
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Dave Gordon

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Phone: (907) 747-6688

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Fax: (907) 747-6693

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery will be on 2-hour notice effective 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2015. This means that a fishery could be expected with a minimum of two hours notice after the effective time.

Today, a test sample was taken from a large body of herring west of Black Rock. The results of that sample were as follows: Mature roe - 7.3%, immature roe - 3.4%, average weight - 147 grams.

Though immaturity in the sample was high, the separation of less mature herring from the mature schools as well as the maturation of herring over the next several days could result in a rapid progression of mature roe content. The department is placing the fishery on 2-hour notice to ensure that the department and industry are in position to take advantage of possible early opportunities to harvest good quality herring.

The department will hold an organizational meeting with fishermen, processors and interested individuals at the Westmark Hotel Banquet Room at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 17.

The *R/V Kestrel* will be arriving in Sitka on Wednesday morning, March 18. Test sampling will be suspended until Wednesday, March 18. All processors, fishing vessels, and tenders must be registered with the department before participating in the fishery.

An aerial survey was conducted this morning covering Sitka Sound and south to Windy Pass. Herring predators were concentrated in the areas west and south of Crow Island and Bieli Rock. There was very little herring predator activity inside the island groups and along the Halibut Point Road shoreline. There was little activity noted in the areas south of Sitka to Windy Pass.

Seine boats wanting to conduct practice sets or stretch nets may do so north of Old Sitka Rocks until further notice.

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

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