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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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Contact:  
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Date: March 26, 2016

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Time: 3:00 p.m.

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#### SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #12

On March 25, the *R/V Kestrel* surveyed northern Sitka Sound and Salisbury Sound finding a concentration of herring in lower Salisbury Sound and St. John Baptist Bay. No concentration of pre-spawning herring was seen in northern Sitka Sound and fewer herring predators were noted in the traditional spawning areas near Sitka.

On March 26, an aerial survey found a total of 16.1 nautical mile of spawn. Most of this spawn was seen in Eastern Bay, Promisla Bay, and the Magoun Islands with spawn continuing in spots on south Middle Island, Kasiana Island and on the Halibut Point Road shoreline. The total cumulative spawn to date is 42.0 nautical miles. Smaller groups of sea lions were seen among the smaller islands south of Middle Island with a concentration of sea lions still present at Inner Point.

On March 26, three test samples were taken from the Salisbury Sound area resulting in mature roe ranging from 8.6% to 9.6%, immature roe ranging from 1.4% to 1.8%, and average weights from 96 grams to 99 grams.

No further openings have been called since the openings on March 23. The approximate harvest for the season is 10,050 tons. This leaves approximately 4,690 tons remaining to be harvested of this season's guideline harvest level.

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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