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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake Street, Room 103  
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Date: March 28, 2012  
Time: 5:00 p.m.

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#### **SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #7**

The department conducted an aerial survey this morning covering Sitka Sound north of Cape Burunof. Spotting conditions were good under overcast skies and light winds. North of Sitka concentrations of sea lions and whales continue to be seen in the area between the islands and the Baranof Island shoreline distributed from the north end of Kasiana Island to the entrance of Nakwasina Sound. Within this area the higher numbers of sea lions and whales were seen between Halibut Point and Middle Island. At Inner Point there were 40 sea lions and two whales with smaller groups of sea lions and a number of whales distributed around northern Sitka Sound. South of Sitka, there were a few sea lions scattered in the Eastern Channel area and approximately 40 sea lions were seen in Silver Bay.

The *R/V Kestrel* surveyed the northern Sitka Sound area. A very large volume of herring was observed in the area between Halibut Point and Middle Island. Most of this volume is holding in deeper waters with scattered large schools breaking off toward the surface. Another large volume of herring was observed on the bottom in deep waters in the middle of Sitka Sound west of Gagarin Island. A number of large schools were observed in waters 25-40 fathoms deep just north of Inner Point and there were a number of scattered moderate size schools observed along the Lisianski Peninsula.

There were four test samples taken today with the following results:

- Promisla Bay; 100 t; 9.2% mature roe; 3.5% immature roe; 155 gram; 50% female.
- Inner Point; 200 t; 10.9% mature roe; 3.1% immature roe; 152 gram; 60% female.
- Inner Point; 100 t; 9.9% mature roe; 2.6% immature roe; 154 gram; 48% female
- Dog Point; 100 t; 8.1% mature roe; 3.8% immature roe; 146 gram; 51% female

Tomorrow the *R/V Kestrel* will continue to monitor herring distribution north of Sitka and a limited test sampling effort is planned for tomorrow to continue monitoring mature roe percentages.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below, and on a recorded message phone at (907) 747-1009.

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

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<i>ADFG</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220
<i>Herring Hotline</i>	225-6870	772-3700		747-1009	465-8905			