

# SUBSISTENCE HARVEST OF HERRING EGGS IN SITKA SOUND



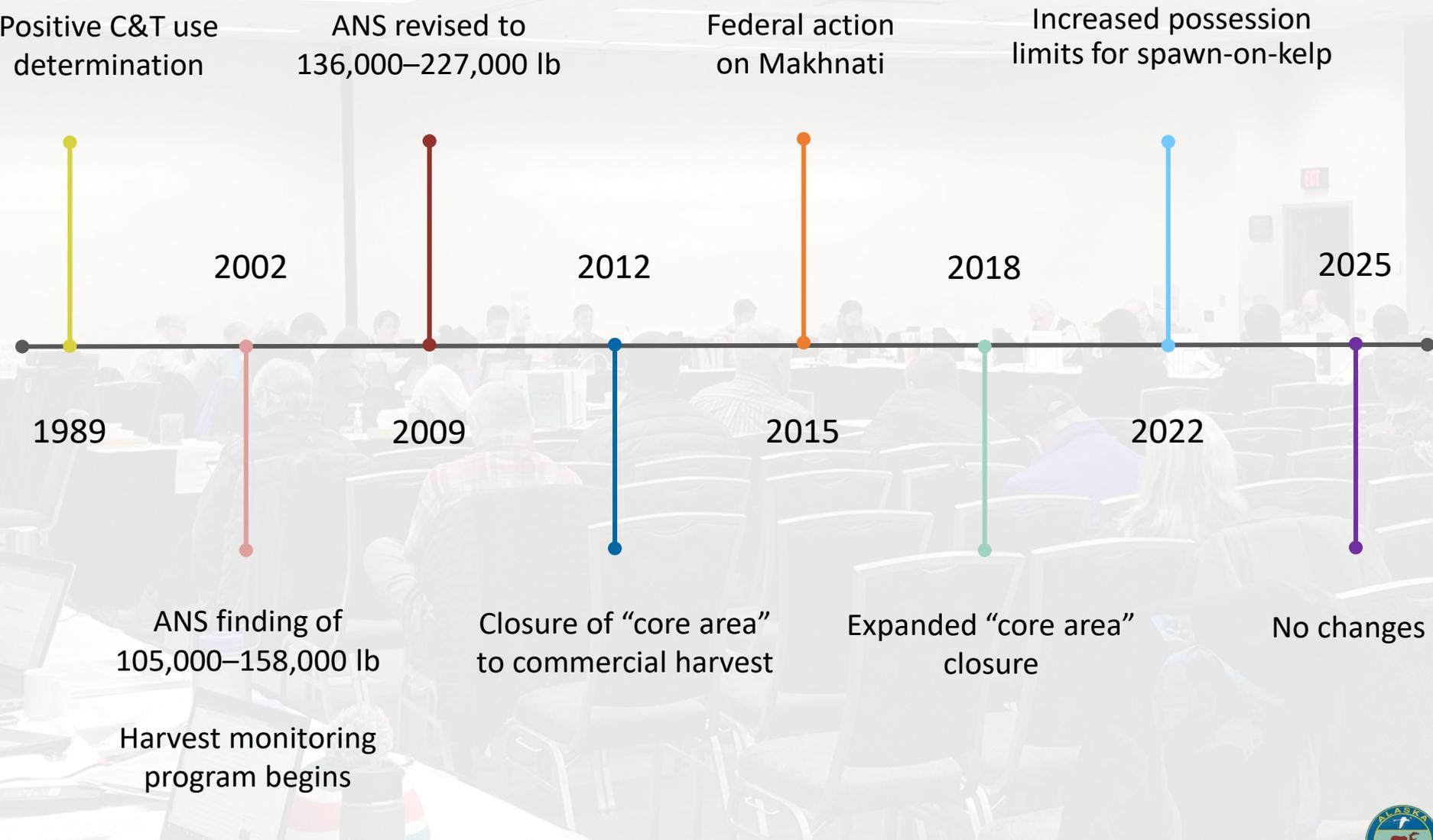
2026 Preseason Meeting  
March 12, 2026

Emily Doll  
Division of Subsistence  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. Regulatory history
2. Harvest assessment program
3. 2025 survey results
4. 2026 survey planning

# BOARD OF FISHERIES ACTIONS



- To conduct in-person interviews with households who harvest herring spawn;
- To produce estimates of the total pounds of herring spawn harvested on hemlock branches, Macrocystis kelp, hair seaweed and “other” substrates; and,
- To identify locations where herring spawn are harvested.

## HERRING EGG SUBSISTENCE HARVEST SURVEY SITKA, ALASKA 2019

This survey is used to estimate subsistence harvests of herring eggs from Sitka Sound and to describe community subsistence economies. We will publish a summary report which will be available to all households in your community. We share this information with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. We work with the Federal Regional Advisory Councils and with local Fish and Game Advisory Committees to better manage subsistence, and to implement federal and state subsistence priorities.

This project is guided by the research principles adopted by the Alaska Federation of Natives in 1993. We will NOT identify your household. We will NOT use this information for enforcement. Participation in this survey is voluntary. Even if you agree to be surveyed, you may stop at any time.

HOUSEHOLD ID:	
COMMUNITY ID:	Sitka <b>313</b>
INTERVIEWER:	
INTERVIEW DATE:	
DATA CODED BY:	
DATA ENTERED BY:	
SUPERVISOR:	



RESOURCE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT  
SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA  
429 KATLIAN STREET  
SITKA, AK 99835

907-747-7168

### COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE  
ALASKA DEPT OF FISH & GAME  
802 3RD STREET  
JUNEAU, AK 99801

907-465-3617

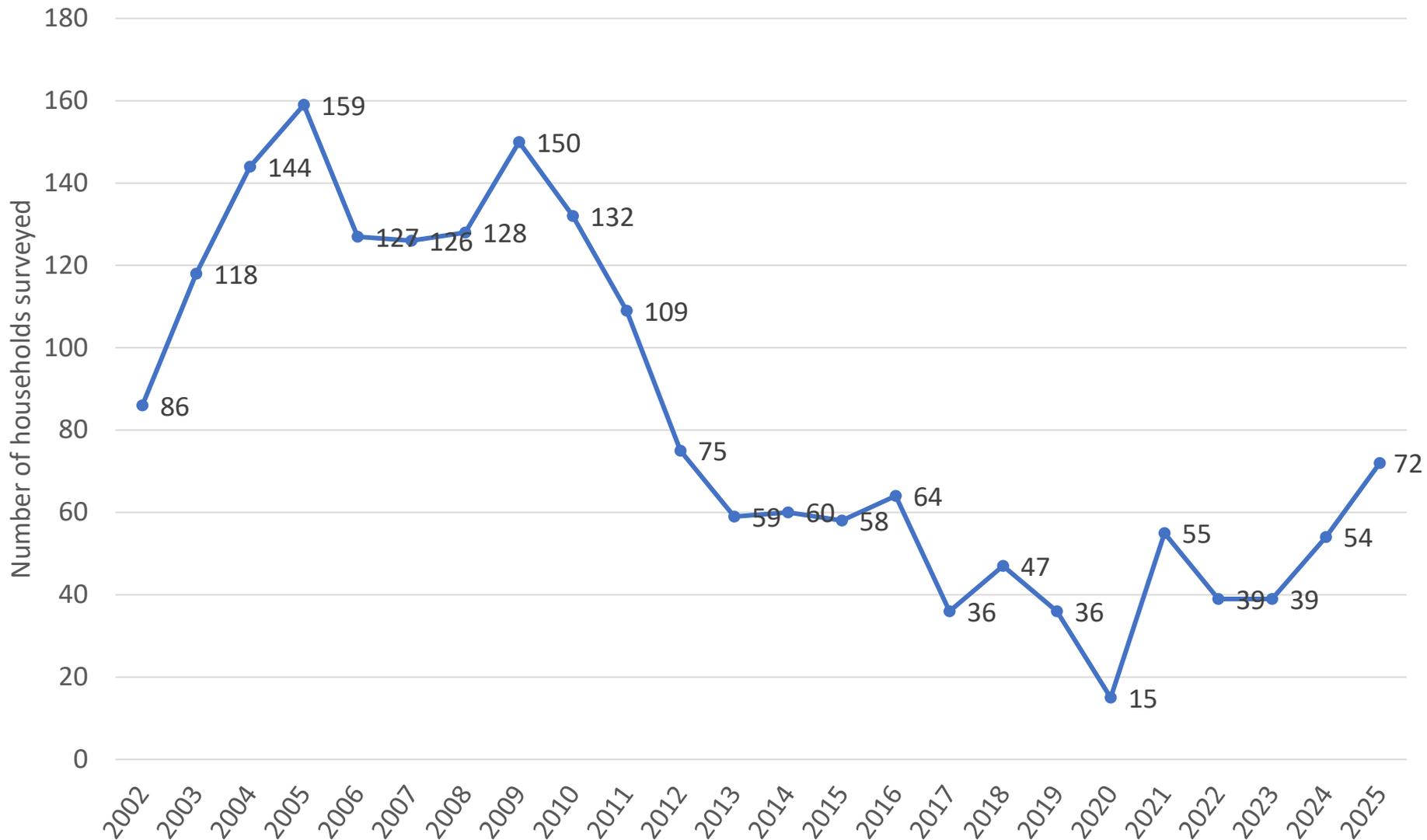


## Determining harvest weights

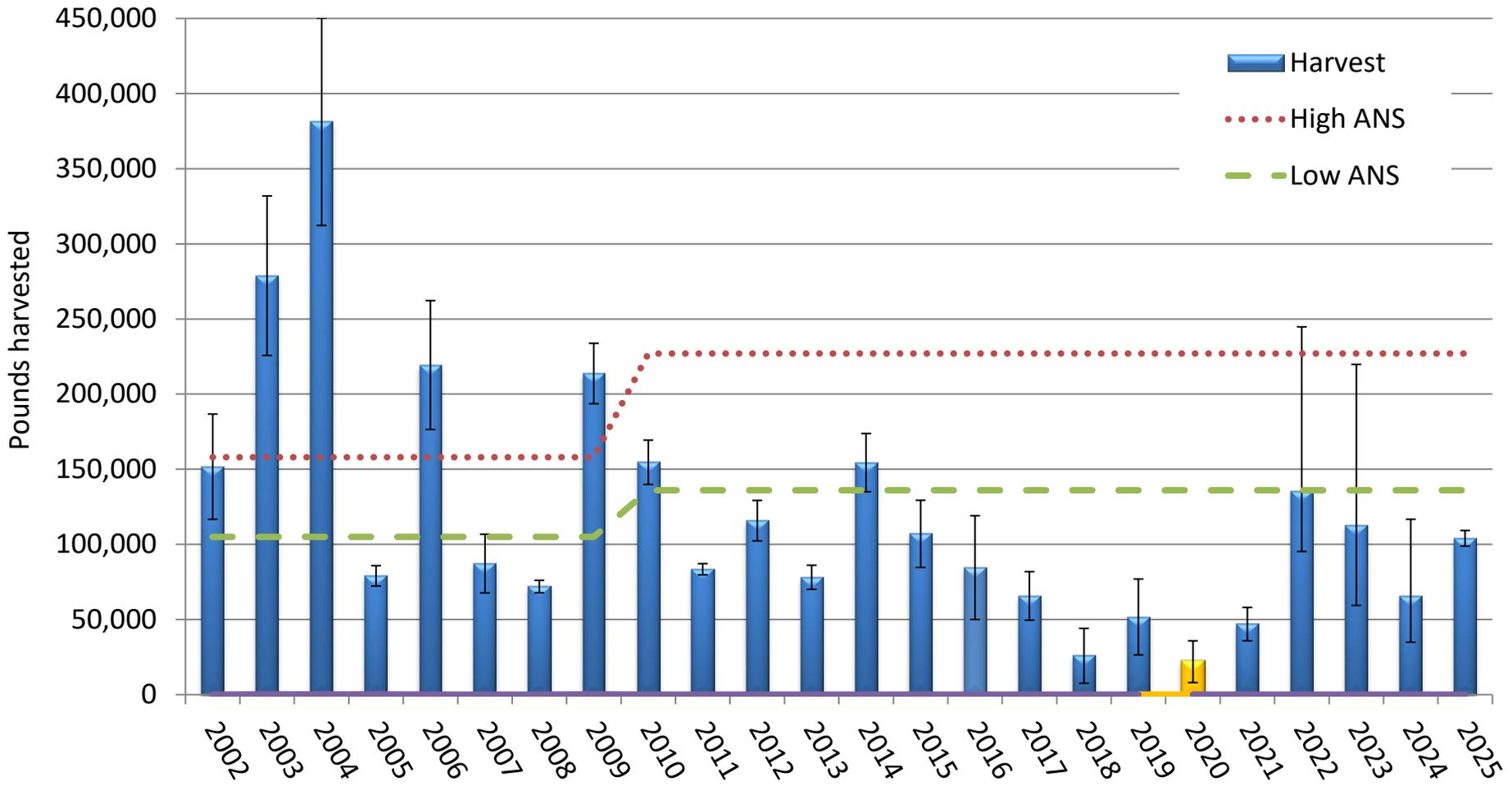
- STA and the department work together to develop a set of conversion factors.
- Apply to most common types of containers.
- Average weights developed through multiple measurements.



# SURVEY SAMPLE ACHIEVEMENT



# ESTIMATED HARVEST

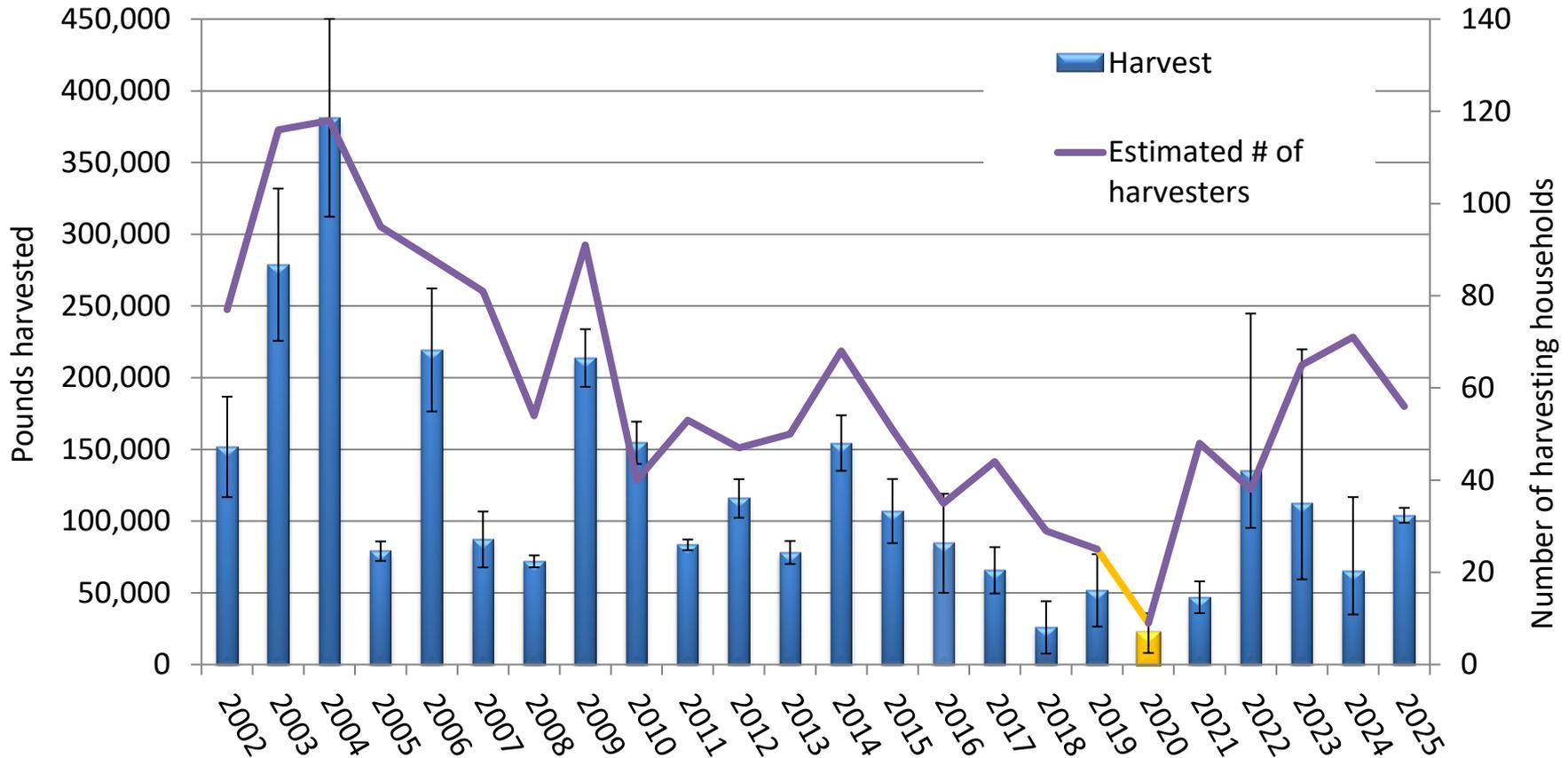


Note The bar depicting the 2020 harvest is yellow because the 2020 harvest year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total pounds useable weight and amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) of herring spawn on all substrates in Sitka Sound, 2002–2025.



# HARVEST EFFORT



Note The bar depicting the 2020 harvest is yellow because the 2020 harvest year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total pounds useable weight and amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) of herring spawn on all substrates in Sitka Sound, 2002–2025.



# HARVEST LOCATIONS, 2011–2025

DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE - ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



Number of Respondents

- ▲ 1 - 7
- ▲ 8 - 22
- ▲ 23 - 51
- 52 - 107
- 108 - 135

Area closed to commercial herring sacroe harvest

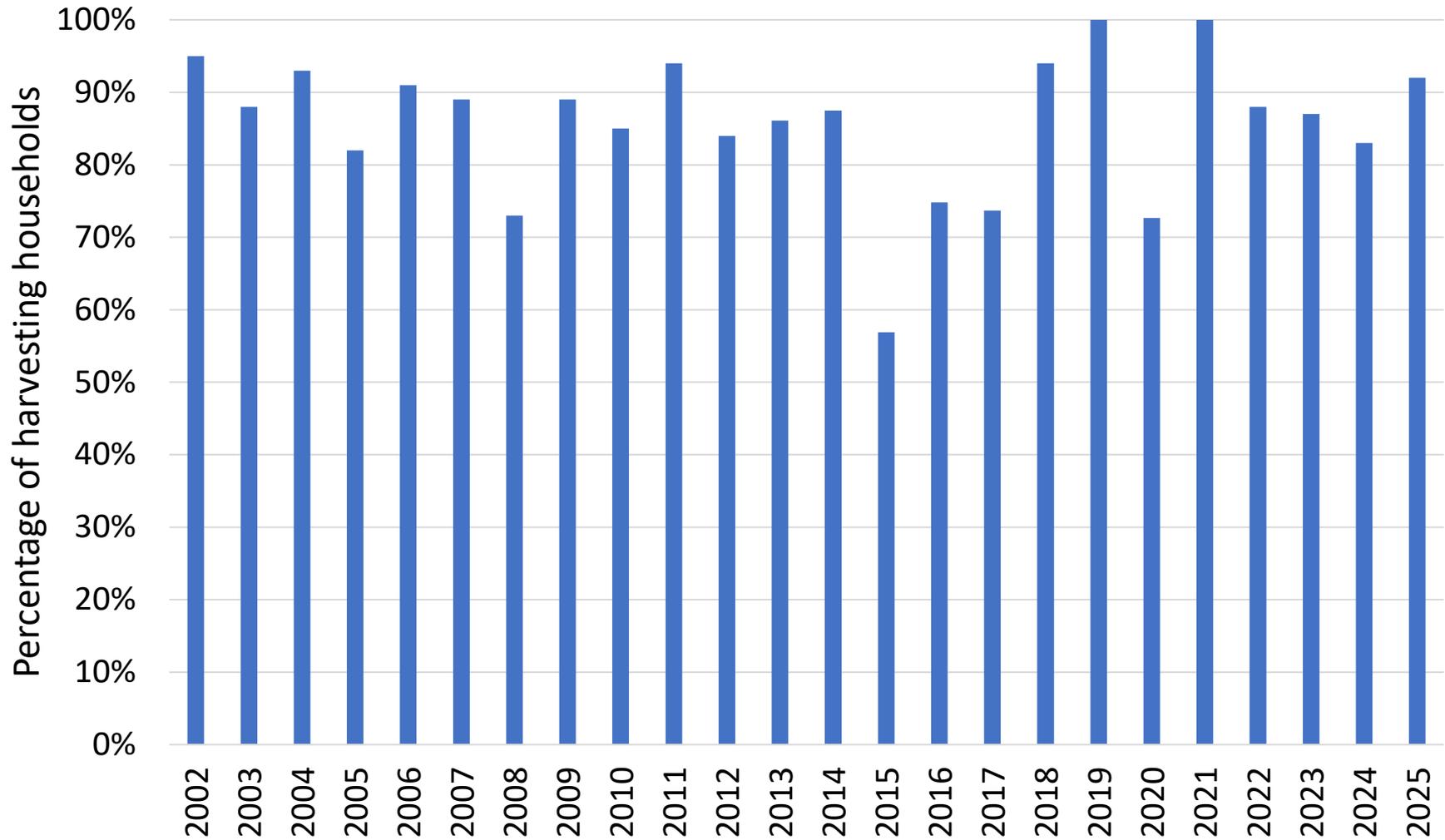


Source: Sitka Tribe of Alaska and ADF&G Division of Subsistence household surveys, 2011 - 2025.

Note: Harvest locations depicted in this map are general and do not represent exact harvest locations.



# SHARING HERRING EGGS, 2002–2025



Percent of harvesting households giving away herring eggs, 2002–2025



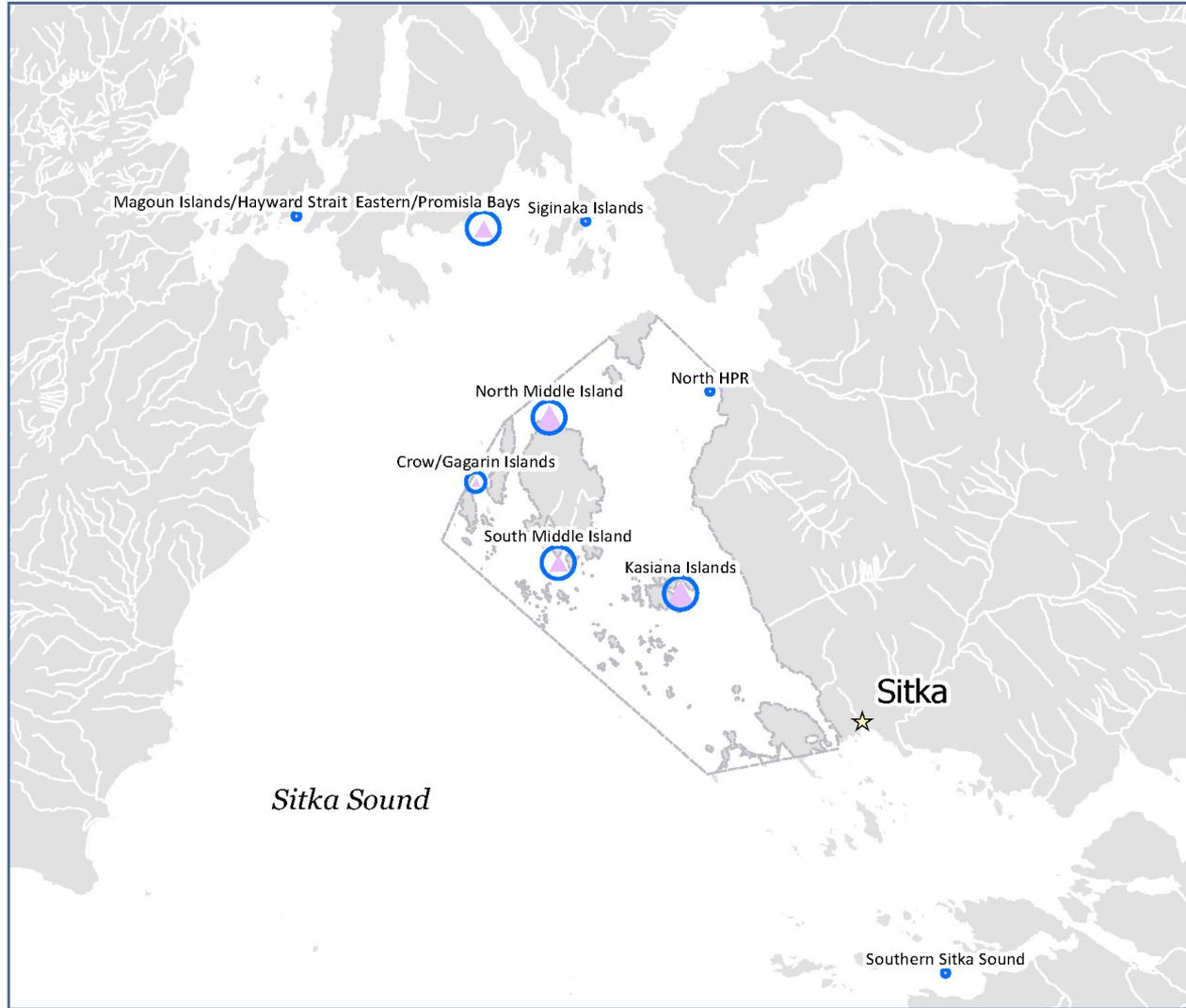
# SHARING HERRING EGGS, 2010–2025

Region	Frequency of sharing
Southeast	166
Arctic	26
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	24
Mat-Su	19
Outside Alaska	17
Interior	12
Kenai Peninsula	11
Bristol Bay	7
Aleutians	3
Prince William Sound	2



# HARVEST LOCATIONS, 2025

## DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE - ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



### Number of Respondents

- 1 - 3
- 4 - 6
- 10 - 15

### Percent of harvest

- 0 - 1
- 2 - 4
- 46 - 47

Area closed to commercial herring sacroe harvest

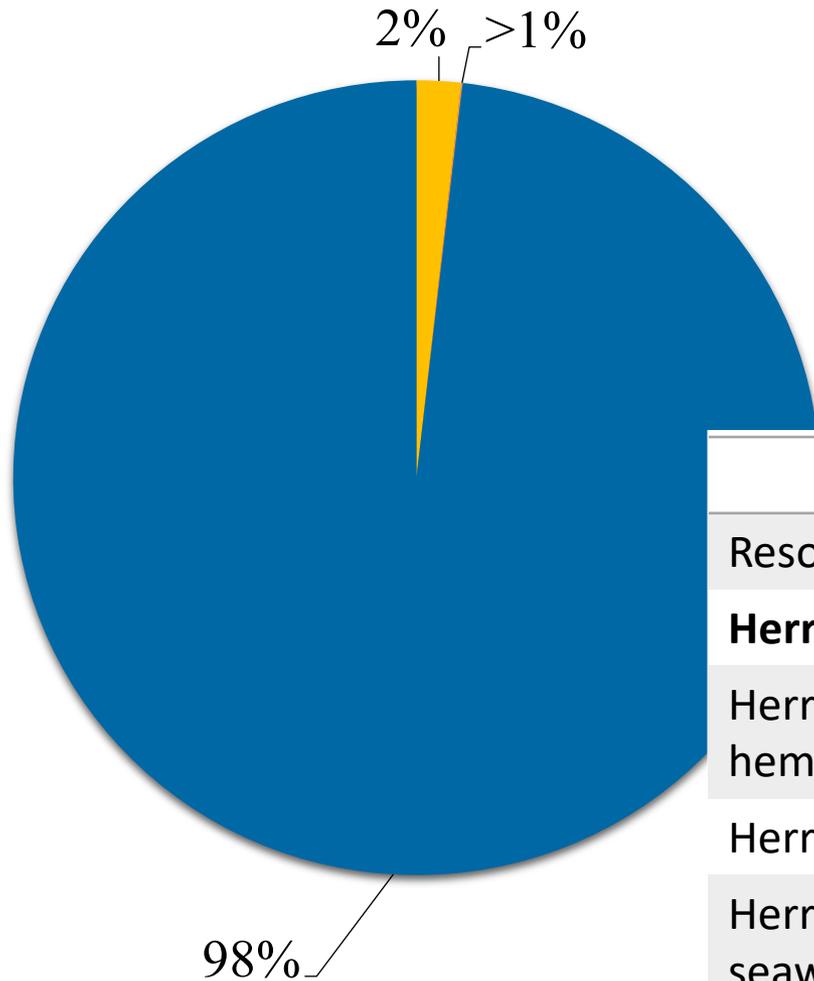


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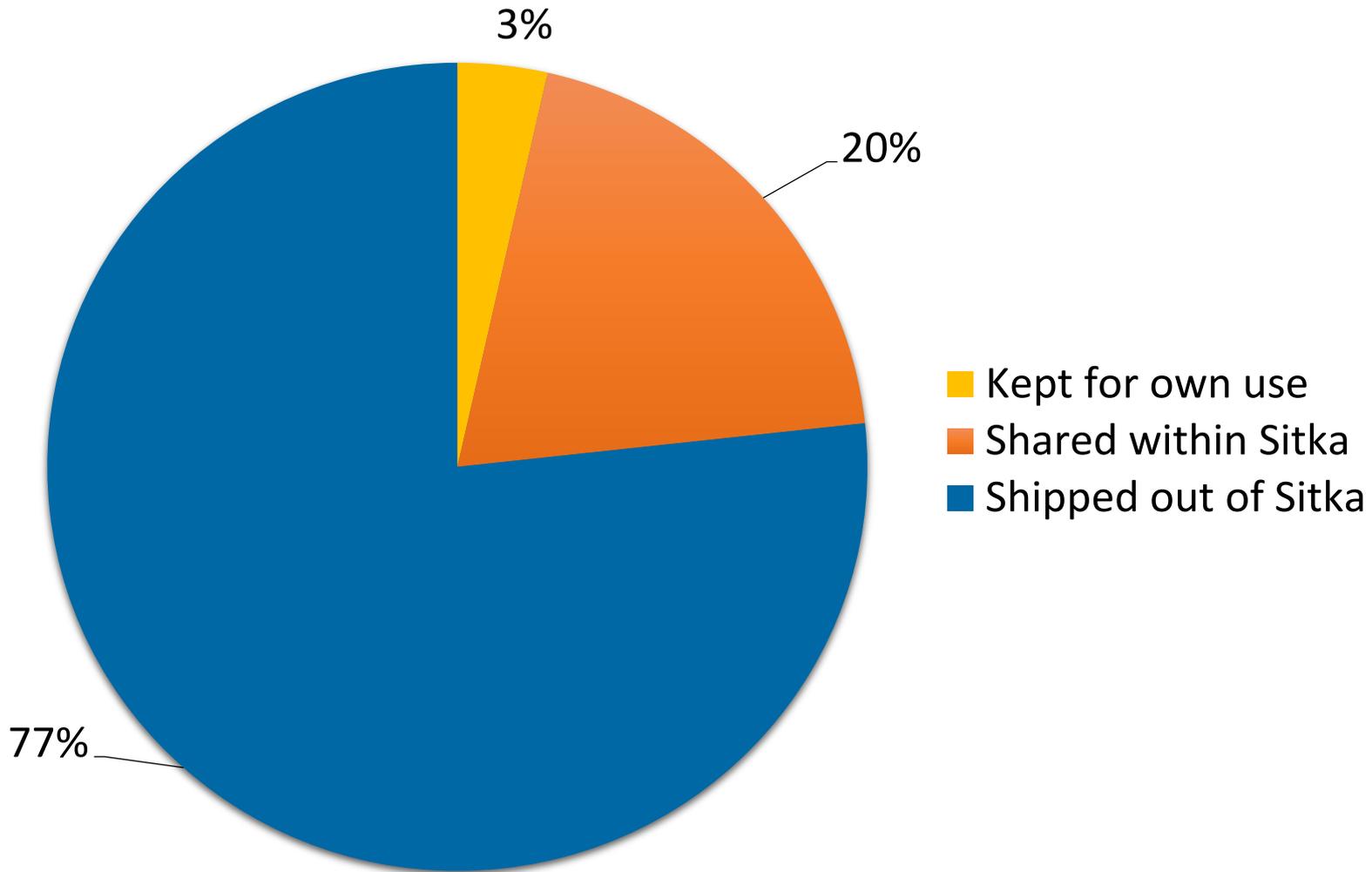
# HERRING SPAWN HARVEST BY SUBSTRATE<sup>13</sup>



- Herring eggs on kelp
- Herring eggs on hair seaweed
- Herring eggs on branches

## 2025 Subsistence Harvest of Herring Spawn

Resource	Total pounds harvested
<b>Herring spawn – all types</b>	<b>104,055</b>
Herring spawn on hemlock branches	102,150
Herring spawn on kelp	1,850
Herring spawn on hair seaweed	22



## What size vessel did households use to harvest herring spawn in 2025?

Number of households responding	less than 20 feet	20 to 24 feet	Over 24 feet	Commercial vessel	Other	No boat used - harvested from shore
35	57%	20%	20%	6%	0%	0%

## Number of households that harvesting households usually harvest for, 2025

Number of households responding	One	Two to five	Six to ten	Eleven to fifty	Fifty-one to one hundred	Over one hundred
26	27%	23%	15%	19%	0%	12%

# ASSESSMENTS

**Q: Did you get enough herring eggs for your own household? Did you get enough to meet your needs for sharing?**

	Number of households responding	Yes	No
For own household:	43	91%	9%
To share:	42	81%	19%

**Q: Were you asked for eggs that you could not supply?**

Number of households responding	Yes	No
42	29%	71%

# 2026 PROJECT TIMELINE

**April through June:** Harvester surveys

**June through September:** Data analysis

**October through November:** Report writing

**Early 2027:** Report publication



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sign up to be surveyed.

Keep your shipping bills.

Help identify other harvesters, local and non-local.

