,724          | 4,724          | 4,724          | 4,724          | 4,724          | 4,724          |
| Security Cove               | 7,852          | 11,681         | 8,540          | 4,781          | 4,781          | 4,762          | 4,762          | 4,762          | 4,762          |
| Togiak                      | 142,834        | 148,306        | 147,185        | 142,453        | 124,062        | 197,355        | 195,793        | 214,768        | 324,350        |
| Port Moller/<br>Port Heiden | 2,268          | 2,268          | 8,932          | 2,184          | 2,268          | 2,291          | 2,350          | 2,449          | 2,463          |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>217,153</b> | <b>274,236</b> | <b>263,098</b> | <b>201,278</b> | <b>182,971</b> | <b>254,709</b> | <b>253,207</b> | <b>272,281</b> | <b>381,876</b> |

cc: Steve Whitney, NOAA  
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