

**PROPOSAL 162**

**5 AAC 01.730. Subsistence fishing permits.**

Increase the possession limit for subsistence spawn-on-kelp harvest, as follows:

(g) When issuing a herring spawn-on-kelp subsistence fishing permit, the department may specify on the permit the times and locations for harvesting and the species of kelp that may be taken. The annual possession limit for herring spawn on kelp is [32] **75** pounds for an individual or [158] **325** pounds for a household of two or more persons. [THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE AN ADDITIONAL PERMIT FOR HERRING SPAWN ON KELP ABOVE THE ANNUAL POSSESSION LIMIT IF HARVESTABLE SURPLUSES OF HERRING SPAWN ON KELP ARE AVAILABLE. ]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current possession limits of herring roe-on-kelp of 32 lbs per individual or 158 lbs per household are too low for efficient harvesting and too precise to be easily measured in the field. The current regulations allow for an annual harvest of twice the possession limit, but the permit holder must return to the ADF&G office after harvesting their first possession limit to renew their permit. This necessitates two fishing trips thus burning twice the fuel and taking twice the time. If the ADF&G office is closed for the weekend after the harvester's first trip, the harvest opportunity may be lost due to tides no longer being low enough to harvest or a change in weather. This proposal would allow the full annual limit to be harvested in a single fishing trip and rounds the allowable limit up to the nearest 25 pound increment. Herring roe is often stored in 50 pound wet-lock boxes, making 75 pounds or 325 pounds quantities that can be measured in the field much more easily than 64 pounds or 316 pounds.

While macrocystis kelp was once in limited supply, the now-abundant sea otters have eaten enough sea urchins (which eat kelp), that now great kelp forests flourish. Hence, the amounts of herring roe and kelp taken under roe-on-kelp subsistence permits is negligible compared to the currently available resources.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tad Fujioka

(EF-F20-018)

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