
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: April 8, 2012
Time: 8:00 a.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #12

Yesterday, the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery was opened in the Salisbury Sound and Krestof Sound area from 2:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., harvesting approximately 3,700 tons. The area opened included the waters of Krestof Sound north of 57°10.00' N. latitude, Neva Strait, and Salisbury Sound south of 57°10.00' N. latitude and east of 135°43.81 W. longitude. This opening was based on two test samples from Salisbury Sound that had the following results:

St John Baptist Bay; 100 t; 10.4% mature; 0.6% immature; 131 gram; 48% female.

Kane Island; 200 t; 11.1% mature; 0.3% immature; 140 gram; 50% female.

The following is summary of harvests to date:

March 31:	4,682 tons
April 2:	5,354 tons
<u>April 8:</u>	<u>3,740 tons</u>
Total	13,776 tons

This leaves 15,053 tons remaining of this season's guideline harvest level of 28,829 tons.

The plan is to wait until Monday, April 9, to seek further fishing opportunities. Yesterday's aerial survey found only isolated areas of active spawning continuing in the Hayward Strait area. The total shoreline mapped with spawn to date is approximately 37 nautical miles. A detailed vessel survey was not conducted yesterday. While transiting to Salisbury Sound the *R/V Kestrel* continued to see a substantial volume of herring in deeper waters east of Middle Island. An extensive mid-water layer of herring was also seen north of Middle Island. The department will be conducting an aerial survey this morning. No vessel survey is planned for today. Today at 11:00 a.m., the department will give an informational update and coordinate plans for tomorrow on marine VHF channel 10. There will not be a 4:00 p.m. radio update.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below.

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			465-8905			