
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: March 25, 2012
Time: 12:00 p.m.

SITKA SOUND SAC ROE HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery will be on 2-hour notice effective 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 27, 2012. This means that a fishery could be expected with a minimum of two hours notice after the effective time.

The results of test samples taken to date are as follows:

Date	Time	Location	Vessel	Set Size (Tons)	Percent Mature Roe	Percent Immature Roe	Ave Wt. (gms)	Percent Female
21-Mar	11:00	N. Old Sitka Rks	Confidence	200	2.5%	10.8%	161	59%
23-Mar	11:20	Halibut Point	Karine Brit	200	8.2%	4.9%	165	54%
24-Mar	12:35	Old Sitka Rks	Aleutian Spirit	30	6.4%	5.7%	154	52%

Though test samples have shown high immaturity to date, visible inspection of the immature skeins shows a high percentage of very immature skeins. The discrepancy of maturity levels may result in mature and immature herring segregating as the more mature herring prepare for spawning. In consideration of this season's large guideline harvest level the department is placing the fishery on 2-hour notice to ensure that the department and industry are in position to take advantage of early opportunities to harvest good quality herring.

The aerial survey today showed a similar distribution of sea lions and whales as has been seen during the past several days. No herring or spawn was seen. The department will begin making daily informational radio announcements on Marine VHF channel 10 the day two-hour notice is in effect. Radio announcement will generally occur at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced.

Sitka Sound herring updates can be found at:

<http://documents.cfl.adfg.state.ak.us/SubtopicContents.po?ERA=Current&TOPIC=07&SUBTOPIC=sac>

end

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>
<i>ADFG</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220
<i>Herring Hotline</i>	225-6870	772-3700		747-1009	465-8905			

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