
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Dave Gordon

Phone: (907) 747-6688
Fax: (907) 747-6693

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Date: March 5, 2014
Time: 3:30 p.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka....the Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the final guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2014 Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery is 16,333 tons based on a 20% harvest rate of a forecast mature biomass of 81,663 tons. This is 1,259 tons less than the preliminary GHL announced in December, 2013. This adjustment is based on the winter test fishery sample results showing smaller average weights-at-age for herring ages 3, 4, 5, and 6, when compared to the winter of 2013. The forecast indicates that ages 3-6 will represent 63% of the returning mature population this spring. Age-7 herring were similar in average weight and age-8 and older had a slightly larger average weight when compared to the winter of 2013. Age-7 and age-8 and older herring are expected to represent 12% and 25% of the population, respectively.

The department plans to conduct the first aerial survey of Sitka Sound around March 14. The *R/V Kestrel* will be deployed from its home port in Petersburg when test fish results indicate the need to put the fishery on two-hour notice.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below. The department will not be providing Sitka Sound herring updates on the "Herring Hotline" recorded message phones.

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	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220

<end>