



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: March 19, 2024

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2024 KETCHIKAN HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 1

Herring aerial surveys have begun in the Ketchikan management area for the 2024 season. An aerial survey was conducted on March 18 in the Revilla Channel area and today, March 19, in the Revilla Channel and Craig areas.

Craig

The weather on March 19 was good with clear skies and calm winds. An aerial survey was conducted in the Craig area from Doyle Bay to Abbess Island to Blanquizal Island and along the eastern shore of San Fernando Island. No herring spawn was observed. Predators were limited with approximately 10 humpback whales and 30 sea lions observed in the area.

The fishery opened for placement of herring into pounds at 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

2024 Craig/Klawock Herring Summary

March 19, 2024 Limited predator activity.

Revilla Channel

The aerial survey on March 18 included Mary, Cat, Dog, and Duke Islands. Weather conditions were good with a high ceiling and light winds. The visibility was excellent. A total of 3.5 nautical miles (nmi) of active spawn was observed on Cat, Dog, Double, and Village Islands. There was moderate to intense spawn on both Cat Island and Double Island with several large schools of herring observed. The aerial survey on March 19 included Mary, Cat, Dog, and Duke Islands, and the mainland shoreline from Foggy Point to Kah Shakes Cove. The weather conditions were good with clear skies and light winds. Approximately 5.8 nmi of spawn was observed. The highest intensity spawn was observed on the south end of Cat Island and Village Island. Numerous schools of herring were documented. Predators in the area included 2,000 scoters and 35 sea lions. The department received reports of spawn in the Cat and Dog Island area on March 16, 2024, and it was confirmed during a vessel survey yesterday. March 16 is the earliest documented spawn in the Revilla Channel area.

2024 Revilla Channel Herring Summary

March 16, 2024 Spot spawn on the northwest side of Double Island.

March 17, 2024 Approx. 1.0 nmi of spawn on Cat and Double Islands.

March 18, 2024 3.5 nmi of spawn on Cat, Dog, Double, and Village Islands.

March 19, 2024 5.8 nmi of spawn on Cat, Dog, Double, and Village Islands.

The next scheduled aerial survey is planned for **Wednesday, March 20**. Fishery updates will be released after aerial surveys are completed for the day.

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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