



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Fish and Game**

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
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December 1, 2016

Mr. Chris Oliver, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
604 West 4th 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 the 2017 prohibited species catch (PSC) limit per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP. Due to State budget cuts, there were no surveys in 2016 for any of the eastern Bering Sea herring management stocks. In the absence of biomass projections for management stocks, the department recommends using a general indication of eastern Bering Sea population size based on long-term medians of aerial survey biomass estimates for each of the management stocks as the basis for the 2017 PSC limit. While using the long term median of aerial survey estimates results in a decrease in the estimate of eastern Bering Sea herring biomass for 2017 compared to that provided for 2016, the value is within the range of biomass estimates provided over the last 10 years. Values for 2017, as well as the values provided to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council from 2008 to 2017, are contained in the attached tables. The combined biomass for 2017 is 221,872 short tons, equivalent to 201,278 metric tons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sherri Dressel".

Sherri Dressel
Statewide Herring Fisheries Scientist

Addressee's name

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Date

Table 1. Estimates of Pacific herring mature biomass for spawning aggregations in the eastern Bering Sea, Alaska, for purpose of establishing the 2017 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	157,028	142,453
Port Moller/Port Heiden	2,408	2,184
Total	221,872	201,278

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 2008-2017 prohibited species catch limits per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP.

Spawning area	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Norton Sound	33,930	33,491	34,434	38,534	39,396	48,035	47,299	48,794	48,794	31,007
Cape Romanzof	3,512	4,402	3,606	5,024	4,349	4,349	2,634	4,366	4,366	4,678
Nunivak Island	3,346	2,849	4,176	3,014	2,612	2,612	2,068	5,132	140	3,540
Nelson Island	3,106	4,674	4,187	4,765	4,267	4,266	3,882	27,422	27,422	4,785
Cape Avinof	731	2,042	1,789	2,171	1,901	1,901	1,200	9,456	9,456	3,126
Goodnews Bay	2,957	5,204	6,259	33,393	29,944	29,944	7,116	16,812	8,263	4,724
Security Cove	5,844	5,158	9,696	11,901	11,061	18,144	7,852	11,681	8,540	4,781
Togiak	118,402	110,495	133,152	127,786	112,260	152,169	142,834	148,306	147,185	142,453
Port Moller/Port Heiden	816	1,361	136	680	3,629	3,382	2,268	2,268	8,932	2,184
Total	172,644	169,675	197,435	227,269	209,419	264,802	217,153	274,236	263,098	201,278

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

