



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

C4 HANDOUT
December 2017
**Department of
Fish and Game**

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
Headquarters Office

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

December 5, 2017

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

Dear David:

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 2018 prohibited species catch (PSC) limit per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP. In 2017, there were surveys for Togiak and Port Moller/Port Heiden. The forecast for Togiak is complete and Regional staff members are currently drafting a news release. The department recommends using the sum of the Togiak 2018-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 2018 PSC limit. Values for 2018 are contained in the attached tables. The combined biomass for the eastern Bering Sea in 2018 is 201,743 short tons, equivalent to 183,017 metric tons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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 2018 prohibited species catch limit.

Spawning area	short tons	metric tons
Norton Sound	34,180	31,007
Cape Romanzof	5,157	4,678
Nunivak Island	3,902	3,540
Nelson Island	5,275	4,785
Cape Avinof	3,446	3,126
Goodnews Bay	5,207	4,724
Security Cove	5,270	4,781
Togiak	136,756	124,062
Port Moller/Port Heiden	2,500	2,268
Total	201,693	182,971

Table 2. Pacific herring mature biomass projections for spawning aggregations in the eastern Bering Sea, Alaska, provided to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for the purpose of establishing the 2008-2018 prohibited species catch limits per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP.

Spawning area	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Norton Sound	33,491	34,434	38,534	39,396	48,035	47,299	48,794	48,794	31,007	31,007
Cape Romanzof	4,402	3,606	5,024	4,349	4,349	2,634	4,366	4,366	4,678	4,678
Nunivak Island	2,849	4,176	3,014	2,612	2,612	2,068	5,132	140	3,540	3,540
Nelson Island	4,674	4,187	4,765	4,267	4,266	3,882	27,422	27,422	4,785	4,785
Cape Avinof	2,042	1,789	2,171	1,901	1,901	1,200	9,456	9,456	3,126	3,126
Goodnews Bay	5,204	6,259	33,393	29,944	29,944	7,116	16,812	8,263	4,724	4,724
Security Cove	5,158	9,696	11,901	11,061	18,144	7,852	11,681	8,540	4,781	4,781
Togiak	110,495	133,152	127,786	112,260	152,169	142,834	148,306	147,185	142,453	124,062
Port Moller/Port Heiden	1,361	136	680	3,629	3,382	2,268	2,268	8,932	2,184	2,268
Total	169,675	197,435	227,269	209,419	264,802	217,153	274,236	263,098	201,278	182,971

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