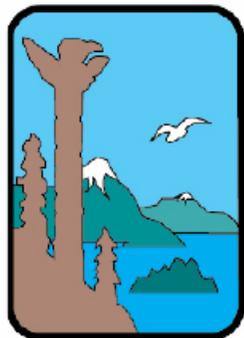


Herring Spawning Areas in Alaska

**Prepared by the
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
March, 2006**



ALASKA
Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Herring Spawning Areas in Alaska

Introduction

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) developed a series of maps that illustrate known herring spawning areas, based on information obtained from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The maps are part of ADEC's efforts to work with the commercial passenger vessel industry to protect the environment to the maximum extent feasible through the vessel owner/operators' development of Best Management Practices for small passenger vessels operating in Alaska's waters. Proposed ADEC regulations include wastewater discharge restrictions for small passenger vessels operating in certain areas where herring spawning occurs.

Herring range from Baja California, to Alaska and across the Pacific to Japan, China, and Russia. Spawning habitats are typically marine vegetation or rocky substrate in protected inlets, bays and estuaries. The locations of spawning areas appear to be consistent from year to year.

Generally, herring spawning in Alaska starts as early as the beginning of March in the southern part of Southeast Alaska, and ends as late as June 15 in the Cook Inlet region. The herring spawning occurs along the shoreline to a 20 meter water depth, measured vertically from the mean lower low water tidal datum.

Small passenger vessels, passenger vessels with relatively shallow draft, have the potential for entering these herring spawning areas and discharging wastewater. In order to protect the herring spawning areas, regulations are proposed to prevent wastewater discharges from small passenger vessels in these designated areas.

Maps

The Alaska Herring Spawning maps were developed to identify the coastal areas where herring spawning occur, and wastewater discharge restrictions apply. Below are listed the following applicable herring spawning maps:

- [Southern Southeast Alaska Herring Spawning Areas](#)
- [Northern Southeast Alaska Herring Spawning Areas](#)
- [Prince William Sound Herring Spawning Areas](#)
- [Cook Inlet Herring Spawning Areas](#)

These maps are not for *navigational* purposes; the maps are only for identifying the herring spawning areas. The maps are based on herring spawning information obtained from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division Commercial Fisheries.

Technical note: The maps are produced by ADEC using ARCMAP 9.1 tools and the map projection is: Albers Equal Area Conical. Datum: NAD 27.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Albert Faure, at 907-465-5279 or albert.faure@alaska.gov for further information.