

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 14, 2022

CONTACT: Aaron Dupuis
Sitka Area Management Biologist
aaron.dupuis@alaska.gov
(907) 747-6688

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 1

Aerial surveys have begun for the 2022 Sitka Sound herring season. Survey flights were conducted on March 8, 12, and 14. Surveys have collectively covered an area south to Crawfish Inlet and north to Hayward Strait and Eastern Bay. Survey conditions varied, but each had at least fair, if not excellent visibility. No herring schools or spawn were observed on these surveys; however, herring predators were observed throughout Sitka Sound. Humpback whales have been concentrated either around Vitskari Rocks, east of Middle Island, or in the deeper waters west of Bieli Rocks. Since March 8, the humpback whales have begun to shift from the Bieli Rocks and Middle Island area to the deeper waters east of Vitskari Rocks. A large raft of sea lions was observed on March 8 near Inner Point but has since dissipated. Most sea lions observed have been hauled out on rocks near Biorka Island and by Crawfish Inlet. Predator numbers and locations are normal for this time of year.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, and the next fishery update can be expected after the survey is completed.

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>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&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