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Advisory Announcement
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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 5

The aerial herring surveys from March 18 and March 19 covered Sitka Sound from Cape Burunof to Krestof Sound. Survey conditions on March 18 were poor with high winds negatively affecting visibility; conditions on March 19 were fair with light rain and light winds. No herring schools or spawn were observed on either flight. While herring predators were still seen along the Kruzof Island shoreline from Inner Point to Kamanoi Point on both surveys, humpback whales have begun to be observed between Bieli Rock and Makhnati Island and south of Whale Island. A large concentration of sea lions was observed near Inner Point during both surveys.

Department and industry vessels surveyed from Indian River to Deep Inlet and near Middle Island. Several large schools of herring were located from Indian River to Whale Island, near Long Island, and in Starrigavan Bay. Additionally, several very large schools of herring were located in the deeper waters north of Middle Island and north of Big Gavanski Island.

A small sample of herring collected south of Whale Island with hook and line gear showed, anecdotally, that herring maturity is developing relative to the samples collected early in the week.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Monday, March 20.

All aerial herring survey data can be reviewed online, including spawn lines and photos, in an interactive map application found at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.herring#maps> or scan:



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

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