



**Advisory Announcement**  
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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 6**

Today’s aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Eastern Channel to Povorotni Point and St. Lazaria Island to Krestof Sound. No herring schools or spawn were observed. Herring predators were observed throughout the surveyed area. The largest concentrations of humpback whales were observed near Long Island and from Inner Point to Mountain Point. Large groups of sea lions were seen near Fred’s Creek and Inner Point. Predator numbers and locations observed during today’s flight are typical for surveys conducted during this time of year.

Department and industry vessels surveyed Sitka Sound today from Deep Inlet to Hayward Strait. Very large schools of herring were observed near Long Island, Cape Burunof, northwest of Bieli Rock, and from Inner Point to Mountain Point. Scattered smaller schools were from observed in Crow Pass and from Watson Point to Cannon Island.

One successful test set was conducted this afternoon; the results are as follows:

Time	Area	Tons	% Mature Roe	% Immature Roe	Avg weight	% Female
13:15	Deep Inlet	75	11.4%	1.9%	157g	50%

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 these areas the department considered the following: 1) the area near Deep Inlet is 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 this area.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Wednesday, March 25.

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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