

Summary of the 2008-09 Pacific Herring Commercial Fisheries in San Francisco Bay



DFG photo by Ryan Bartling

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Preliminary Report

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HERRING MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH TEAM
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REVIEW OF THE 2008-2009 SAN FRANCISCO BAY PACIFIC HERRING FISHERIES

QUOTAS

The total quota for San Francisco Bay was set at 1,118 short tons (tons) for the 2008-2009 season. The spawning biomass estimate is based on spawning ground surveys conducted from November 2008 through March 2009. The 1,118 ton quota is based on 10 percent of the biomass estimate from spawning ground surveys for the 2007-08 season. The Department provided the Fish and Game Commission quota options for the 2008-09 season ranging from 0 – 10 percent of 07-08 spawning biomass estimate.

HEOK: The total quota for the herring eggs-on-kelp fishery was 17.6 tons of herring-eggs-on-kelp product, which was converted from 79 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 determined 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). For each CH permit this season, this is equivalent to an individual quota of 1.9 tons herring eggs-on-kelp product. Regular gill net permittees that transferred to the herring-eggs-on-kelp fishery received a quota of 1.3 tons of herring-eggs-on-kelp.

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. This season, the DH fishery began at 5 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2008 and closed at noon on Friday, December 19, 2008. 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 4, 2009, and the closing was set at noon on Friday, March 20, 2009. 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, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

LANDINGS

Approximately 50 percent of the San Francisco Bay gillnet quota was landed by the three combined platoons, during the 2008-09 commercial herring season (Table 1). The December fishery (DH platoon) landed 0.075 tons of their quota in December but did not fish after the Odd and Even platoons. The Odd platoon landed 31.8 percent of their quota, whereas the Even platoon landed 99.7 percent of their quota. The three gill net fisheries landed a combined total of 507 tons of herring.

A total of 3.3 tons of herring-eggs-on-kelp product was landed. This is equivalent to 14.8 tons of whole fish.

TABLE 1. Herring quotas and landings, and roe percentage and fish count (as percents of total weight), for San Francisco Bay, 2008-2009 Season.

FISHERY (# PERMITS MADE LANDINGS / #PERMITS ASSIGNED)	QUOTA (TONS)	LANDINGS (TONS)	OVER QUOTA (+) UNDER QUOTA (-)	ROE (%)	FISH COUNT / kg
DH GILL NET (2 OF 50*)	243	0.075	-243 TONS	13.3	101
ODD GILL NET (38 OF 81*)	393	125	-268 TONS	14.4	105
EVEN GILL NET (40 OF 79*)	383	381.8	-1.2 TONS	13.2	103
<i>TOTAL GILL NET</i>	1,019	507	-512 (50% UNDER QUOTA)		
HERRING-EGGS-ON-KELP (2 OF 10* ACTIVE)	17.6 (= 79.0 TONS WHOLE FISH)	3.3 (= 14.8 TONS IN WHOLE FISH)	-14.3 TONS PRODUCT (81% UNDER QUOTA)	NA	NA
<i>SF BAY TOTAL</i>	1,037	510	-527 TONS	NA	NA

* Permit count based on permits purchased as of December 27, 2008.

TABLE 2. Quotas and landings in tons for the herring ***gill net sac roe fisheries*** in San Francisco Bay, 1972-73 season through 2008-09 season.

SEASON	QUOTA (TONS)	LANDINGS (TONS)	SEASON	QUOTA (TONS)	LANDINGS (TONS)
1972-73	1,500	436	1991-92*	7,134	7,417
1973-74	500	1,938	1992-93*	5,175	5,151
1974-75	600	514	1993-94*	1,996	2,302
1975-76	3,000	1,719	1994-95*	4,408	4,574
1976-77	4,000	4,201	1995-96*	5,524	6,165
1977-78	5,000	4,987	1996-97*	13,543	11,496
1978-79	5,000	4,115	1997-98*	9,793	1,981
1979-80	6,000	6,430	1998-99*	2,739	2,817
1980-81	7,250	5,811	1999-2000*	5,460	3,356
1981-82	10,000	10,415	2000-01*	2,499	2,991
1982-83	10,399	9,699	2001-02*	4,128	3,287
1983-84	10,399	2,828	2002-03*	3,262	2,097
1984-85	6,500	7,740	2003-04*	2,020	1,540
1985-86	7,530	7,278	2004-05*	3,169	145
1986-87*	7,470	8,098	2005-06*	4,328	744
1987-88*	8,432	8,741	2006-07*	4,328	292
1988-89*	9,238	9,736	2007-08*	1,057	687
1989-90*	9,057	8,962	2008-09*	1,019	507
1990-91*	8,858	7,741			
THIRTY-SEVEN YEAR AVERAGE (72-73 TO 08-09):				5,468	4,566
SIXTEEN YEAR AVERAGE POST EL NINO (93-94 TO 08-09):				4,330	2,811
TWELVE YEAR AVERAGE POST EL NINO (98-99 TO 08-09):				3,092	1,678

* Quotas and landings after the 1985-86 season do *not* 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 2008-09 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	100.3	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
2005-06	34	0	0	4
2006-07	34	3.9	11	4
2007-08	17	15.1	88.6	10
2008-09	17.6	3.3	18.9	10
AVERAGE	85.3	44.0	52.3	9.6

REVIEW OF EACH FISHERY

DH (DECEMBER) GILL NET PLATOON:

The DH herring gill net fishery opened on Sunday, December 2, 2008 at 5 p.m. By the closure of the DH platoon at noon on Friday, December 19, 0.075 tons of 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 because the Odd platoon did not reach their quota. Ninety-six percent of the permits assigned to this platoon did not make landings this season.

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

Date	Pounds	Tons	# Receipts	Tons/Receipt	Fish Count	Roe Count
12/16/2008	403	0.075	2	0.0375	101	13.30

DH Landings (tons)	Effort: (based on boats declared by permit)
Quota: 243	1 Boat used in the DH Platoon
Catch: 0.075	2 Permits fished in the DH Platoon
Under Quota: 243	50* Permits assigned to the DH Platoon
	96 % of the DH permits were not fished this season.

* Permit count based on permits renewed as of November 06, 2008.

ODD AND EVEN GILL NET PLATOONS:

The Odd and Even 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 2008-09 season, the Even platoon was designated to fish first.

ODD GILL NET FISHERY

The Odd platoon opened on Sunday January 11, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. This platoon made all of its landings after the Even platoon closed on Wednesday January 21 at 5:00 am and the Odd was reopened at 5:00 pm that day. The average roe count for all Odd platoon landings was 14.36 percent. The Odd platoon did not reach their quota. Twenty-five percent of the permits assigned to this platoon did not make landings this season.

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

Date	Pounds	Tons	# Receipts	Tons/Receipt	Fish Count	Roe Count
1/22/2009	61,719	30.86	39	0.79	104	14.04
1/23/2009	23,904	11.95	20	0.60	107	12.82
2/4/2009	65,821	32.91	33	1.00	105	14.55
2/5/2009	98,625	49.31	47	1.05	106	15.21
<i>Totals and averages</i>	<i>250,069</i>	<i>125.03</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>0.90</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>14.36</i>

Odd Landings (tons)	Effort: (based on boats active)
Quota: 393	29 Boats used in the Odd Platoon
Catch: 125	61 Permits fished in the Odd Platoon
Under Quota: 268	81* Permits assigned to the Odd Platoon
	25 % of the Odd permits were not fished this season.

* Permit count based on permits renewed as of November 06, 2008.

EVEN GILL NET FISHERY

The Even platoon opened on Sunday, January 4, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. and made all of their landings during the second Even fishing week of January when the quota was reached and the platoon was closed. Average roe percentage for the Even platoon landings was 14.36 percent. Twenty-four percent of the permits assigned to this platoon were not used this season.

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

Date	Pounds	Tons	# Receipts	Tons/Receipt	Fish Count	Roe Count
1/19/2009	23,992.5	12.00	27	0.44	103	12.93
1/20/2009	543,998	272.00	50	5.44	102	13.92
1/21/2009	194,980	97.49	55	1.77	103	12.83
<i>Totals and averages</i>	<i>763,537</i>	<i>381.77</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>2.87</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>13.23</i>

Even Landings (tons)	Effort: (based on boats active)
Quota: 383	30 Boats used in the Even Platoon
Catch: 382	60 Permits fished in the Even Platoon
Under Quota: 1	79* Permits assigned to the Even Platoon
	24 % of the Even permits were not fished this season.

* Permit count based on permits renewed as of November 06, 2008.

HERRING EGGS ON KELP (HEOK) FISHERY

The season opened on December 1st, 2008 and closed on March 31st, 2009. Ten permits were renewed this season and 3.327 tons of HEOK product were landed.

TABLE 6. Daily landings for the **HOEK** platoon.

Date	Pounds	Tons	# Receipts	Tons/Receipt
1/26/2009	3679	1.84	1	1.84
1/27/2009	2,847	1.42	2	0.71
1/28/2009	128	0.06	1	0.06
<i>Totals and averages</i>	<i>6,654</i>	<i>3.33</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0.83</i>

HOEK Landings (tons)	Effort: (based on active boats)
Quota: 17.6	1 Boat was used in the HOEK Platoon
Catch: 3.33	2 Permits landed fished in the HOEK Platoon
Under Quota: 14.27	

SPECIAL EDUCATION PERMITS

No Special Education Permit was issued to the City of Oakland Maritime Training Program for the 2008-09 season.

APENDICES

APPENDIX 1. Average roe count (as percent of total weight) in the San Francisco Bay gill net fisheries, 1983-84 season (24 year average) through 2008-09 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	11.9 ODD	14.5 EVEN
2004-05	NO LANDINGS	15.8 EVEN	16.8 ODD
2005-06	NO LANDINGS	14.2 ODD	13.9 EVEN
2006-07	10.8	15.7 EVEN	16.1 ODD
2007-08	NO LANDINGS	13.1 ODD	16.3 EVEN
2008-09	13.3	13.2 EVEN	14.4 ODD
AVERAGE	11.83	13.43	14.67

APPENDIX 2. 2008-09 SF Bay Herring Commercial Catch Data. (Length measurements in body length).

Date	Mean Length (mm BL)	Shortest (mm BL)	Longest (mm BL)	n
20-Jan-09	182	167	198	63
21-Jan-09	185	164	203	40
05-Feb-09	183	169	202	61
Date	Mean Weight (g)	Lightest (g)	Heaviest (g)	n
20-Jan-09	90.0	70.9	114.9	63
21-Jan-09	88.6	52.6	112.4	40
05-Feb-09	89.7	70.4	112.3	59

*APPENDIX 3. SF Bay Historic Commercial Gill Net Sample Data
(Length measurements in body length).*

Season	Mean Length (mm BL)	Length Range (mm BL)
1976-1977	212	192-236
1977-1978	211	178-236
1978-1979	203	164-234
1979-1980	208	184-230
1980-1981	205	170-236
1981-1982	201	160-228
1982-1983	203	170-230
1983-1984	205	182-232
1984-1985	196	158-238
1985-1986	196	166-226
1986-1987	194	168-222
1987-1988	195	160-230
1988-1989	195	164-226
1989-1990	196	172-226
1990-1991	192	162-226
1991-1992	189	168-220
1992-1993	192	162-220
1993-1994	188	152-212
1994-1995	196	172-235
1995-1996	193	158-231
1996-1997	194	166-226
1997-1998	200	176-224
1998-1999	190	156-220
1999-2000	187	155-210
2000-2001	185	155-209
2001-2002	183	160-207
2002-2003	188	156-211
2003-2004	187	147-203
2004-2005	191	146-209
2005-2006	188	169-207
2006-2007	186	166-209
2007-2008	186	169-211
2008-2009	183	164-203
Overall Mean Body Length	194	