
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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PO Box 110024
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Time: 8:30 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 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, 2014. This means that a fishery could be opened with a minimum of two hours-notice after that time.

Seymour Canal has been regularly surveyed in recent days and a steady increase in predators has been evident. An industry boat on the grounds last night was able to acquire a sample and found 12.9% mature roe and 125 gram average fish. Given the increase in predators, sightings of schools of herring on the beach and forecast warm sunny weather; the fishery will be placed on 2-hour notice in order to take best advantage of any opportunity that may present itself. The department vessel *R/V Medeia* will be departing from Juneau today to monitor fishery progress.

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 May 8 in 2013 and April 26 in 2011. The 2014 harvest quota for the Seymour sac roe fishery is 772 tons. This is based on a forecast mature spawning biomass of 6,320 tons and a harvest rate of 12.2%. The forecast indicates that the spawning stock will consist of 9% age-3, 6% age-4, 48% age-5, 6% age-6, 8% age-7, and 23% age-8+.

It is possible Department staff will not be on the grounds prior to the fishery opening, so all permit holders who are planning to fish must register with the department to obtain buoy stickers prior to fishing. Buoy stickers are available in the Petersburg and Juneau area offices, and will be available aboard the *R/V Medeia* once it is on the grounds.

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>.

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AWT	225-5111	772-3983		747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
Herring Hotline	225-6870			747-1009	465-8905			

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