



**Advisory Announcement**  
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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 2**

Today's aerial herring survey covered Sitka Sound from Eastern Channel and Vitskari Rocks to Krestof Sound and the southern entrance of Olga Strait. Survey conditions were good with light winds, overcast skies, and good visibility. No herring schools or spawn were observed today. Herring predators were seen widely scattered across Sitka Sound. Most humpback whales were concentrated in the deeper waters between Vitskari Rocks and Chaichei Islands. The largest group of sea lions was observed off Inner Point.

One successful test set was conducted today, the results are as follows:

- 11:20 a.m., east of Vitskari Rocks, 50-ton set, mature roe – 0%, immature roe – 7.8%, average weight – 118 g, and 39% female.

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) test setting in the area of Vitskari Rocks is well outside the commercial closed waters and core subsistence areas; and 2) the fish encountered during test fishing in this area would represent a small fraction of the overall biomass in the area.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, weather permitting. The next fishery update will be issued 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>.

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