



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 19, 2020

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 2

Sitka...Aerial surveys conducted since the previous fishery update issued on March 16 covered Sitka Sound from Biorka Island to Krestof Sound. Weather during the flights was good with calm winds and fair skies. No herring spawn has been observed; a small school of herring was seen near Olga Point on March 19. The highest concentration of herring predators continues to be west of Bieli Rocks and in the vicinity of Vitskari Island; numerous whales were seen working in deeper waters west of Bieli Rocks and approximately 200 sea lions were observed in several large groups holding off the rock piles. On March 19 several whales were observed between St. Lazaria Island and Vitskari Island. South of Sitka, 1 whale and a small number of sealions were observed in Eastern Channel. The rocks on the coast near Biorka Island still held several hundred sealions. Predator numbers and locations are normal for this time of year.

The vessel survey conducted by the *R/V Kestrel* on March 19 of north Sitka Sound showed numerous large schools of herring in the deeper waters west of Bieli Rocks and in the deeper waters north and east of Vitskari Island.

The next fishery update can be expected on Monday, March 23 or sooner if aerial or vessel surveys show a significant change in predator or herring distribution, or if herring spawn is observed.

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

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