



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: March 28, 2024

CONTACT: Bo Meredith
Ketchikan Area Management Biologist
bo.meredith@alaska.gov
(907) 225-5195

2024 KETCHIKAN HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 9

Craig

Today's aerial survey covered the Craig area from Doyle Bay to St. Philip Island, East San Fernando Island, Portillo Channel, and San Juan Bautista Island. The weather was partly sunny, with calm winds, and excellent visibility. The main spawning event in the Craig/Klawock area is mostly concluded. A small, light spawn was ongoing around the two middle Alberto Islands that totaled 0.1 nautical miles (nmi). Predator activity is significantly reduced throughout the area with pods of sea lions in the vicinity of the Alberto Islands and north of Abbess Island. Observations of humpback whales during aerial surveys throughout the Craig area were low during the 2024 herring spawn event compared to recent years and no humpback whales were observed on today's survey. The current cumulative spawn in the Craig/Klawock area is 20.8 nmi (Figure 1). There are currently 48 active pound structures on the grounds and approximately 28 pounds have had herring introduced.

The fishery opened for placement of herring into pounds at 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 17, 2024. A field announcement and advisory announcement were issued on Tuesday, March 26, extending the amount of time herring can be introduced into pound structures from four days to five days. Herring must still be released by noon on the seventh day. ADF&G personnel will be on the grounds through Friday, March 29, and then returning on Monday, April 1, and can be reached on VHF Channel 10 or 16.

2024 Craig/Klawock Herring Summary

March 19, 2024	Limited predator activity.
March 21, 2024	1.1 nmi of spawn on Fish Egg Island.
March 22, 2024	3.6 nmi of spawn on Fish Egg and Ballena Islands.
March 23, 2024	9.0 nmi of spawn on the POW shoreline, Ballena, and Fish Egg Islands.
March 24, 2024	12.1 nmi of spawn on POW, Ballena, Balandra, Fish Egg, and San Juan Bautista Islands.
March 25, 2024	10.1 nmi of spawn on POW, Coronados, Fish Egg, and San Juan Bautista Islands.
March 26, 2024	8.7 nmi of spawn on POW, Coronados, and Fish Egg Islands.
March 27, 2024	1.2 nmi of spawn on Albertos and San Juan Bautista Islands, and Port Baigal.
March 28, 2024	0.1 nmi of spawn on Alberto Islands.

Revilla Channel

A skiff survey was conducted in the Cat and Dog Islands area today. Additional spawn was mapped that was missed on aerial surveys during the spawn event. The 2024 cumulative herring spawn observed in state waters in Revilla Channel is 9.1 nmi (Figure 2). The *R/V Kestrel* is scheduled to conduct a herring spawn deposition dive survey for the Revilla stock Thursday, April 4, 2024.

2024 Revilla Channel Herring Summary

March 16, 2024	Spot spawn on the northwest side of Double Island.
March 17, 2024	Approx. 1.0 nmi of spawn on Cat and Double Islands.
March 18, 2024	3.5 nmi of spawn on Cat, Dog, Double, and Village Islands.
March 19, 2024	5.8 nmi of spawn on Cat, Dog, Double, and Village Islands.

- March 20, 2024 5.2 nmi of spawn on Cat, Dog, Fripo, and Village Islands.
- March 21, 2024 2.7 nmi of spawn on Cat, Dog, Duke, and Fripo Islands.
- March 22, 2024 1.5 nmi of spawn on Dog Island.
- March 23, 2024 0.3 nmi of spawn on Duke Island.

The next scheduled aerial survey for Craig is planned for Friday, March 29, with a Ketchikan herring fishery update scheduled for **Tuesday, April 2**.

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:

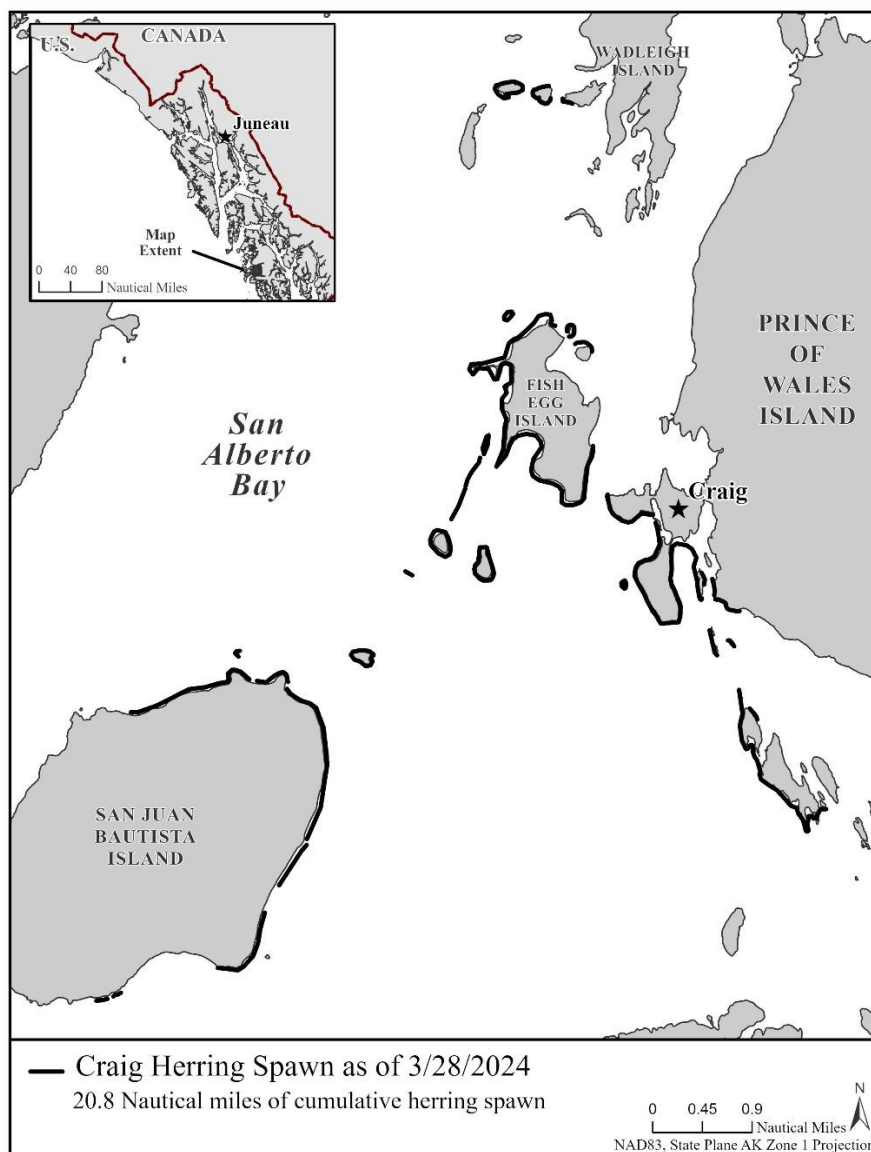


Figure 1. Cumulative herring spawn for Craig through March 28, 2024.

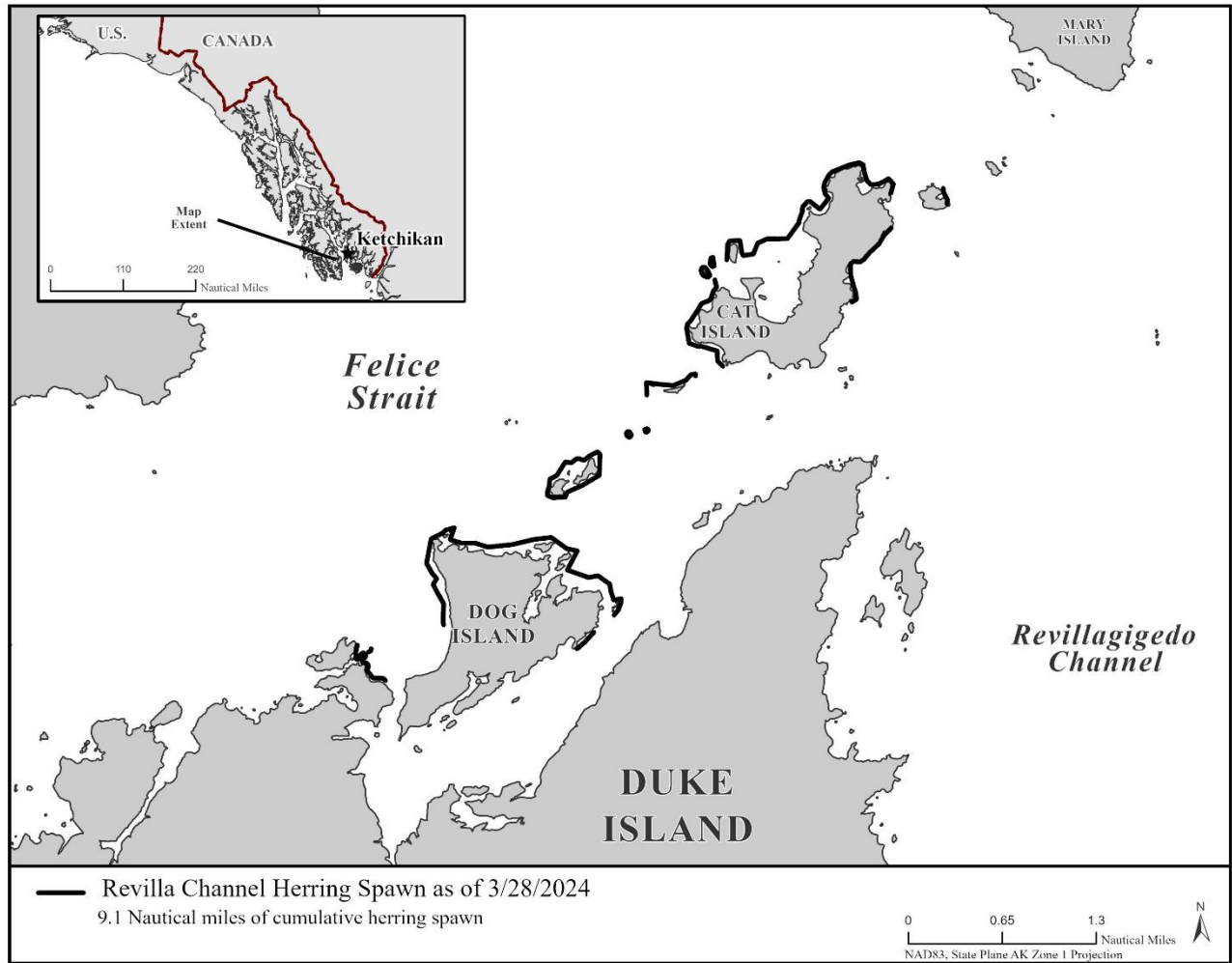


Figure 2. Cumulative herring spawn for Revilla Channel 2024.

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

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