
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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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 11:00 a.m., Thursday, March 17, 2015. This means that a fishery could be expected with a minimum of two hours notice after the effective time.

Today, two test samples were taken from a large aggregation of herring near Eastern Bay. The results of those samples were as follows:

Eastern Bay: 50 tons, mature roe – 4.9%, immature roe – 2.9%, average weight – 97 grams;

North Siginaka Islands: 200 tons, mature roe - 9.9%, immature roe – 2.4%, average weight – 118 grams.

An aerial survey was conducted this morning covering Sitka Sound north of Cape Burunof. Herring predators were concentrated in the areas west and north of Crow Island and in the Promisla Bay and Eastern Bay area. There was very little herring predator activity inside the island groups and along the Halibut Point Road shoreline. South of Sitka there was bird activity as well as several whales observed in the waters between Makhnati Island and Kulichkof Rock.

The department will hold an organizational meeting with fishermen, processors, and interested individuals at 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 16 at the Westmark Hotel Banquet Room.

All processors, fishing vessels, and tenders must be registered with the department before participating in the fishery.

The *R/V Kestrel* will be arriving Sitka on Thursday morning, March 17. Test sampling will be suspended until Thursday.

Seine boats wanting to conduct practice sets or stretch nets may do so in Eastern Channel south of Jamestown Bay until further notice.

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