
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #3

Yesterday, March 19, the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery was opened from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the northwest portion of Sitka Sound. This was the second day that the fishery was open and fishing activity was again concentrated in the deeper waters west of Gagarin Island. Several boats also harvested herring along the Kruzof shoreline north of Inner Point. Approximately 2,900 tons were harvested yesterday. With a harvest of 570 tons on March 18, the total harvest to date is approximately 3,500 tons.

An aerial survey was conducted March 19 covering Sitka Sound and south to Dorothy Narrows. No herring spawn was seen. Herring predators continued to be concentrated in the areas west and south of the Middle, Crow, and Gagarin Islands. A number of whales were seen in the vicinity of Inner Point.

This season, the fishery is being conducted as a "controlled" fishery, whereby industry is determining the level of harvest each day depending on available processing and tendering capacities. This allows the department to set more flexible fishing times and area. The guideline harvest level is 8,712 tons.

With good quality herring harvested yesterday, plans are to reopen the fishery at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the same area opened yesterday. Fishing area may change by field announcement if herring concentrations are found in other areas.

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

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