

ABSTRACT

Historical and Contemporary Use and Effort of Subsistence Herring Eggs within the Makhnati Island Federal Waters

This study describes the historical and contemporary harvest and use of herring eggs (*yaaw*, *Clupea pallasii*) from the Makhnati Island federal waters. Information was gathered through harvest surveys, a literature review, and key respondent interviews. It was already known that the majority of the harvest and use of herring eggs from Sitka Sound is by Alaska Natives. The Makhnati area was once used by many subsistence users, but today is not used as frequently due to the development of the area, and the ease of most subsistence herring egg gatherers to harvest in other areas. This report provides for a better understanding of the importance of the customary and traditional herring egg harvest overall, with a specific emphasis on Makhnati Island federal waters as an important historical and contemporary spawning habitat and harvest area.

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