
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #4

Yesterday, March 20, 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 third day that the fishery was open and fishing activity was again concentrated in the deeper waters west of Gagarin Island. Fishing effort was light yesterday and the harvest was only 600 tons. This was due to most processors were still working through the harvest from March 19. The total harvest to date is approximately 3,730 tons.

There was no spawn observed during an aerial survey conducted March 20. Herring predators continued to be concentrated in the areas west and south of the Middle, Crow and Gagarin Islands.

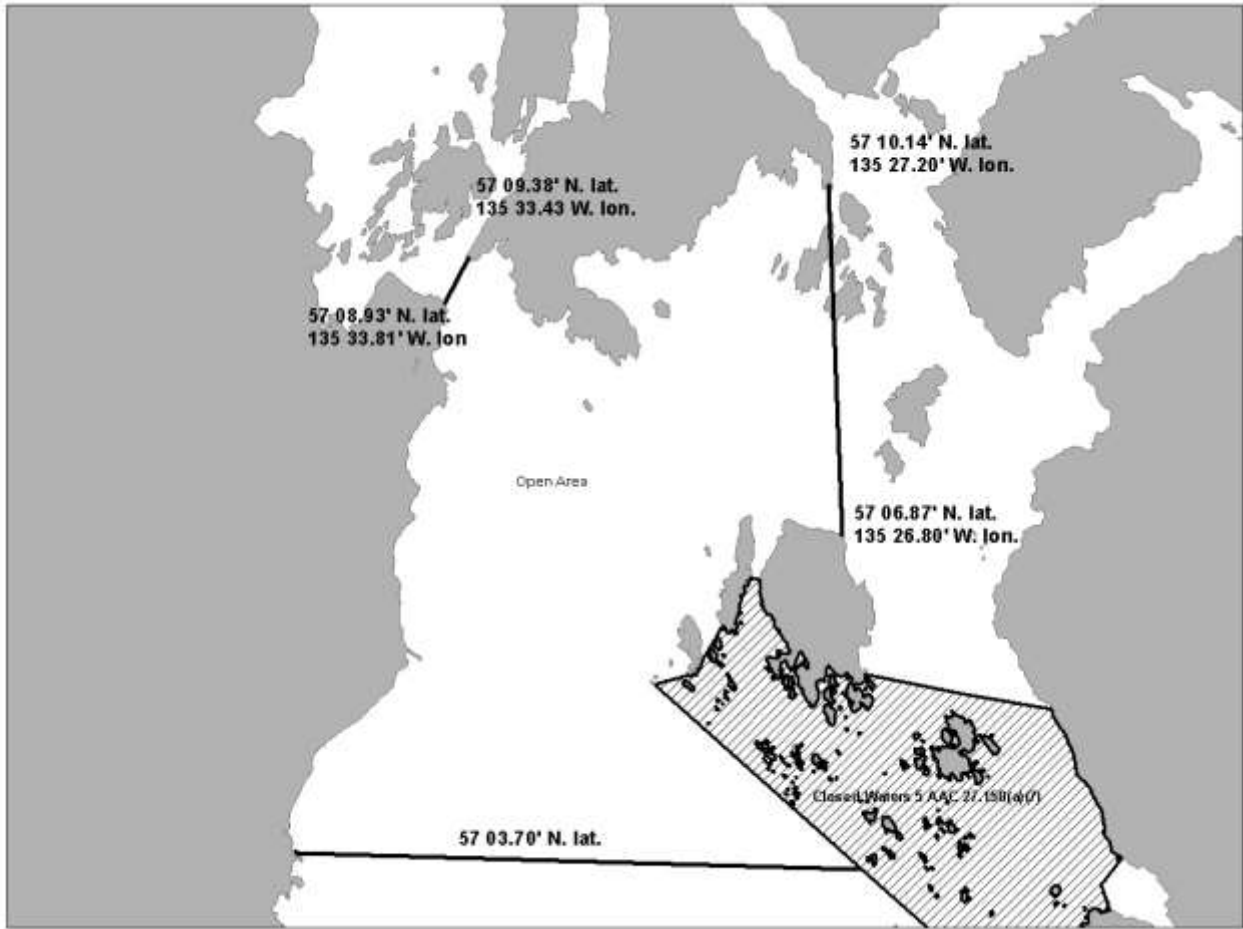
This season, the fishery is being conducted as a "controlled" fishery, whereby industry is determining the level of harvest each day depending on available processing and tendering capacities. This allows the department to set more flexible fishing times and area. The guideline harvest level is 8,712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

The plan is for the fishery to be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily until further notice. Currently the fishing area is the same as that announced on March 19 (see attached map). The 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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<i>ADFG</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220

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Map of area opened beginning March 19. Open area subject to change by field announcement.