
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: March 11, 2016
Time: 2:30 p.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #1

An aerial survey was conducted March 11 covering Sitka Sound north of Cape Burunof and Salisbury Sound. No herring or herring spawn was seen. The highest concentration of marine mammals was seen near Bieli Rock where numerous whales were seen working in deeper waters west of Bieli Rock with approximately 300 sea lions in several large groups holding off the rock piles. Four whales were in deeper waters between Big Gavanski Island and Promisla Bay, three whales were off Harbor Point, two whales in Nakwasina Sound and one whale in Katlian Bay. South of Sitka there were a number of whales scattered from Eastern Channel to Vitskari Rocks. In Salisbury Sound, three whales were seen in the vicinity of St. John Baptist Bay. The observed distribution of herring predators was normal for this date.

The next Fishery Update can be expected on March 15, after the next scheduled aerial survey. The first test samples are scheduled to be taken on that date, as well. Once test sampling indicates increasing roe maturity the department will place the fishery on two hour notice and schedule a pre-fishery organizational meeting.

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