



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

Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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November 25, 2019

Mr. David Witherell, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
604 West 4th 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 2019 prohibited species catch (PSC) limit per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP. In 2019, there were only surveys for the Togiak stock; 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 2020-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 2020 PSC limit. Values for 2020 are contained in the attached tables. The combined biomass for the eastern Bering Sea in 2020 is 279,114 short tons, equivalent to 253,207 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 2020 prohibited species catch limit.

Spawning area	short tons	metric tons
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	215,826	195,793
Port Moller/Port Heiden	2,591	2,350
Total	279,114	253,207

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 2012-2020 prohibited species catch limits per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP.

Spawning area	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Norton Sound	39,396	48,035	47,299	48,794	48,794	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007
Cape Romanzof	4,349	4,349	2,634	4,366	4,366	4,678	4,678	3,300	3,300
Nunivak Island	2,612	2,612	2,068	5,132	140	3,540	3,540	4,464	4,464
Nelson Island	4,267	4,266	3,882	27,422	27,422	4,785	4,785	4,916	4,916
Cape Avinof	1,901	1,901	1,200	9,456	9,456	3,126	3,126	1,890	1,890
Goodnews Bay	29,944	29,944	7,116	16,812	8,263	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724
Security Cove	11,061	18,144	7,852	11,681	8,540	4,781	4,781	4,762	4,762
Togiak	112,260	152,169	142,834	148,306	147,185	142,453	124,062	197,355	195,793
Port Moller/Port Heiden	3,629	3,382	2,268	2,268	8,932	2,184	2,268	2,291	2,350
Total	209,419	264,802	217,153	274,236	263,098	201,278	182,971	254,709	253,207

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