
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: April 3, 2013
Time: 8:00 a.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #10

The total harvest to date is approximately 5,600 tons leaving just under 6,000 tons remaining to be harvested of the season's 11,549-ton guideline harvest level. Major spawning in Sitka Sound began on March 28 and peaked on March 31 with 28.2 nm of shoreline with active spawn. Yesterday, April 2, active spawn included 6.6 nm of shoreline indicating the major spawning event is concluding. The total cumulative shoreline with spawn documented to date is 42 nm. Over the past several days, the presence of heavy spawn has resulted in the inability to identify an area with sufficient good quality roe herring to prosecute a competitive fishery. On April 2, permit holders agreed to a cooperative style fishery in an effort to continue making progress in harvesting additional roe herring. The cooperative fishery will open from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. daily, starting Wednesday, April 3. The area open will include all waters of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe regulatory area which includes Section 13-B north of Aspid Cape and Section 13-A south of Point Kakul. The large area will allow permit holders to survey all areas to identify whether additional unspawned herring are present in the area. Under the cooperative agreement harvesting will occur under targeted total allotments to be divided between permit holders with the first allotment target of 480 tons or 10 tons/permit holder. Additional allotments will be provided depending upon the results of each allotment. The department will be closely monitoring the fishery and will impose closures if necessary to avoid excessive catch and release of poor quality herring.

The *R/V Kestrel* will depart Sitka today to return to its home port in Petersburg and will return next week to begin spawn deposition surveys.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below, and on a recorded message phone at (907) 747-1009.

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			
