

---

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



---

Contact:  
Troy Thynes or Kevin Clark  
Phone: (907) 772-3801  
Tom Kowalske (Wrangell)  
Phone: (907) 874-3822

Petersburg Area Office  
16 Sing Lee Alley  
Petersburg, Alaska 99983  
Date: April 17, 2013  
Time: 4:00 p.m.

---

#### **PETERSBURG/WRANGELL HERRING UPDATE #5**

The department conducted an aerial survey on Tuesday, April 16, of Ernest Sound and Hobart Bay areas between 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The survey conditions were fair with overcast skies, intermittent rains, and winds between 20 and 25 mph.

#### Ernest Sound

One school of herring and areas of active spawn were observed. This was the fourth day of active herring spawning in Vixen Inlet. To date, all spawning activity in Ernest Sound has occurred in Vixen Inlet and to the west to Union Point. Herring have been seen in shallow water throughout Vixen Inlet and all pounds are currently active with some harvest of kelp occurring. Department personnel are on the grounds monitoring fishing activity and collecting herring samples.

Future updates will be sporadic until department personnel return from Ernest Sound. The next aerial survey is scheduled to occur Wednesday, April 17.

#### Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

No schools of herring were spotted during the first aerial survey conducted on April 16. There was mammal and bird activity recorded in the Hobart Bay area and was concentrated offshore of Entrance Island in deep water. The department will continue to monitor the Hobart Bay/Port Houghton area for bird and mammal activity. The next flight is scheduled for Friday, April 19.

#### **2013 Herring Summary**

#### Ernest Sound

April 1	Fishery opened for the pound fishery.
April 3	No herring activity, 45 sea lions.
April 5	No herring activity, 40 sea lions.
April 8	No herring activity, 61 sea lions.
April 10	No herring activity, 43 sea lions, fishery activity increasing.
April 11	Department staff arrived on grounds, active pounding occurring.
April 12	No herring activity, 123 sea lions, 1 whale, active pounding occurring.
April 13	1.75 miles of active spawn, 180 sea lions, 1 whale, active pounding occurring.
April 14	1.75 miles of active spawn, 218 sea lions, 2 whales, active pounding occurring.
April 15	2.0 miles of active spawn, 150 sea lions, 1 whale, active pounding occurring.
April 16	.75 miles of active spawn, 86 sea lions, 1 whale, active harvesting of pounds occurring.

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

April 16          No herring activity, 71 sea lions, 2 whales, 100 scooters.

Pilots and Mariners transiting Ernest Sound or Hobart/Port Houghton are asked to report any herring activity or congregations of sea lions to the Wrangell or Petersburg Fish and Game offices.

Petersburg/Wrangell herring updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below.

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>ADF&amp;G</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