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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Date: March 18, 2016

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Time: 8:45 a.m.

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#### **SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 2**

On March 17, the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery was opened in northwest Sitka Sound from 2:45 p.m. to 5:05 p.m. Preliminary hauls from processors put the total harvest at 3,735 tons. The area opened included the waters of Sitka Sound along the Kruzof Island shoreline south of 57°08.23' N. latitude, north of 57°05.00' N. latitude, and west of 135°32.00' W. longitude. The opening was based on two samples taken from the area with the following results: Kamenoi Point, 10.8% mature roe, 1.1% immature roe, 133 gram average weight; and Mountain Point, 11.1% mature roe, 0.7% immature roe, 121 gram average weight.

Yesterday's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound north of Cape Burunof. No spawn was observed. Herring predator activity was concentrated in northern Sitka Sound in the Hayward Strait area, in Promisla and Eastern Bays, and off Bieli Rock. Little activity was observed in areas south of Sitka.

For today, plans are to stand down on seeking a fishing opportunity to allow for processing of yesterday's harvest. Fishery participants should expect another fishery on Saturday, March 19, depending on results of roe sampling, vessel and aerial surveys. Approximately 11,000 tons of the target harvest level remains to be harvested.

Until further notice, fishermen wanting to make practice sets or stretch nets may do so in Eastern Channel east of 135°18.37' W. longitude.

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

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