
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Date: March 12, 2019

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Time: 10:30 a.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #1

Sitka... An aerial survey was conducted today covering Sitka Sound north of Crawfish Inlet and south of Hayward Strait. Weather during today's flight was good with southeast winds 5-10 knots and overcast skies with occasional showers. No herring or herring spawn was observed. The highest concentration of herring predators was observed between Bieli Rock, Inner Point, and Hayward Strait; where numerous whales were seen working in deeper waters north of Bieli Rock and approximately 280 sea lions in several large groups holding off the rock piles. Additionally, 4 whales and a small group of sea lions were observed off the Lisianski Peninsula. South of Sitka, 4 whales were observed in outer Eastern Channel.

On March 11, a sonar survey of north Sitka Sound, on an industry boat, showed small schools of herring starting north of Old Sitka Rocks and ending near Lisianski Point. The deep water between Bieli Rock, Inner Point, and Hayward Strait contained most of the herring observed on the survey with a school stretching the width of the southern and nearly the length of the eastern portion of the trench. That school was approximately 20-30 fathoms in depth and topping out around 50 fathoms.

The next Fishery Update can be expected on Friday, March 15, after the next scheduled aerial survey. No test fishery sets have been made this season. Once test sampling indicates increasing roe maturity, the department will place the fishery on two-hour notice and schedule a prefishery organizational meeting.

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

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