



Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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December 5, 2025

Ms. Diana Evans, Interim Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third Avenue, Suite 400
L92 Building, 4th floor
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Evans:

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 2026 prohibited species catch (PSC) limit per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP. The biomass estimate for the eastern Bering Sea is 201,451 metric tons, which is a 24% decrease from the estimate for 2025. The decrease is due to a change in estimation method for 2026. The recent indication of Togiak population size used for 2025 (10-year median of sufficiently rated aerial survey biomass estimates) was changed to a long-term indication of population size for 2026 (median of sufficiently rated aerial survey biomass estimates since 1981). This change was made because there has been no data collection for Togiak herring in recent years and there is no indication of future surveys or data collection. As a result, the Togiak population size was estimated using the same method (median of sufficiently rated annual aerial survey biomass estimates since 1981) used for all stocks to provide the long-term average biomass of herring in the eastern Bering Sea for setting the 2026 PSC limit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink 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 2026 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	158,650	143,924
Port Moller/Port Heiden	2,715	2,463
Total	222,063	201,451

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 2017–2026 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	2026
Norton Sound	31,007	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	3,300
Nunivak Island	3,540	3,540	4,464	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	4,917
Cape Avinof	3,126	3,126	1,890	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	4,724
Security Cove	4,781	4,781	4,762	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	143,924
Port Moller/ Port Heiden	2,184	2,268	2,291	2,350	2,449	2,463	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	201,451

cc: Steve Whitney, NOAA
Andrew Olson, NOAA
Rachel Baker, ADF&G
Forrest Bowers, ADF&G
Chris Siddon, ADF&G
Sara Miller, ADF&G
Karla Bush, ADF&G
Bert Lewis, ADF&G
Jack Erickson, ADF&G