

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 16, 2021

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 3

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Crawfish Inlet to Krestof Sound. Weather during the flight was satisfactory with low clouds, snow, and 5-knot winds. No herring or herring spawn was observed. The highest concentration of herring predators was observed west of Bieli Rock, east of Big Gavanski Island, and east of Vitskari Rocks. Several whales were seen working in deeper waters near Bieli Rock, Big Gavanski Island, and Vitskari Rocks. Large groups of sea lions were observed holding off Vitskari Rocks, Inner Point, Bieli Rock, and east of Big Gavanski Island. South of Sitka, one whale and no sea lions were observed in Eastern Channel. Sea lions were still present hauled out on rocks near Biorka Island and Crawfish Inlet, but in smaller numbers than noted on previous flights. Approximately 10 gray whales were observed west of Biorka Island. Predator numbers and locations are normal for this time of year.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17 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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