



Advisory Announcement
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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery will likely not occur in 2020. The department has contacted all processors with known interest in the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery and they have all indicated that at this time they do not intend to purchase herring due to market requirements and the forecasted herring return. Current market conditions require herring with an average weight of 110 grams or more and roe recovery of 11% or better. The forecast is comprised primarily (83%) of age-4 herring with an anticipated average weight of 92 grams. The anticipated average weight across all age classes is 97 grams. The situation is similar to the 2019 season when herring were available to the fishery but did not meet market requirements and no fishery occurred.

The department will continue to monitor the Sitka Sound herring stock. Aerial surveys will begin the second week of March and will continue through the end of herring spawning activity. The *R/V Kestrel* will arrive in mid-March to conduct vessel surveys. The department will continue to issue fishery updates and daily herring spawn maps as the season progresses. If market conditions were to change and there is interest in conducting a fishery, any updates regarding a potential fishery will be announced through the department's Advisory Announcement system.

An informational meeting will be held at Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka on Monday, March 16, at 6:00 p.m. to present and discuss the department's herring assessment program, results of the department's 2019 surveys and sampling, the 2020 forecasts, and the preliminary 2019 roe on branch harvest estimate.

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

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