



Advisory Announcement
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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 8

There was no aerial survey conducted today due to poor weather. Department and industry vessels surveyed Sitka Sound today from Deep Inlet to Indian River and from Fred’s Creek to Hayward Strait. Very large schools of herring were observed near Long Island, Cape Burunof, from Whale Island to The Twins light, and from Inner Point to Kamenoi Point.

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

Time	Area	Tons	% Mature Roe	% Immature Roe	Avg weight	% Female
12:21	Inner Point	100	10.4%	2.1%	142g	47%

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 Inner Point 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 Friday, March 27.

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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