
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: March 30, 2014
Time: 1:00 p.m.

SITKA SOUND SAC ROE HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery will be closed for the remainder of the season. Yesterday, March 29, the fishery was opened in the area of Crescent Bay and Eastern Channel from 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Two test samples from the opened area had mature roe of 13.7% and 13.5% justifying the opening. Preliminary processor hauls show a harvest of approximately 3,935 tons for the opening. This brings the preliminary total harvest for the season to 17,231 tons, above the guideline harvest level of 16,333 tons. Final harvest numbers will be announced when processing is complete.

Preliminary harvests for the four openings this season were as follows:

Date	Time	Harvest (tons)
20-Mar	1:45 p.m.-4:20 p.m.	4,998
23-Mar	1:30 p.m.-3:10 p.m.	4,644
26-Mar	2:30 p.m.-3:40 p.m.	3,654
29-Mar	1:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m.	3,935
Total		17,231

For the next several weeks, the department will be continuing aerial surveys to document the Sitka Sound herring spawn as well as collecting samples for age and size composition of the spawning population. The *R/V Kestrel* will return to Sitka some time after the first week of April for conducting spawn deposition dive surveys.

The department will continue to provide periodic Fishery Updates on how the spawn is progressing until the spawning is complete, typically in late-April.

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

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