
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Troy Thynes or Kevin Clark
Phone: (907) 772-3801
Tom Kowalske (Wrangell)
Phone: (907) 874-3822

Petersburg Area Office
16 Sing Lee Ally
Petersburg, Alaska 99983
Date: May 20, 2014
Time: 9:00 a.m.

PETERSBURG/WRANGELL 2014 HERRING SUMMARY

Ernest Sound

The total 2013-2014 Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the Ernest Sound herring stock was 1,073 tons. The winter bait GHL of 966 tons was 90% of the total GHL. The bait pound GHL was 107 tons. There was no bait pound harvest and the winter food and bait harvest is confidential. The remaining GHL from these two fisheries allowed for a spawn-on-kelp fishery with a GHL of over 700 tons. The Ernest Sound SOK fishery opened to seining on April 1. The first herring were introduced to pounds on April 11. There were a total of 76 pounds and 129 permit holders on the grounds. Most pounds received herring and the spawn-on-kelp product was reported to be good overall. Final harvest tallies are not yet available. The final cumulative miles of shoreline receiving spawn was 3.7 nautical miles located along the south shore of Vixen Inlet extending south to Union Point. Spawning began on April 14 and continued through April 17 with a final spot spawn occurring on April 19. The peak day of spawning was April 17.

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

The preseason forecast for Hobart Bay/Port Houghton herring stocks have been below the 2,000 ton threshold that allows a fishery for several years, including 2014. The only recorded spawning occurred in the Hobart Bay area and it received a total of 3.4 nautical miles of spawn. Spawning started with a spot spawn observed on April 26. Spawning resumed again on May 1 and continued through May 2. The peak day of spawning was on May 1. Aerial surveys were not conducted after May 5 and no additional herring spawn has been reported in Port Houghton.

Additional Herring spawn events

Additional herring spawning events were documented in Bradfield Canal and Zimovia Strait. Zimovia Strait received approximately 8.2 nautical miles of spawn along the Wrangell Island shoreline from the city center to McCormick's Creek in mid-April. Bradfield Canal received approximately 5.8 nautical miles of spawn in late March or early April. No reports of spawning, or observed spawning, have occurred in Farragut Bay to date. The final day of herring aerial surveys was May 5. The department does not conduct specific surveys for these other areas and herring observations are made while conducting regular surveys or are reported by the public.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Hoonah</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220
