
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 4

On March 19, the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery was opened in northwest Sitka Sound from 2:30 p.m. to 5:50 p.m. Preliminary hails from processors put the total harvest at 3,500 tons. The area opened included the waters of Hayward Strait; north of a line from Inner Point at 57°05.53' N. latitude, 135°34.28' W. longitude, to Kresta Point at 57°08.46' N. latitude, 135°30.46' W. longitude and Krestof Sound; west of a line from Partof Point at 57°13.69' N. latitude 135°34.15' W. longitude, to Olga Point at 57°13.72' N. latitude, 135°32.19' W. longitude. The opening was based on three samples taken from the area with the following results: Mountain Point, 11.3% mature roe, 1.1% immature roe, 128 gram average weight; Rob Point, 10.9% mature roe, 0.4% immature roe, 120 gram average weight; and Rob Point, 10.7% mature roe, 1.6% immature roe, 112 gram average weight.

Yesterday's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound north of Eastern Channel. No spawn was observed. Herring were observed in the bays of south Middle Island. Herring predator activity was concentrated in northern Sitka Sound in the Hayward Strait area, and west of the Chaichei Islands and 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 Tuesday, March 21, depending on results of roe sampling, vessel and aerial surveys.

Until further notice, fishermen wanting to make practice sets or stretch nets may do so in Eastern Channel.

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

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