



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 20, 2022

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery will be placed on 2-hour notice effective 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 22, 2022. This means that a fishery could be expected with two hours' notice after the effective time.

The *R/V Kestrel* will be arriving the morning of March 22 and will immediately conduct a vessel survey.

The 2-hour notice fishery meeting will be conducted via Zoom™ and is scheduled for Monday, March 21, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Zoom™ meeting information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86323633831?pwd=SEUrQkNSWEhGdlp2R0JOTkNzM0p2UT09>

Meeting ID: 863 2363 3831
Passcode: Sitka22

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

- 10:00 a.m., Hayward Strait, 50-ton set, mature roe – 9.6%, immature roe – 2.2%, average weight – 140 g, and 46% 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 Hayward Strait 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.

Aerial surveys conducted on March 19 and March 20 covered Sitka Sound from Crawfish Inlet to Salisbury Sound. Weather during the flights was good with overcast skies, 10–15 knot winds, and good visibility. No herring or herring spawn were observed on either flight. Between March 19 and 20, concentrations of herring predators shifted from Vitskari Rocks, Bieli Rock, and east of the Siginaka Islands to Hayward Strait. Today's flight showed numerous groups of whales between Inner Point and Guide Island; larger groups of sealions were seen near Kamenoi Point and Kresta Point.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Monday, March 21. The next fishery update will be issued on Monday, March 21.

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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