



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

Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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November 28, 2022

Mr. David Witherell, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West 3rd 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 2023 prohibited species catch (PSC) limit per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP. In 2022, there were 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 2023-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 2023 PSC limit. Values are contained in the attached tables. The combined biomass for the eastern Bering Sea in 2023 is estimated to be 379,615 short tons, equivalent to 344,379 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 2023 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	316,203	286,853
Port Moller/Port Heiden	2,715	2,463
Total	379,615	344,379

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 2015-2023 prohibited species catch limits per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP.

Spawning area	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Norton Sound	48,794	48,794	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007	31,007
Cape Romanzof	4,366	4,366	4,678	4,678	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300
Nunivak Island	5,132	140	3,540	3,540	4,464	4,464	4,464	4,464	4,464
Nelson Island	27,422	27,422	4,785	4,785	4,916	4,916	4,916	4,916	4,916
Cape Avinof	9,456	9,456	3,126	3,126	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890
Goodnews Bay	16,812	8,263	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724	4,724
Security Cove	11,681	8,540	4,781	4,781	4,762	4,762	4,762	4,762	4,762
Togiak	148,306	147,185	142,453	124,062	197,355	195,793	214,768	324,350	286,853
Port Moller/ Port Heiden	2,268	8,932	2,184	2,268	2,291	2,350	2,449	2,463	2,463
Total	274,236	263,098	201,278	182,971	254,709	253,207	272,281	381,876	344,379

cc: Steve Whitney, NOAA
 Mary Furuness, NOAA
 Diana Evans, NPFMC
 Rachel Baker, ADF&G
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