



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

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April 26, 2024

Allen Kimball, Chair
Jeremy Woodrow, Executive Director
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute
311 N. Franklin Street Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801-1147

Subject: Joint Herring Revitalization Committee

Dear Mr. Kimball, Mr. Woodrow and the ASMI Board,

Years ago I had a supervisor who liked to say “Economic development is a full contact sport. Everyone needs to get involved.” I could not agree more.

Through a cooperative joint committee on herring revitalization, the Board of Fisheries (board) and Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (commission) are taking an opportunity to review the commercial herring industry with an eye towards modifying our separate governance structures. In parts of the state the commission permits herring fisheries by product form, something not done for any other fishery. As markets change this permitting structure boxes in permit holders who could otherwise fish at a different time and better utilize the resource. If we are to unwind this longstanding system, we need to go down legal paths not yet walked. For the board, their work is arguably not as complicated, but they are the best venue for reviewing and changing fisheries in Alaska. The commission would prefer to follow their lead in that work.

While there are several legal questions the committee will consider, the other major review item is markets. For us to justify changing longstanding permit structures and fisheries it is critical to understand current market potential as well as aspirational markets. This is where the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) comes into play.

We are developing a research plan for the committee. The first step is to track down current research on herring markets, product forms, lipid studies by region, and other marketing related subjects. The next step is to ask what market research remains to be done. We need ASMI’s help in both of these areas.

I’m pleased that you have set aside time to review this subject at your upcoming board meeting. If you would like me to provide an overview of the committee, I would be happy to. The committee is

myself and board members Tom Carpenter (committee chair) and Gerad Godfrey. We are pleased to have seven other folks serving as advisors, including ASMI's Bruce Schactler.

Attached to this letter is the board's policy, 2024-304-FB, establishing the committee and providing additional details on purpose and process.

Sincerely,



Glenn Haight
Commissioner

cc: Tom Carpenter, Committee Chair, Alaska Board of Fisheries Member
Art Nelson, Executive Director, Boards Support, ADF&G
Shaundy Perry, Executive Director, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission



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ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

JOINT BOARD OF FISHERIES / COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION HERRING REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

2024-304-FB

Alaska's herring roe fisheries have declined in value since the 1990's. The regulatory structure was designed to support a majority of the harvest for herring roe. To facilitate higher value markets and uses for herring, regulatory structures must change.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) is the state's lead entity for creating and amending fisheries for the maximum value. Since the 1970's the board established numerous herring fisheries around the state which includes historic allocations to certain uses.

The Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (commission) was established to limit participation in fisheries in part to support economic stability for commercial fishermen. As the commission established its permitting system for herring it was done based predominately on seasonal fisheries and product form, i.e. sac roe, roe on kelp, food/bait.

Both authorities recognize that the regulatory systems may need to adapt to support changes in the herring fishery for the benefit of the seafood industry. To better understand current and potential markets, and review potential regulatory change to facilitate those markets, the board and commission agree to establish a joint committee on herring revitalization statewide.

The committee will meet at least once in the spring 2024 to fully execute its charge, review industry & public nominations, and determine research needs for future meetings. The committee will meet as needed, but envisioned at least three times by January 2025 to conclude its work. Final products may include assessments on current and potential markets, and regulatory options for change to compliment potential markets.

Membership will include at least two board members, a CFEC commissioner, and regionally diverse representation of public members, including commercial and subsistence harvesters, and the processing sector. The committee will seek assistance from the Department of Law, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and the Department of Fish and Game.

Travel costs will be handled by both agencies with CFEC handling costs associated with special guests if necessary. CFEC will cover meeting facility costs. Industry participants will cover their own costs.

Vote: 7-0

_____/s/_____

John Wood, Chair

March 5, 2024