



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

Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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November 25, 2024

Mr. David Witherell, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third Avenue, Suite 400
L92 Building, 4th floor
Anchorage, AK 99501

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 2025 prohibited species catch (PSC) limit per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP. The combined biomass for the eastern Bering Sea in 2025 is estimated to be 265,096 metric tons, which is a 5% increase from the estimate for 2024. This estimate uses a recent indication of population size for Togiak (10-year median of sufficiently rated aerial survey biomass estimates) and a long-term indication of population sizes for the other management stocks (> 30-year medians of sufficiently rated aerial survey biomass estimates) as the basis for the 2025 PSC limit. Sampling for age composition and weight at age was not conducted for the Togiak stock this year because there was no directed sac roe fishery from which to obtain samples. As a result, the statistical catch at age model was not used to forecast Togiak biomass. For the 2025-forecast, the 2014 aerial survey biomass estimate was dropped from the 10-year moving average (median), and the 2024 aerial survey biomass estimate had a low overall confidence rating and, thus, was not included in the median. Therefore, while the 2024-forecast was based on the median from six aerial survey biomass estimates (those from the last 10 years that had a confidence rating greater than 0.25), the 2025-forecast is based on the median of five aerial survey biomass estimates. 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. None of the other eastern Bering Sea stocks were surveyed. Values are contained in the attached tables.

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 2025 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	4,917
Cape Avinof	2,083	1,890
Goodnews Bay	5,207	4,724
Security Cove	5,249	4,762
Togiak	228,807	207,569
Port Moller/Port Heiden	2,715	2,463
Total	292,220	265,096

Table 2. Pacific herring mature biomass projections (mt) for spawning aggregations in the eastern Bering Sea, Alaska, provided to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for the purpose of establishing the 2017–2025 prohibited species catch limits per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP.

Spawning area	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Norton Sound	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007
Cape Romanzof	4,678	4,678	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300
Nunivak Island	3,540	3,540	4,464	4,464	4,464	4,464	4,464	4,464	4,464
Nelson Island	4,785	4,785	4,916	4,916	4,916	4,916	4,916	4,917	4,917
Cape Avinof	3,126	3,126	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890
Goodnews Bay	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724
Security Cove	4,781	4,781	4,762	4,762	4,762	4,762	4,762	4,762	4,762
Togiak	142,453	124,062	197,355	195,793	214,768	324,350	286,853	195,984	207,569
Port Moller/ Port Heiden	2,184	2,268	2,291	2,350	2,449	2,463	2,463	2,463	2,463
Total	201,278	182,971	254,709	253,207	272,281	381,876	344,379	253,511	265,096

cc: Steve Whitney, NOAA
 Diana Evans, NPFMC
 Rachel Baker, ADF&G
 Forrest Bowers, ADF&G
 Chris Siddon, ADF&G
 Karla Bush, ADF&G
 Bert Lewis, ADF&G
 Jack Erickson, ADF&G