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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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Time: 11:15 a.m.

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#### SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 6

On March 25, the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery was opened in northwest Sitka Sound from 12:00 noon to 3:20 p.m. Preliminary hauls from processors put the total harvest for this opening at 5,200 tons, with a cumulative harvest for the season of 13,543 tons. The area opened included the waters of Hayward Strait, north of 57°08.71' N. latitude; 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 two samples taken from the area with the following results: south Krestof Sound, 11.6% mature roe, 0.3% immature roe, 118 gram average weight; and Dry Pass, 10.9% mature roe, 1.1% immature roe, 116 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, along Kasiana Island, and in the Magoun Islands. Herring predator activity was concentrated in northern Sitka Sound from Inner Point to Hayward Strait, in Krestof Sound, and in Eastern/Promisla Bays. Little activity was observed in areas south of Sitka.

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound north of Eastern Channel. Approximately 0.4 nmi of active spawn was observed south of Fred's Creek and west of Kresta Point. Herring were observed in the Siganaka Islands and in the Magoun Islands. Herring predator activity was concentrated in northern Sitka Sound from Inner Point to Hayward Strait, in Krestof Sound, and in Eastern/Promisla Bays.

The remaining Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) is 995 tons, which is under a level that would allow for further competitive openings. Permit holders are working on a plan to harvest the remaining GHL in a controlled fishery.

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

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