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Advisory Announcement
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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 2

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Eastern Channel to Hayward Strait. Weather during the flight was poor with fog, rain, snow, and 15 knot winds. No herring or herring spawn was observed. The highest concentration of herring predators was observed west of Bieli Rock, near Big Gavanski Island, and east of Vitskari Rocks. Several whales were seen working in deeper waters near Bieli Rock and Vitskari Rocks. Large groups of sea lions were observed holding off Vitskari Rocks, Low Island, Inner Point, and and Bieli Rock. South of Sitka, no whales and or sea lions were observed in Eastern Channel. Predator numbers and locations are normal for this time of year.

A vessel survey conducted on March 14 identified large schools of herring in the deeper waters west of Bieli Rocks, east of Vitskari Rocks, and east of Middle Island.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16 and the next fishery update can be expected to be released after the survey is completed.

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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