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Advisory Announcement
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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 1

Aerial surveys have begun for the 2026 Sitka Sound herring season. Aerial surveys were conducted on March 14 and March 16. These survey flights covered Sitka Sound from Eastern Channel to Crawfish Inlet and Biorka Island, and from St. Lazaria Island to Krestof Sound. No herring schools or spawn were observed. While smaller numbers of herring predators were observed throughout the surveyed area, the largest concentration of humpback whales was observed between Biorka Island and Sitka Point. Concentrations of sea lions were observed on rock piles near Biorka Island and Crawfish Inlet. Predator numbers and locations observed on these surveys are more typical for surveys conducted earlier in the season.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, and the next fishery update can be expected on Wednesday, March 18, or sooner if a significant change in predator numbers or distribution is observed.

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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