



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: March 20, 2023*

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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery will be placed on 2-hour notice effective 8:00 a.m., Thursday, March 23, 2023. This means that a fishery could be expected with 2 hours notice after the effective time. A 2-hour notice fishery meeting will be conducted via Zoom™ and is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. A Zoom™ account or app is not needed to attend these meetings. Participants can attend by clicking the below link or entering the meeting below link into a web browser and register for the meeting. After you register, an email will be sent containing information about joining the meeting either virtually or telephonically. To register in advance:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucu-grj0sG90aTJbU\\_1dNJtwRJE6Ic1Tq](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucu-grj0sG90aTJbU_1dNJtwRJE6Ic1Tq)

The *R/V Kestrel* plans to arrive in Sitka the morning of March 22 and will immediately conduct a vessel survey.

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Cape Burunof to St. Lazaria Island. Survey conditions were good with cloudy skies and light winds. No herring schools or spawn were observed on either flight. While herring predators were widely dispersed throughout the survey area, concentrations of humpback whales were observed near Inner Point, north of Middle Island, and south of Galankin Island. Concentrations of sea lions were observed near Inner Point, Mountain Point, and Bieli Rock.

Department and industry vessels surveyed from Indian River to Deep Inlet and from Inner Point to Mountain Point. Several very large schools of herring were in both survey areas. Additionally, several large schools of herring were observed southeast of Big Gavanski Island.

Two successful test sets were conducted today, the results are as follows:

| Time  | Area            | Tons | % Mature Roe | % Immature Roe | Avg weight | % Female |
|-------|-----------------|------|--------------|----------------|------------|----------|
| 10:00 | S. Galankin Is. | 50   | 3.37 %       | 7.87 %         | 129 g      | 49.1 %   |
| 3:20  | Mountain Point  | 70   | 0.20 %       | 5.17 %         | 91 g       | 38.3 %   |

Herring mortality associated with test sets is likely minimal and there is no evidence that the small number of fish taken has any measurable impact on the subsistence fishery. Nevertheless, to ensure reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest of herring roe would not be negatively impacted by test setting, prior to authorizing test fishing in this area the department considered the following: 1) the areas of Mountain Point and Galankin Island are outside the commercial closed waters and core subsistence areas; and 2) the fish encountered during test fishing represented a small fraction of the overall biomass in each area.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Tuesday, March 21.

All aerial herring survey data can be reviewed online, including spawn lines and photos, in an interactive map application found at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.herring#maps> or scan:



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

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|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>ADF&amp;G</i> | 225-5195         | 772-3801          |                 | 747-6688     | 465-4250      | 766-2830      | 784-3255       |
| <i>AWT</i>       | 225-5111         | 772-3983          | 874-3215        | 747-3254     | 465-4000      | 766-2533      | 784-3220       |