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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:  
Eric Coonradt

Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake Street, Room 103  
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Phone: (907) 747-6688

Date: March 21, 2018

Fax: (907) 747-6693

Time: 2:30 p.m.

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#### SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #9

Sitka... An aerial survey was conducted today covering Sitka Sound from Eastern Channel to Hayward Strait. Weather during today's flight was good with northeast winds at 10 knots and partly cloudy skies. No herring or herring spawn was observed on today's flight. The highest concentration of herring predators was observed northwest of Bieli Rock. Numerous whales were observed in deeper waters northwest of Bieli Rock to Guide Island. Large groups of sea lions were seen off Inner Point, Bieli Rock, and north Crow Island. Several whales were also observed between Middle Island and Halibut Point. The vessel survey conducted by the *R/V Kestrel* showed a large biomass of herring in the deeper waters northwest of Bieli Rock with several smaller schools northeast of Middle Island. Another large school of herring was observed east of Middle Island as far north as the Siginaka Islands. Several test fishing vessels were available for today, however no samples were taken.

The Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery was placed on 2-hour notice effective March 20 at 7:00 a.m.

The next Fishery Update can be expected on Thursday, March 22, after the next scheduled aerial survey.

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

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