
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Date: April 21, 2014
Time: 2:45 p.m.

PETERSBURG/WRANGELL HERRING UPDATE #5

Ernest Sound

Aerial surveys were conducted the past 3 days. No aerial surveys were conducted today. Active herring spawning started in the evening of Monday, April 14 and continued through April 17. Another herring spawning event occurred on April 19 inside the primary pounding area. Herring spawning occurred along the south shore of Vixen Inlet and extended to Union Point. The cumulative mileage to date is 3.9 nm. A total of 77 pounds were actively fished. All but a few pounds have released herring and most of the pounds have been harvested. The product is reported to be of good quality from most pounds. Department personnel monitoring the fishery have departed the fishing grounds and the R/V Kestrel will be arriving Tuesday to conduct spawn deposition surveys. The next and likely final aerial survey will be flown Tuesday, April 22.

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

An aerial survey was flown today of the Farragut Bay, Port Houghton, and Hobart Bay areas. No herring or herring spawn were observed. The number of sea lions observed in the Hobart Bay area decreased substantially from last Friday's survey. Herring spawning in Hobart typically occurs about 5 days before Seymour Canal. The next scheduled survey is for Wednesday, April 23.

The next update will be Wednesday, April 23.

2014 Herring Summary

Ernest Sound

April 4 No herring activity, 29 sea lions.
April 8 No herring activity, 17 sea lions.
April 11 No herring activity, 2 sea lions.
April 13 Department staff arrived on grounds, active fishing.
April 14 A small spot spawn, 79 sea lions, 1 whale, active fishing.
April 15 **1.0 nm of active spawn**, 154 sea lions, active fishing.
April 16 **0.3 nm of active spawn**, 149 sea lions, active fishing.
April 17 **1.6 nm of active spawn**, 211 sea lions, active fishing.
April 18 No herring spawn or schools observed.
April 19 **0.5 nm of active spawn**, 148 sea lions.
April 20 No herring spawn or schools observed, 211 sea lions, 1 whale.

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

April 14 No herring activity, 6 sea lions.
April 18 No herring activity, 46 sea lions, 1 whale.
April 21 No herring activity, 4 sea lions.

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

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