
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Time: 8:30 a.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #7

Yesterday, March 23, 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. The harvest was approximately 940 tons and the total harvest to date is approximately 7,950 tons. The guideline harvest level is 8,712 tons.

There was no spawn observed during an aerial survey conducted March 23. Herring schools were seen in Sitka Channel, Crescent Bay and Middle Channel, south of Kasiana Island and Middle Island, and several large schools were seen in St. John Baptist Bay. Whales were concentrated on the Kruzof Island shoreline north of Inner Point and west of Gagarin Island. Six whales were seen off Cape Burunof. Additional whales were seen widely scattered throughout Sitka Sound.

The R/V Kestrel surveyed south of Sitka and found a large aggregate of herring between Long Island and Samsing Cove. A test sample from these fish resulted in 7.2% mature, 5.2% immature, and 91 gram average weight. Schools were also found in Crescent Bay and in the Middle Channel area.

The fishery will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. today in the same area announced on March 19 unless changed by emergency order field announcement.

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

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