

Summary of the 2004-05 Pacific Herring Commercial Fisheries in San Francisco Bay



Prepared for the
Public Meeting
April 12, 2005
Sausalito, CA

TOM MOORE, gill net fishery management

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Marine Region, 1850 Bay Flat Rd., Bodega Bay, CA

REVIEW OF THE 2004-2005 SAN FRANCISCO BAY PACIFIC HERRING FISHERIES

QUOTAS

The total quota for San Francisco Bay was set at 3,440 tons for the 2004-2005 season. There was **no combined** biomass estimate for the 2004-05 season. The 3,440 ton quota was based only on spawning ground surveys for the 2004-05 season.

HEOK: The total quota for the herring eggs-on-kelp fishery was 55.7 tons of herring-eggs-on-kelp, which was converted from 251 tons of whole fish from the total San Francisco Bay quota. All herring-eggs-on-kelp permittees must hold a herring permit (i.e., a regular gill net or a CH gill net), and each permittee's share of the herring quota (from the sac roe fishery) is transferred to the herring-eggs-on-kelp fishery. In 1994, the Fish and Game Commission decided that CH permittees who fish herring-eggs-on-kelp would be allocated a quota equal to the quota formerly received by round haul permittees (i.e., 0.79% of the sac roe quota). Two CH permittees chose to fish herring-eggs-on-kelp this season.

SEASON DATES

GILL NET FISHERY: The opening and closing dates of the gill net seasons are adjusted each year to account for annual changes in the calendar. Approximately three weeks of fishing are provided for the DH fishery with a closing day before December 25. This season, the DH fishery began at noon on Monday, December 5, 2004 and the closing was set at noon on Friday, December 23, 2004. The Odd or Even gill net fisheries traditionally open on the second of January or at sunset on the first Sunday in January. This season, the opening was set at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 2, 2005, and the closing was set at noon on Friday, March 11, 2005. A return to the historical and less conservative closing date in mid-March was approved by the Commission. Since 1974, the gill net fisheries have been closed each week from noon on Friday until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. This weekend closure was instituted to reduce conflicts with recreational users of the bay.

HEOK FISHERY: The opening and closing dates for the herring-eggs-on-kelp fishery are not adjusted for holidays or weekends. The herring-eggs-on-kelp season ran from December 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

LANDINGS

Overall, 5% of the San Francisco Bay gillnet quota was landed, by the three platoons combined, during the 2004-05 commercial herring season (Table 1). The December fishery (DH platoon) had no landings and caught 0% of their quota fishing during December, and did not return to fish again this season. Neither odd or even platoon reached their quota this season. The Even platoon landed 6% of their quota and the Odd platoon landed 7% of their quota. The three gill net fisheries landed a combined total of 145 tons of herring equivalent to 5% of the total gillnet quota.

In comparison to previous seasons, the gillnet quota this season increased 57% over the 2003-04 quota, but was 45% less than the average quota since the beginning of the fishery and 23% less than the 8-year post El Nino average. Landings were the lowest since the fishery began in 1972 and comprised just 6% of the 8-year post El Nino average (Table 2). Ex-vessel value of landings from the gill net sac roe fishery is estimated at approximately \$118,000.

A total of 0 tons of herring-eggs-on-kelp product has been landed by two permittees.

TABLE 1. Herring quotas and landings, and roe percentage and fish count (as percents of total weight), for San Francisco Bay, 2004-2005 Season.

FISHERY (# PERMITS ACTIVE / #PERMITS ASSIGNED)	QUOTA (TONS)	LANDINGS (TONS)	OVER QUOTA (+) UNDER QUOTA (-)	ROE (%)	FISH COUNT
DH GILL NET (58 OF 124 ACTIVE)	967	0	-967 TONS (100% UNDER QUOTA)	NA	NA
EVEN GILL NET (97 OF 141 ACTIVE)	1,101	68	-1,033 TONS (94% UNDER QUOTA)	15.78	96
ODD GILL NET (98 OF 141 ACTIVE)	1,101	77	-1,024 TONS (93% UNDER QUOTA)	16.84	98
TOTAL GILL NET	3,169	145	-3,024 (95% UNDER QUOTA)	16.31	97
HERRING-EGGS-ON- KELP (2 OF 10 ACTIVE)	55.7 (= 251 TONS IN WHOLE FISH)	0 (= 0 TONS IN WHOLE FISH)	-55.7 (100% UNDER QUOTA) (= 251 TONS IN WHOLE FISH)	NA	NA
FRESH FISH PERMITS (1)	20	0	-20	NA	NA
SF BAY TOTAL	3,440	145	-	NA	NA
SPECIAL EDUCATION* PERMITS (0 OF 1)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

* No SEP permits were issued for the 2004-05 season

TABLE 2. Quotas and landings in tons for the herring **sac roe fisheries** in San Francisco Bay, 1972-73 season through 2004-05 season.

SEASON	QUOTA (TONS)	LANDINGS (TONS)	SEASON	QUOTA (TONS)	LANDINGS (TONS)
1972-73	1,500	436	1988-89*	9,238	9,736
1973-74	500	1,938	1989-90*	9,057	8,962
1974-75	600	514	1990-91*	8,858	7,741
1975-76	3,000	1,719	1991-92*	7,134	7,417
1976-77	4,000	4,201	1992-93*	5,175	5,151
1977-78	5,000	4,987	1993-94*	1,996	2,302
1978-79	5,000	4,115	1994-95*	4,408	4,574
1979-80	6,000	6,430	1995-96*	5,524	6,165
1980-81	7,250	5,811	1996-97*	13,543	11,496
1981-82	10,000	10,415	1997-98*	9,793	1,981
1982-83	10,399	9,699	1998-99*	2,739	2,817
1983-84	10,399	2,828	1999-2000*	5,460	3,356
1984-85	6,500	7,740	2000-01*	2,499	2,991
1985-86	7,530	7,278	2001-02*	4,128	3,287
1986-87*	7,470	8,098	2002-03*	3,262	2,097
1987-88*	8,432	8,741	2003-04*	2,020	1,540
			2004-05*	3,169	145
THIRTY-THREE YEAR AVERAGE (72-05):				5,806	5,052
TWENTY-TWO YEAR AVERAGE POST EL NINIO (83-05):				6,288	5,293
TWELVE YEAR AVERAGE POST EL NINO (93-94 TO 04-05):				4,878	3,563
EIGHT YEAR AVERAGE POST EL NINO (97-98 TO 04-05):				4,133	2,277
* Quotas and landings after the 1985-86 season do <i>not</i> include HEOK or fresh fish allocation and landings					

TABLE 3. Quotas, landings and number of permits for the **herring-eggs-on-kelp (HEOK)** fishery in San Francisco Bay, 1989-90 season through 2004-05 season.

SEASON	QUOTA (TONS)	TOTAL LANDINGS (TONS)	PERCENT OF QUOTA LANDED	NUMBER OF PERMITS
1989-90	110.0	107.1	97.4	8
1990-91	144.0	47.0	32.6	10
1991-92	114.0	84.2	73.8	10
1992-93	84.5	47.4	56.1	10
1993-94	35.1	35.0	99.7	10
1994-95	85.0	13.1	15.4	10
1995-96	106.5	106.8	100+	10
1996-97	286.0	185.7	64.9	11
1997-98	209.0	36.4	17.4	11
1998-99	54.4	31.7	58.3	11
1999-2000	99.2	31	31.3	11
2000-01	49.3	27.2	55.2	11
2001-02	73.2	45.3	62.0	10
2002-03	57.6	53.3	92.5	10
2003-04	38.9	6.3	71.0	10
2004-05	55.7	0	0	10
AVERAGE (16YRS)	115.15	53.6	55.2	10

AVERAGE (5 YRS)	54.94	26.4	56.1	10
-----------------	-------	------	------	----

REVIEW OF EACH FISHERY

DH GILL NET FISHERY (DECEMBER PLATOON):

The DH herring gill net fishery began on Sunday, December 5, 2004 at 5 p.m. By the closure of the DH platoon at noon on Thursday, December 23, no herring had been landed. Regulations provide an opportunity for the DH platoon to re-open after both January platoons have reached their quota. However, the DH platoon never re-opened since neither Odd nor Even platoon reached their quota. The DH platoon fished for 17 days during the 2004-05 season, and approximately 68 percent of the permits were not fished.

TABLE 4. Season landings for the **DH** gill net platoon.

DH Landings	Effort:
Quota: 967	Approximately 20 Boats used in the DH Platoon
Catch: 0	Approximately 40 Permits fished in the DH Platoon
Under Quota: 967	124 Permits assigned to the DH Platoon
	Approximately 68% of the DH permits were not fished this season.

JANUARY PLATOONS

The January fishery is divided into two separate platoons grouped by permit numbers that are odd and even. Platoons rotate fishing weeks with the first platoon designated by whether the season year is odd or even, therefore for the 2004-05 season, the EVEN platoon was designated to fish first.

EVEN GILL NET FISHERY

The Even platoon opened on Sunday January 2, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. and made no landings in the first week. The second week of fishing yielded a catch of 22 tons of herring with an average roe count of 15%. An additional 46 tons, with a roe count averaging over 16%, were landed in the third week of fishing. No further landings were made by the Even platoon in the season and their quota was not caught. The average roe count for all Even platoon landings was 15.45%. Spawning herring were under-weight this season as a result of El Nino conditions prior to the season. The slightly greater girth of female herring resulted in a high proportion of females in the catch and led to higher than average roe counts. Forty-six percent of the permits assigned to this platoon were not used this season.

TABLE 5. Daily landings for the **Even** gill net platoon.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i># Receipts</i>	<i>Tons/Receipt</i>	<i>Fish Count</i>	<i>Roe Count</i>
1/17/2005	2,683	1.34	14	0.10	96	15.33
1/18/2005	1,911	0.96	10	0.10	87	15.92
1/20/2005	6,275	3.14	8	0.39	98	14.42
1/21/2005	118,342	59.17	74	0.80	96	14.93
1/31/2005	585	0.29	6	0.05	91	16.03
2/1/2005	414	0.21	2	0.10	97	17.45
2/2/2005	4,546	2.27	23	0.10	95	16.98
2/3/2005	270	0.14	2	0.07	97	16.00
2/4/2005	200	0.10	2	0.05	97	15.00

Total **135,226** **67.61** **141** **0.48** **95** **15.45**

Even Landings	Effort:
Quota: 1,101	40 Boats used in the Even Platoon
Catch: 68	79 Permits fished in the Even Platoon
Under Quota: 1,033	145 Permits assigned to the Even Platoon
	46% of the Even permits were not fished this season.

ODD GILL NET FISHERY

The Odd platoon opened on Sunday, January 9, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. and made no landings in the first or second week of fishing. During the third week of fishing the platoon landed 77.12 tons of herring, with an average roe count of 16.80%. No further landings of fish were made by the Odd platoon in the season and they also failed to catch their quota. Roe count was higher than average for the aforementioned reasons. Fifty-five percent of the permits assigned to this platoon were not used this season.

TABLE 6. Daily landings for the **Odd** gill net platoon.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i># Receipts</i>	<i>Tons/Receipt</i>	<i>Fish Count</i>	<i>Roe Count</i>
2/7/2005	20,143	10.07	11	0.92	98	17.14
2/8/2005	124,559	62.28	55	1.13	98	16.78
2/9/2005	9,542	4.77	14	0.34	98	16.63
Total	154,244	77.12	80	0.96	98	16.80

Odd Landings	Effort:
Quota: 1,101	34 Boats used in the ODD Platoon
Catch: 77	65 Permits fished in the ODD Platoon
Under Quota: 1,024	143 Permits assigned to the ODD Platoon
	55% of the ODD permits were not fished this season.

**SUMMARY OF FISHING DAYS IN 2004-05
SAN FRANCISCO BAY COMMERCIAL PACIFIC HERRING FISHERY**

DH platoon 2004-05:

- Opened Dec 5 at 5 PM
- Fished Dec 5-23 at noon
- No landings were made by the DH platoon
- There were **17** DH fishing days in 2004-05 season

EVEN platoon 2005:

- Opened Sunday, Jan 2 at 5 PM
- Fished Jan 2-7, Jan 16-21, Jan 30- Feb 4, Feb 13-18, and Feb 27-Mar 4
- Quota was not reached this season
- There were **33** Even fishing days in January, February, and March

ODD platoon 2005:

- Opened Sunday, Jan 9 at 5 PM
- Fished Jan 9-14, Jan 23-28, Feb 6-11, Feb 20-25, and Mar 6-11
- Quota was not reached this season
- There were **30** Odd fishing days in January, February, and March

TABLE 7. Average roe count (as percent of total weight) in the San Francisco Bay gill net fisheries, 1983-84 season through 2004-05 season.

SEASON	DECEMBER GILL NET PLATOON	1ST JANUARY GILL NET PLATOON	2ND JANUARY GILL NET PLATOON
1983-84	13.5	13.1 ODD	13.4 EVEN
1984-85	10.1	10.8 EVEN	13.4 ODD
1985-86	11.2	11.9 ODD	13.4 EVEN
1986-87	10.9	11.4 EVEN	12.7 ODD
1987-88	11.9	13.5 ODD	15.0 EVEN
1988-89	9.7	11.6 EVEN	13.1 ODD
1989-90	11.6	13.0 ODD	14.3 EVEN
1990-91	11.7	13.4 ODD	15.8 ODD
1991-92	11.7	11.7 EVEN	15.5 ODD
1992-93	9.7	14.0 EVEN	14.8 ODD
1993-94	10.2	11.5 ODD	13.3 EVEN
1994-95	11.1	13.8 EVEN	12.0 ODD
1995-96	12.0	14.4 ODD	14.6 EVEN
1996-97	10.3	14.1 EVEN	13.9 ODD
1997-98	14.1	14.9 ODD	NO LANDINGS
1998-99	13.4	14.8 EVEN	17.2 ODD
1999-2000	12.1	13.3 ODD	15.6 EVEN
2000-01	12.2	14.5 EVEN	13.6 ODD
2001-02	15.0	14.6 ODD	17.5 EVEN
2002-03	11.2	15.0 EVEN	15.8 ODD
2003-04	14.3	11.95 ODD	14.5 EVEN
2004-05	NO LANDINGS	15.78	16.84
AVERAGE	11.8 (21 YEARS)	13.3 (22 YEARS)	14.6 (21 YEARS)

GILL NET MESH SIZE STUDY RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

The proposed gill net mesh size study was suspended, due to a decision not to participate, by herring gillnet fishermen as voiced through the DHAC.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PERMITS

No Special Education Permit was issued to the City of Oakland Maritime Training Program for the 2004-05 season.

HERRING EGGS ON KELP (HEOK) FISHERY

Ten permittees renewed their herring eggs on kelp permits for the 2004-05 season. The season opened on December 1st, 2004 and closed on March 31st, 2005. Only two permittees suspended kelp this season, and no permittees landed HEOK product this season. Tables 8 and 9 contain preliminary information.

TABLE 8. Dates of kelp suspension during the 2004-05 season.

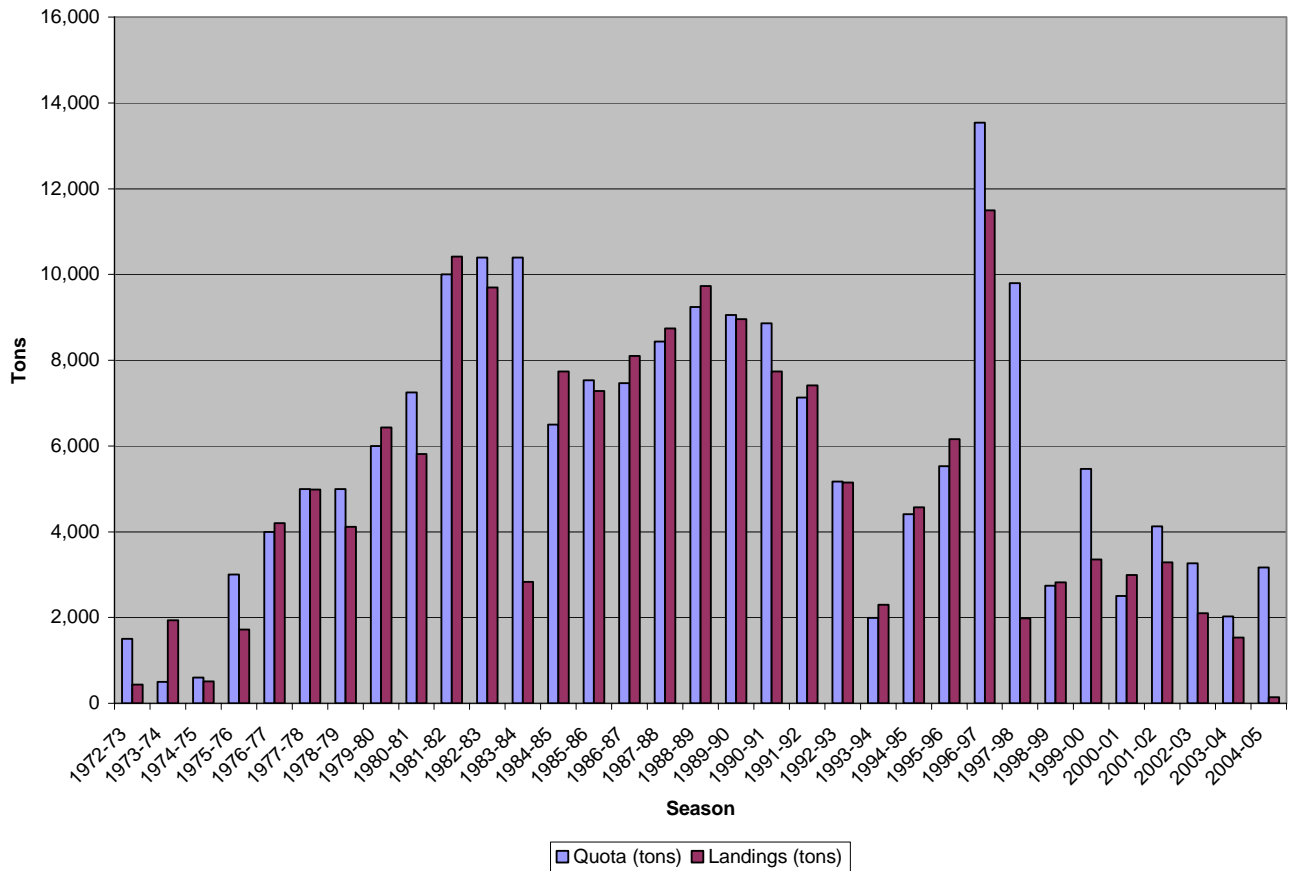
DATE	NUMBER OF PERMITTEES REPORTING KELP SUSPENSION	NUMBER OF PERMITTEES REPORTING HARVEST
FEBRUARY 16 TH – 17 TH , 2005	2	0
FEBRUARY 24 TH – 25 TH , 2005	2	0

There were no landings for the 2004-05 Herring Eggs on Kelp fishery.

TABLE 9. Herring eggs on kelp preliminary landings in San Francisco Bay during the 2004 – 05 season.

	LANDING TOTALS		COMMENTS
	POUNDS	TONS	
<u>TOTAL LANDINGS</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	QUOTA: 55.7 TONS LANDED: 0 TONS UNDER QUOTA: 55.7 TONS (EQUIVALENT IN WHOLE FISH QUOTA = 0 TONS LANDED (0 TONS/0.2237))

FIGURE 4. San Francisco Bay Sac Roe Herring Fishery Quotas and Landings for All Gears*, 1972-73 to 2004-05 Seasons.



* QUOTAS AND LANDINGS AFTER THE 1985-86 SEASON DO NOT INCLUDE HEOK OR FRESH FISH ALLOCATION AND LANDINGS. LANDINGS FROM THE 1998-99 SEASON, TO THE PRESENT, ARE FROM GILL NET ONLY.

PROPOSED OPENING AND CLOSING DATES AND TIMES FOR THE 2005-06 HERRING SEASON

2005-06 FISHERY		OPENING		CLOSURE	
LOCATION	MONTH/FISHERY	DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME
SAN FRANCISCO	DECEMBER 2005 GILL NET PLATOON (DH PLATOON)	December 11	5 p.m.	23	6 a.m.
		December 26	5 p.m.	30	6 a.m.
	JANUARY 2006 1 ST GILL NET PLATOON (EVEN PLATOON)	January 1	5 p.m.	MARCH 17	NOON
	JANUARY 2006 2 ND GILL NET PLATOON (ODD PLATOON)	January 8	5 p.m.	MARCH 10	NOON
	ALL GILL NET PLATOONS	N/A	N/A	March 17	Noon
	HERRING EGGS ON KELP FISHERY 2005-06 (DOES NOT CHANGE)	DEC 1, 2005	----	MAR 31, 2006	----
TOMALES BAY	GILL NET FISHERY 2005-06	December 25	5 p.m.	December 30	Noon
		January 2	5 p.m.	February 24	Noon