



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 21, 2024

CONTACT: Bo Meredith
Ketchikan Area Management Biologist
bo.meredith@alaska.gov
(907) 225-5195

2024 KETCHIKAN HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 2

Aerial surveys were conducted on March 20 and today, March 21, in the Revilla Channel area and a skiff survey was conducted today, March 21, in the Craig area.

Craig

The skiff survey covered the immediate vicinity of Craig, including Fish Egg, Wadleigh, and Abbess Islands. The weather was excellent, with clear skies, calm winds, and excellent visibility. Predator activity was low throughout the area with scattered pods of sea lions and one whale observed in the open pounding area. Predator activity was also minimal on Fish Egg Island, but a small spawn was observed via drone on the southwest side of Fish Egg Island that began at approximately 12:00 noon. The spawn began to build extremely fast and expanded outward on the southwest portion of Fish Egg Island over the next 2 hours. Total spawn as of 3:00 p.m. is approximately 1.1 nautical miles (nmi).

Fisherman participating in the herring spawn-on-kelp pound fishery are encouraged to harvest their kelp blades, configure their pound structures, and monitor the open pounding area for opportunity to introduce herring into their structures.

The fishery opened for placement of herring into pounds at 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 17, 2024. ADF&G personnel are on the grounds and will be monitoring the fishery daily throughout the spawning event and can be reached on VHF Channel 10 or 16.

2024 Craig/Klawock Herring Summary

March 19, 2024 Limited predator activity.
March 21, 2024 1.1 nmi of spawn on Fish Egg Island.

Revilla Channel

The aerial survey on March 20 included Mary, Cat, Dog, and Duke Islands. Weather conditions were excellent with clear skies, zero wind, and excellent visibility. A total of 5.2 nmi of active spawn was observed on Cat, Dog, Fripo, and Village Islands. There was moderate to intense spawn on Fripo and Dog Islands with several large schools of herring observed near Fripo Island and the southwest side of Cat Island. The aerial survey today, March 21, 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 northerly winds. Visibility was again, excellent. 2.7 nmi of spawn was observed, although the spawn is lighter, more spread out, and dissipating. The highest intensity spawn was observed on Fripo Island and on the Duke Island shoreline in Dog Bay. Predators in the area included numerous scoters and scattered pods of sea lions well dispersed throughout the Cat and Dog Islands area. The cumulative herring spawn observed in state waters in Revilla Channel to date is 8.4 nmi.

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.

March 20, 2024 5.2 nmi of spawn on Cat, Dog, Fripo, and Village Islands.

March 21, 2024 2.7 nmi of spawn on Cat, Dog, Duke, and Fripo Islands.

The next scheduled aerial survey of the Craig area is planned for **Friday, March 22**. 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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