



## Advisory Announcement

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### 2024 TOGIAK HERRING OUTLOOK

The 2024 mature herring biomass forecast is 216,037 tons and is based on a median of aerial survey biomass estimates from the last 10 years (2014–2023) that received a confidence rating greater than 0.25. Under a 20% exploitation rate, the 2024 potential harvest is 43,207 short tons in all fisheries and 38,787 short tons in the Togiak sac roe fisheries (purse seine and gillnet). Although the forecast is down significantly from 2023, it is still the fifth highest forecast since 1993. The large forecast is due primarily to the highest estimated recruitment of age-4 fish on record in 2021 (about 1.5 times the large recruitments seen in the early 1980s) and one of the largest recruitments on record in 2020. These cohorts are expected to make up an even higher portion of the population in 2024 due to increasing maturity. Due to the lack of a fishery in 2023 there was no age, sex, and length data with which to run the standard statistical catch-at-age (SCAA) model, or to formally project age class size or fish body size.

*The Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan (5 AAC 27.865)* sets a maximum exploitation rate of 20% for the Togiak District stock. For the 2024 Togiak herring fishery, the guideline harvest level (GHL) will be based on a 20% exploitation rate. Harvest allocation, in accordance with the management plan will be:

Fishery	Harvest allocation
Spawn-on-kelp	1,500 tons
Dutch Harbor food and bait	2,920 tons
Togiak fishery	38,787 tons
Purse seine (80%)	31,030 tons
Gillnet (20%)	7,757 tons

Processors have indicated that they do not intend to harvest herring in Togiak in 2024 and it is unlikely that a commercial fishery will occur. The department does not expect this will change. The lack of interest for the Togiak fishery does not impact the Dutch Harbor Food and Bait fishery or GHL.

Visit <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main> to subscribe to herring updates and announcements. Harvest and fishery opening information will also be available at the Division of Commercial Fisheries website at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyfisheryherring.herringannouncements#central>

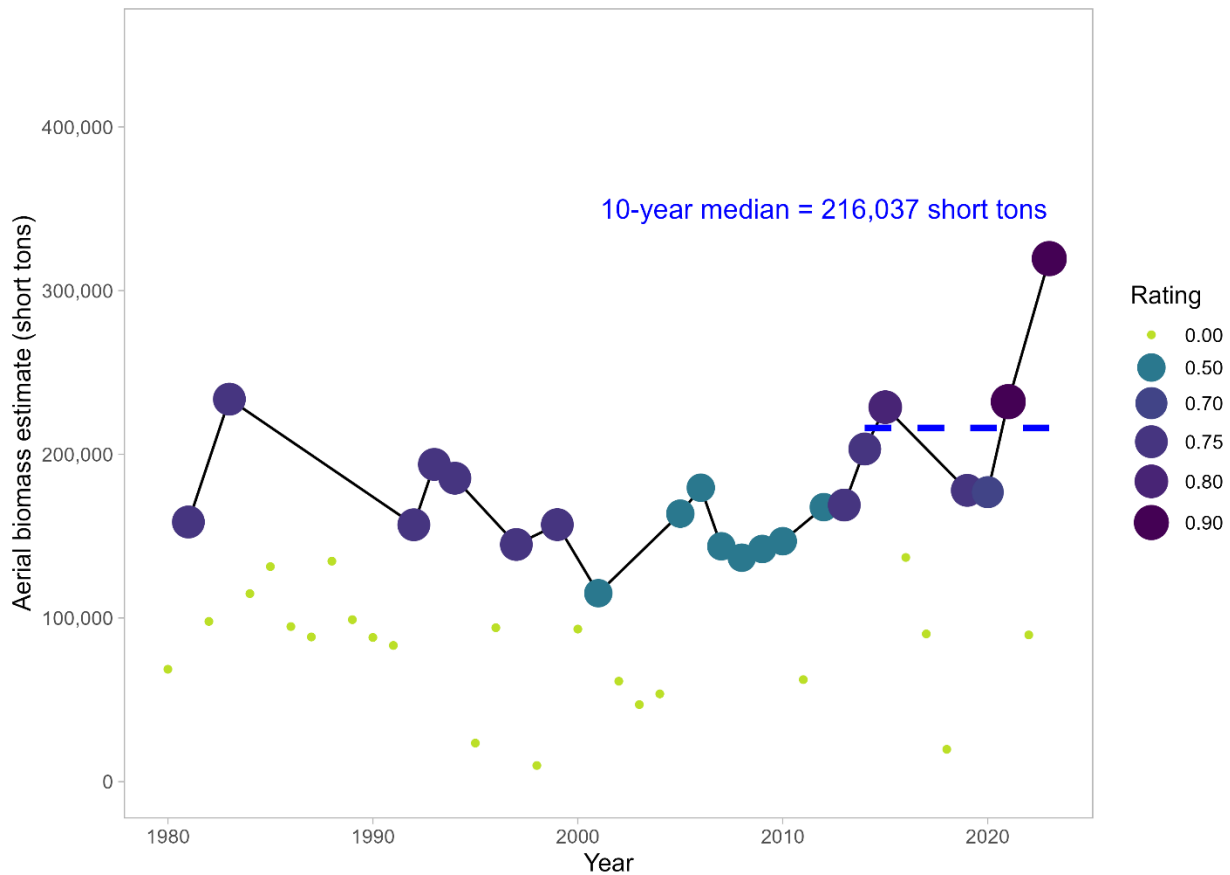


Figure 1. – Observed Togiak herring biomass estimates from aerial surveys, with point size and color scaled to the confidence rating. The dashed line represents the median from 2014 through 2023 (using only surveys with a confidence rating higher than 0.25).