

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
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**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: March 19, 2021***

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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 4**

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Redoubt Bay to Hayward Strait. Weather during the flight was poor with snow squalls and 25-knot winds. A small school of herring was spotted near Bieli Rocks and no herring spawn was observed. The highest concentrations of herring predators were observed west of Bieli Rock, east of Middle Island, and east of Vitskari Rocks. Several whales were seen working in deeper waters near Middle Island and Vitskari Rocks. Large groups of sea lions were observed holding off Inner Point, Bieli Rock, and east of Middle Island. South of Sitka, one whale and no sea lions were observed near Eastern Channel. Predator numbers and locations are normal for this time of year.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Saturday, March 20 and the next fishery update can be expected to be released after the survey is completed.

The *R/V Kestrel* will be arriving the morning of March 20 and will immediately conduct a vessel survey.

The Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery will be placed on 2-hour notice effective 8:00 a.m., Saturday, March 20, 2021.

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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