



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of  
Fish and Game**

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
Headquarters Office

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December 2, 2015

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

Dear Chris:

This letter provides an estimate of the mature biomass of Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) in the eastern Bering Sea for the purposes of establishing 2016 bycatch caps per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP. Due to State budget cuts, there were no surveys in 2015 and no surveys foreseen in the near future for any Bering Sea herring management stock other than Togiak. So, in the absence of biomass projections for management stocks other than Togiak, the department recommends using the sum of the Togiak 2016-forecast biomass and the general indication of recent population sizes for the other management stocks (10-year mean biomass for years with sufficient surveys). These values are contained in the attached table. The combined biomass is 290,016 short tons, equivalent to 263,098 metric tons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherri Dressel".

Sherri Dressel  
Statewide Herring Fisheries Scientist

Addressee's name

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Date

Table 1. Projection of 2016 Pacific herring mature biomass for Togiak and recent mature population size for other spawning aggregations in the eastern Bering Sea, Alaska.

<b>Spawning area</b>	<b>short tons</b>	<b>metric tons</b>
Norton Sound	53,786	48,794
Cape Romanzof	4,813	4,366
Nunivak Island	154	140
Nelson Island	30,228	27,422
Cape Avinof	10,423	9,456
Goodnews Bay	9,108	8,263
Security Cove	9,414	8,540
Togiak	162,244	147,185
Port Moller/Port Heiden	9,846	8,932
	290,016	263,098

cc: Steve Whitney, NOAA  
Mary Furuness, NOAA  
Diana Stram, NPFMC  
Scott Kelley, ADF&G  
Chris Siddon, ADF&G