
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:

Dave Harris

Phone: (907) 465-4250

Fax: (907) 465-4944

Southeast Regional Office

PO Box 110024

Juneau, Alaska 99811-0024

Date: May 6, 2013

Time: 9:00 a.m.

SEYMOUR CANAL SAC ROE HERRING FISHERY ADVANCE NOTICE

Juneau. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that the Seymour Canal gillnet herring sac roe fishery will be placed on 2-hour notice effective 9:00 p.m., Monday, May 6, 2013. This means that a fishery could be opened with a minimum of two hours-notice after that time.

Seymour Canal was surveyed at 5:30 p.m. yesterday evening. One very small school of herring was observed in the core area and the number of whales observed in the area has increased. No herring spawn was observed. Given the late date, change in weather patterns, and herring spawn observed in nearby areas, the department vessel *R/V Medeia* will be departing from Juneau this morning to conduct sonar surveys in Seymour Canal.

Over the last 20 years, herring have spawned in Seymour Canal as early as April 19 and as late as May 21. The average date of the first documented spawn is April 29 and the average opening date for the commercial sac roe fishery is May 2. The last two fisheries to occur opened April 26 in 2011 and April 24 in 2010. The 2013 harvest quota for the Seymour sac roe fishery is 1,014 tons. This is based on a forecast mature spawning biomass of 7,716 tons and a harvest rate of 13.1%. The forecast indicates that the spawning stock will consist of 11% age-3, 28% age-4, 10% age-5, 14% age-6, 7% age-7, and 30% age-8+.

All permit holders who do not have buoy stickers and who are planning to fish must register with the department on the grounds prior to fishing. Buoy stickers will be available from department personnel aboard the *R/V Medeia*.

Fish and Game biologists will be basing operations aboard the *R/V Medeia* until the close of the fishery. All announcements concerning the fishery will be made on the grounds from the *R/V Medeia*. Future Fishery Updates may not be posted and distributed in a timely manner until ADF&G staff return from the field.

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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983		747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
Herring Hotline	225-6870			747-1009	465-8905			

-end-