

Summary of the 2005-06 Pacific Herring Commercial Fisheries in San Francisco Bay



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REVIEW OF THE 2005-2006 SAN FRANCISCO BAY PACIFIC HERRING FISHERIES

QUOTAS

Gillnet: The total quota for San Francisco Bay was set at 4,502 tons for the 2005-2006 season. This quota is 'option 2' of the two quota options the Department provided the Fish and Game Commission for the 2005-06 season ('option 1' was a 5,890 ton quota). The biomass estimate for the 2004-05 season was based on the spawn deposition survey only. There was **no combined** (hydroacoustic and spawn survey) biomass estimate for the 2004-05 season. The 4,502 ton quota was based on 7.6 percent of the biomass estimate from spawning ground surveys for the 2004-05 season. The harvest percentage was derived from reducing a ten percent quota (5890 tons) by the estimated number of age 2 and 3 fish in the 2004-05 season commercial catch. This reduced percentage was an effort to offset the potential increase in catch of younger fish given the reduction in the minimum mesh size allowed in the fishery.

HEOK: The total quota for the herring eggs-on-kelp fishery was 34 tons of herring-eggs-on-kelp, which was converted from 152 tons of whole fish from the total San Francisco Bay quota. Five permittees renewed their HEOK permits this season. No permittees actively fished this season. 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). For each CH permit this season, this is equivalent to an individual quota of 7.9 tons herring eggs-on-kelp product. Regular gill net permittees transferring to the herring-eggs-on-kelp fishery this season received a quota of 2.4 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 Sunday, December 11, 2005 and the closing was set at 6 a.m. on Friday, December 23, 2005. This season the DH fishery re-opened from 5 p.m. on Monday, December 26, 2005 until noon on Friday, December 30, 2005. 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 Monday, January 2, 2006, and the closing was set at noon on Friday, March 17, 2006. A return to the less conservative typical past 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, 2005 to March 31, 2006.

LANDINGS

Overall, 17 percent of the San Francisco Bay gillnet quota was landed, by the three platoons combined, during the 2005-06 commercial herring season (Table 1). The December fishery (DH platoon) had no landings this season. Neither the odd or even platoons reached their quota this season. The Even platoon landed 43 percent of their quota and the Odd platoon landed 7 percent of their quota. The three gill net fisheries landed a combined total of 744 tons of herring.

In comparison to previous seasons, the gillnet quota this season increased 21 percent over the 2004-05 quota, but was 25 percent less than the average quota since the beginning of the fishery and 4 percent more than the 9-year post El Nino average. Landings increased since the 2004-05 season, but were still below the 34- and 9-year averages (85 and 65 percent respectively) (Table 2). Ex-vessel value of landings from the gill net sac roe fishery is estimated at approximately \$416,640.

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

TABLE 1. Herring quotas and landings, and roe percentage and fish count (as percents of total weight), for San Francisco Bay, 2005-2006 Season.

FISHERY (# PERMITS MADE LANDINGS / #PERMITS ASSIGNED)	QUOTA (TONS)	LANDINGS (TONS)	OVER QUOTA (+) UNDER QUOTA (-)	ROE (%)	FISH COUNT
DH GILL NET (61 OF 124*)	1,322	0	-1322 TONS (100% UNDER QUOTA)	NA	NA
EVEN GILL NET (70 OF 141)	1,503	639	-864 TONS (57% UNDER QUOTA)	13.9	100
ODD GILL NET (68 OF 141)	1,503	105	-1,398 TONS (93% UNDER QUOTA)	14.2	99
TOTAL GILL NET	4,328	744	-3,584 (83% UNDER QUOTA)	14.0	99
HERRING-EGGS-ON- KELP (5 ACTIVE)	34 (= 152.3 TONS WHOLE FISH)	0 (= 0 TONS IN WHOLE FISH)	-34	NA	NA
FRESH FISH PERMITS (1)	20	0	-20	NA	NA
SF BAY TOTAL	4,502	744	-	NA	NA

No SEP permits were issued for the 2005-06 season

*Since no landings were made in the DH fishery, all permits that declared a boat are considered active

TABLE 2. Quotas and landings in tons for the herring ***gill net sac roe fisheries*** in San Francisco Bay, 1972-73 season through 2005-06 season.

SEASON	QUOTA (TONS)	LANDINGS (TONS)	SEASON	QUOTA (TONS)	LANDINGS (TONS)
1972-73	1,500	436	1989-90*	9,057	8,962
1973-74	500	1,938	1990-91*	8,858	7,741
1974-75	600	514	1991-92*	7,134	7,417
1975-76	3,000	1,719	1992-93*	5,175	5,151
1976-77	4,000	4,201	1993-94*	1,996	2,302
1977-78	5,000	4,987	1994-95*	4,408	4,574
1978-79	5,000	4,115	1995-96*	5,524	6,165
1979-80	6,000	6,430	1996-97*	13,543	11,496
1980-81	7,250	5,811	1997-98*	9,793	1,981
1981-82	10,000	10,415	1998-99*	2,739	2,817
1982-83	10,399	9,699	1999-2000*	5,460	3,356
1983-84	10,399	2,828	2000-01*	2,499	2,991
1984-85	6,500	7,740	2001-02*	4,128	3,287
1985-86	7,530	7,278	2002-03*	3,262	2,097
1986-87*	7,470	8,098	2003-04*	2,020	1,540
1987-88*	8,432	8,741	2004-05*	3,169	145
1988-89*	9,238	9,736	2005-06*	4,328	744
THIRTY-FOUR YEAR AVERAGE (72-06):				5,762	4,925
TWENTY-THREE YEAR AVERAGE POST EL NINO (83-06):				6,203	5,095
THIRTEEN YEAR AVERAGE POST EL NINO (93-94 TO 05-06):				4,836	3,346
NINE YEAR AVERAGE POST EL NINO (97-98 TO 05-06):				4,155	2,106

* 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 2005-06 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
2005-06	34	0	0	5
AVERAGE (17YRS)	96.3	50.4	51.7	10
AVERAGE (5 YRS)	51.9	21.0	45.1	9

REVIEW OF EACH FISHERY

DH (DECEMBER) GILL NET PLATOON:

The DH herring gill net fishery began on Sunday, December 11, 2005 at 5 p.m. By the closure of the DH platoon at 6 a.m. on Friday, December 30, 2005, 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.

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

DH Landings	Effort: (based on boats declared by permit)
Quota: 1322	Approximately 36 Boats used in the DH Platoon Approximately 61 Permits fished in the DH Platoon 124 Permits assigned to the DH Platoon Approximately 51% of the DH permits were not fished this season.
Catch: 0	
Under Quota: 1322	

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 2005-06 season, the ODD platoon was designated to fish first.

ODD GILL NET FISHERY:

The Odd platoon opened on Monday, January 2, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. and made approximately 23 percent of the total platoon landings in the first week of fishing. The bulk of the platoon landings occurred in mid-February over a two day period, and no other landings were made by the Odd platoon after February 14th. The total average roe percentage for the Odd platoon landings was 14.2 percent. The Odd platoon did not reach their quota. Fifty-two percent of the permits assigned to this platoon were not used this season.

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

Date	Pounds	Tons	# Receipts	Tons/Receipt	Fish Count	Roe Count
1/3/2006	28,167	14.1	12	1.17	97	11.64
1/4/2006	20,823	10.4	19	0.55	97	11.29
2/13/2006	153,644	76.8	50	1.54	100	15.85
2/14/2006	6,740	3.3	7	0.48	98	14.67
Total	209,374	104.7	88	1.19	99	14.20

Odd Landings	Effort: (based on boats active)
Quota: 1,503	35 Boats used in the ODD Platoon 68 Permits fished in the ODD Platoon 141 Permits assigned to the ODD Platoon 52% of the ODD permits were not fished this season.
Catch: 105	
Under Quota: 1,398	

EVEN GILL NET FISHERY

The Even platoon opened on Sunday January 8, 2006, 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 percent. An additional 46 tons, with a roe count averaging over 16 percent, were landed in the third week of fishing. No further landings were made by the Even platoon after February 24th and their quota was not caught. The average roe count for all Even platoon landings was 15.78 percent. Fifty percent of the permits assigned to this platoon were not used this season.

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

Date	Pounds	Tons	# Receipts	Tons/Receipt	Fish Count	Roe Count
1/9/2006	112,954	56.48	64	0.88	100	11.91
1/23/2006	67,691	33.85	55	0.62	98	11.81
1/24/2006	207,003	103.50	70	1.48	100	11.95
1/25/2006	285,234	142.62	67	2.13	99	13.82
1/26/2006	267,083	133.54	67	1.99	101	13.82
1/27/2006	41,204	20.60	33	0.62	99	14.24
2/6/2006	1,358	0.68	8	0.08	102	11.14
2/20/2006	61,525	30.76	37	0.83	100	15.79
2/21/2006	106,065	53.03	52	1.02	100	16.26
2/22/2006	68,645	34.32	45	0.76	100	16.67
2/23/2006	57,510	28.76	32	0.90	100	16.81
2/24/2006	1,453	0.73	5	0.15	100	17.64
Total	1,277,725	638.86	535	1.19	100	13.95

Even Landings	Effort: (based on boats active)
Quota: 1,503	38 Boats used in the Even Platoon
Catch: 639	70 Permits fished in the Even Platoon
Under Quota: 864	141 Permits assigned to the Even Platoon
	50% of the Even permits were not fished this season.

SUMMARY OF FISHING DAYS IN 2005-06 SAN FRANCISCO BAY COMMERCIAL PACIFIC HERRING FISHERY

DH platoon 2005-06:

- Opened Dec 11 at 5 PM
- Fished Dec 11-23 at 6 a.m. and Dec. 26-30 at 6 a.m.
- No landings were made by the DH platoon
- There were **16** DH fishing days in 2004-05 season

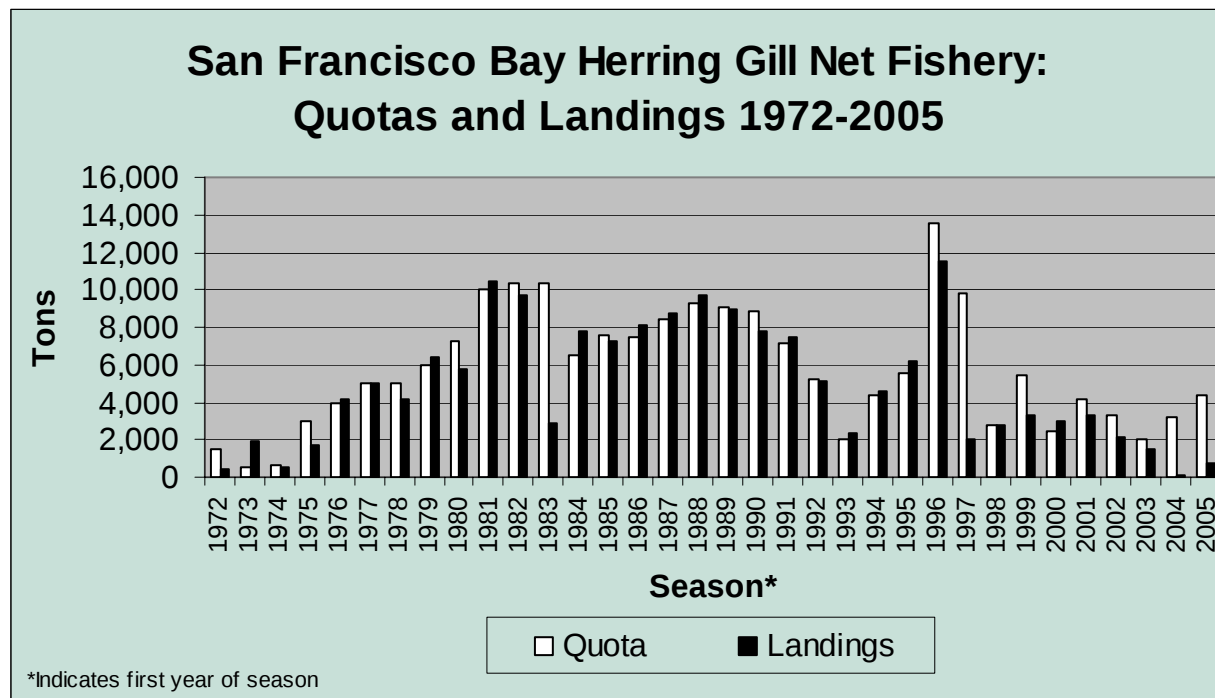
ODD platoon 2006

- Opened Sunday, Jan 2 at 5 PM
- Fished Jan 2-6, Jan 15-20, Jan 29-Feb 3, Feb 12-17, Feb 26-March 3, and Mar 12-17
- Quota was not reached this season
- There were **35** Odd fishing days in January, February, and March

EVEN platoon 2006:

- Opened Sunday, Jan 8 at 5 PM
- Fished Jan 8-13, Jan 22-27, Feb 5-10, Feb 19-24, and March 5-10
- Quota was not reached this season
- There were **30** Even fishing days in January, February, and March

FIGURE 1. San Francisco Bay Gill Net Fishery Quotas and Landings, 1972-73 to 2005-06 seasons.



c:\my documents\herring\gillnet historical data\quotas and landings 1972.present.xls

TABLE 7. Average roe count (as percent of total weight) in the San Francisco Bay gill net fisheries, 1983-84 season (23 year average) through 2005-06 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
AVERAGE	11.8	13.4	13.9

SPECIAL EDUCATION PERMITS

No Special Education Permit was issued to the City of Oakland Maritime Training Program for the 2005-06 season.

HERRING EGGS ON KELP (HEOK) FISHERY

Five permittees renewed their herring eggs on kelp permits for the 2005-06 season. The season opened on December 1st, 2005 and closed on March 31st, 2006. No permittees suspended kelp this season and no landing were made in the HEOK fishery. The market price for HEOK product has dropped substantially over the past several seasons along with demand for HEOK product in Japan.

PROPOSED OPENING AND CLOSING DATES AND TIMES FOR THE 2006-07 HERRING SEASON
DISCUSSED BY DHAC MEMBERS, APRIL 4, 2006

2003-04 FISHERY		OPENING		CLOSURE	
LOCATION	MONTH/FISHERY	DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME
SAN FRANCISCO	DECEMBER 2006 GILL NET PLATOON (DH PLATOON)	December 3 rd	5 p.m.	22 nd	Noon
	JANUARY 2007 1 ST GILL NET PLATOON (EVEN PLATOON)	January 2 nd	5 p.m.	X	X
	JANUARY 2007 2 ND GILL NET PLATOON (ODD PLATOON)	January 9 th	5 p.m.	X	X
	ALL GILL NET PLATOONS	N/A	N/A	March 9 th	Noon
	HERRING EGGS ON KELP FISHERY 2006-07 (DOES NOT CHANGE)	DEC 1, 2006	----	MAR 31, 2007	----
TOMALES BAY	GILL NET FISHERY 2006-07	December 26 th	Noon	February 28 th	Noon