



Advisory Announcement
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**SITKA SOUND HERRING COMMERCIAL AND SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES
ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will continue to manage the commercial sac roe fishery to remain closed in Salisbury Sound, Neva Strait, Olga Strait, and in Krestof Sound north of 57°10.78' N lat. The State of Alaska has a zero-tolerance policy with respect to fuel contamination of seafood, the department will not open a commercial fishery or conduct test fishing in areas where there is a risk of fuel contamination of gear, vessels, or harvested fish. In addition, the Alaska Departments of Health and Social Services (ADHSS), Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and ADF&G strongly advise against the harvest for consumption of any herring, herring roe, kelp/algae, or shellfish from this area.

Diesel fuel can contaminate seafood. Potential impacts to food sources are presumed to be greatest in the immediate vicinity of the spill source in Neva Strait and less as distance increases.

To minimize potential human health risks, the ADHSS and ADEC recommends the following:

- **Do not harvest** any shellfish, herring, herring roe, or kelp/algae from Neva Strait or St. John Baptist Bay at this time.
- **Do not eat** any harvested food if you see, smell, or taste oil on it.
- **Avoid setting gear or harvesting** wherever oil and/or sheens can be seen or smelled on the beach or water.
- **Relocate harvesting efforts** outside of the area where surface sheen has been observed, to the extent practical.

Additional information will be posted at <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr> as it becomes available. For more information about food safety contact the ADHSS at 907-269-8000.

ADF&G continues to work with the ADEC in response to the grounding of the vessel in Neva Strait. This includes tracking the geographic extent of the spilled fuel and assessing any potential impacts to the subsistence and commercial herring fisheries in Sitka Sound. A weathered surface sheen remains in the area. At its maximum observed extent, surface sheen was seen as far north as Salisbury Sound and to the south, the maximum extent was observed as far south as Mills Island in Krestof Sound and into Olga Strait.

More information can be found on the DEC website: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2022/01-tug-western-mariner-grounding/>

For subsistence fishery or harvest information, contact:

Lauren Sill, Subsistence Resource Specialist, at (907) 465-3617 or lauren.sill@alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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