
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: April 12, 2012
Time: 1:45 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 closed for the remainder of the 2012 season. The total harvest to date is approximately 13,534 tons or 47% of this season's guideline harvest level of 28,829 tons. The decision to close the fishery was based on the completion of major spawning in Sitka Sound, and vessel and aerial surveys conducted over the last several days have not identified a biomass of pre-spawning herring in the Sitka Sound area at this time.

The preliminary harvest by opening this season was as follows:

March 31 – 4,595 tons
April 2 – 5,251 tons
April 7 – 3,688 tons
Total – 13,534 tons

The total cumulative spawn to date is approximately 54 nautical miles. It is typical to see additional spawning through the month of April and the department will continue to conduct aerial surveys to monitor for additional spawn. The *R/V Kestrel* will be used to support the spawn deposition dive survey beginning today and no further sonar surveys are planned. The department will provide a final update of the results of this season's spawn event later this spring.

Sitka Sound herring updates can be found at:

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

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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