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Advisory Announcement
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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the informational meeting scheduled to be held in Sitka at Harrigan Centennial Hall on Monday, March 16, at 6:00 p.m., is canceled until further notice. This action is being taken out of caution due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and follows guidelines issued by the Governor's office to protect public health.

Assessment of the Sitka Sound herring stock will proceed as performed in past years. Aerial surveys are scheduled to begin on March 14 and will continue through the end of herring spawning activity. The *R/V Kestrel* will arrive in Sitka on March 19 to monitor the returning herring biomass. The department will continue to issue fishery updates through the department's Advisory Announcement system. Spawn maps will be included with fishery updates and paper copies will be available at the Sitka Fish and Game office during normal business hours. Updates on VHF radio will not be made as was done in past years.

It is still unlikely that there will be a commercial herring sac roe fishery in 2020. However, if there is valid interest and actual mobilization to harvest herring for sac roe this season, an announcement would be issued outlining the parameters of a potential fishery and test sets may occur.

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

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