



**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: March 23, 2024***

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**2024 KETCHIKAN HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 4**

Aerial surveys were conducted today in both the Revilla Channel and Craig area.

**Craig**

Today's aerial survey covered the entire Craig area, from the Coronados Islands to St. Philip Island, through Portillo Channel and Pt. Amargura. The weather was excellent, with clear skies, calm winds, and excellent visibility. 9.0 nautical miles (nmi) of active spawn was observed around Fish Egg Island, the Ballenas Islands, the reef from Fish Egg to the Ballenas Islands, and along the Prince of Wales Island shoreline from the Craig Cannery dock extending south to Cape Suspiro. Predator activity throughout the area remains low with a wide distribution. There were scattered pods of sea lions on the northern side of Abess Island, north and west side of Fish Egg Island, and along the Prince of Wales Island shoreline from Point Ildefonso to Blanquital Point. Humpback whales were observed near Klawock Reef, the Witnesses, and Fish Egg Island. There are approximately 50 pound structures on the grounds. No herring have been introduced.

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.
March 22, 2024	3.6 nmi of spawn on Fish Egg and Ballenas Islands.
March 23, 2024	9.0 nmi of spawn on the POW shoreline, Ballenas, and Fish Egg Islands.

**Revilla Channel**

Today's aerial survey covered the Cat and Dog Island area. Weather conditions were excellent with clear skies, a light northerly wind, and excellent visibility. 0.3 nmi of light active spawn was observed on Duke Island in Dog Bay. The cumulative herring spawn observed in state waters in Revilla Channel to date is 8.6 nmi. No further aerial surveys are planned for Revilla Channel.

**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.

March 22, 2024 1.5 nmi of spawn on Dog Island.

March 23, 2024 0.3 nmi of spawn on Duke Island.

### West Behm Canal

The department received confirmed reports of active spawn in West Behm Canal today. The active spawn was observed by industry pilots and occurred at Indian Point extending approximately 0.2 nmi north with additional active spawn observed on the Cleveland Peninsula shoreline from Mike Point extending north to Point Francis.

The next scheduled aerial survey for Craig is planned for **Sunday, March 24**. Fishery updates will be released after aerial surveys are completed for the day. **Monday, March 25, is a state holiday and state offices will be closed.**

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:

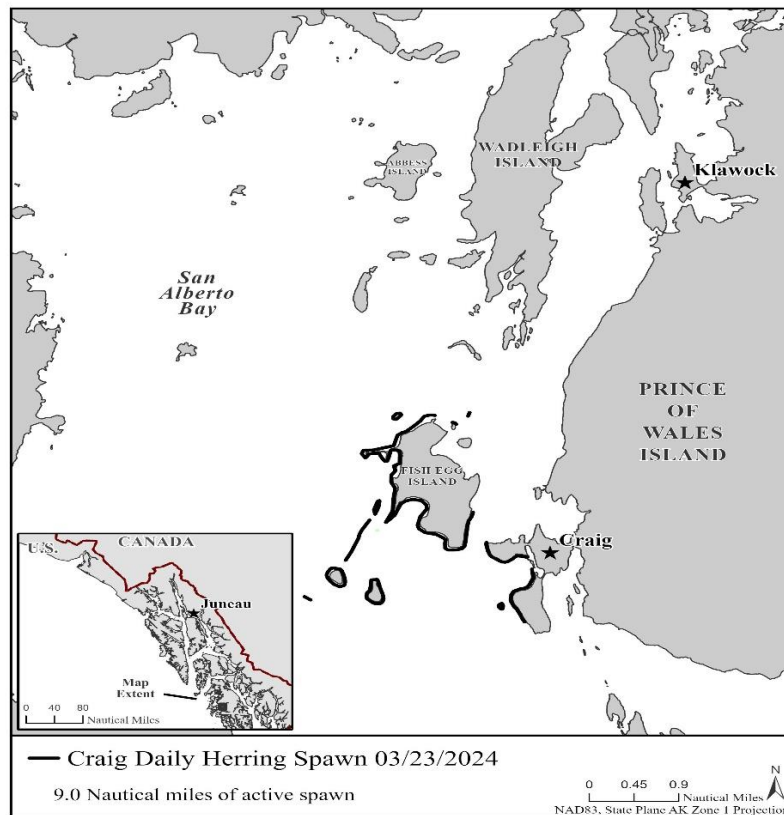


Figure 1. Active herring spawn in Craig for March 23, 2024.

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

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