
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Troy Thynes or Kevin Clark
Phone: (907) 772-3801
Tom Kowalske (Wrangell)
Phone: (907) 874-3822

Petersburg Area Office
16 Sing Lee Ally
Petersburg, Alaska 99983
Date: May 23, 2013
Time: 2:15 p.m.

PETERSBURG/WRANGELL 2012/2013 HERRING SUMMARY

Aerial surveys to record herring spawning events have concluded for the season. The following is a summary of herring fishery activities and observations for the Petersburg/Wrangell area.

Ernest Sound

The total 2012/2013 Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the Ernest Sound herring stock was 379 tons. The winter bait GHL of 341 tons was 90% of the total GHL. The bait pound GHL was 38 tons. There was no bait pound harvest and the winter food and bait harvest is confidential. The remaining GHL from these two fisheries allowed for a spawn-on-kelp fishery within the 100 to 299 ton range. The Ernest Sound spawn-on-kelp fishery opened to seining on April 1. The first herring were introduced to pounds on April 10. There were a total of 30 pound structures and 83 permit holders on the grounds. All pounds received herring and the spawn-on-kelp product was reported to be good. The final cumulative miles of shoreline receiving spawn was 5.4 nautical miles and was primarily located on the south shore of Vixen Inlet, extending south to Union Point. Spawning began on April 13 and continued through April 16. The peak day of spawning was April 13.

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

The 2012/2013 forecast for Hobart Bay/Port Houghton was below the 2,000 ton threshold that allows a fishery. Hobart Bay received a total of 2.4 nautical miles of spawn and was primarily located along the north shore of Hobart Bay. Herring spawning occurred for two days with the peak day of spawning on May 3. An estimated 1.9 nautical miles of herring spawn was documented in Port Houghton two weeks after the spawn in Hobart Bay. Spawning was reported on May 16 and the area was surveyed on May 17 and 18. Spawn was recorded on May 17 and no spawn occurred on May 18.

Additional Herring spawn events

Additional herring spawning events were documented in Bradfield Canal, Zimovia Strait, and Farragut Bay. Zimovia Strait received approximately 2.0 nautical miles of spawn around Pats Creek in early April. Bradfield Canal received approximately 9.0 nautical miles of spawn in early April with an additional spot spawn reported May 3. Farragut Bay received approximately 1.8 nautical miles in mid-May.

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Hoonah</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&G</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
