
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #1

Sitka... An aerial survey was conducted today covering Sitka Sound north of Cape Burunof, including Krestof Sound. Weather during today's flight was poor with southwest winds at 20-25 knots and overcast skies with occasional snow showers. No herring or herring spawn was observed. The highest concentration of herring predators was seen between Bieli Rock, Inner Point, and Hayward Strait. Numerous whales were seen working in deeper waters north of Bieli Rock and approximately 270 sea lions were in several large groups holding off the rock piles. South of Sitka, no herring predators were observed. Herring predator numbers observed today are low for timing, however, weather is likely a factor in the observed numbers.

The next Fishery Update can be expected on Monday, March 12, after the next scheduled aerial survey. The vessel contracted to conduct the Sitka Herring Test Fishery found a large biomass of herring in the deep water north and west of Bieli Rock. Herring from test fishery samples taken on March 6 had an average weight of 93 grams and all female herring observed contained immature roe. No test fishery sets have been made since March 6. Once test sampling indicates increasing roe maturity, the department will place the fishery on two-hour notice and schedule a pre-fishery organizational meeting.

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