



**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: March 12, 2021***

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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 1**

Aerial surveys were conducted on March 9 and March 12, and covered Sitka Sound from Crawfish Inlet to Hayward Strait. Weather during the flights was good with calm winds and fair skies. No herring or herring spawn has been observed. The highest concentration of herring predators was observed between Bieli Rock, Inner Point, Hayward Strait, and near Middle Island; numerous whales were seen working in deeper waters near Bieli Rock and Middle Island and large groups of sea lions were observed holding off the rock piles of southern Kruzof Island and Bieli Rock. South of Sitka, no whales and a small number of sealions were observed in Eastern Channel. Several hundred seas lions were hauled out on rocks near Biorka Island and Crawfish Inlet. Predator numbers and locations are normal for this time of year.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Monday, March 15 and the next fishery update can be expected to be released after the survey is completed.

The Sitka Sound herring preseason meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom™. Meeting information can be found in the advisory announcement issued on March 1, 2021 located at [1245025167.pdf \(alaska.gov\)](#). The meeting agenda and presentations can be found on the ADF&G website located at [Southeast Alaska Herring, Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#).

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

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

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ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220