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Advisory Announcement
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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 1

Sitka...Three aerial surveys have been conducted since March 14 covering Sitka Sound from Crawfish Inlet to Hayward Strait. Weather during the flights was good with calm winds and fair skies. No herring or herring spawn has been observed. The highest concentration of herring predators was observed between Bieli Rock, Inner Point, and Hayward Strait; numerous whales were seen working in deeper waters north and west of Bieli Rock and approximately 250 sea lions were observed in several large groups holding off the rock piles. South of Sitka, 1 whale and a small number of sealions were observed in Eastern Channel. The rocks on the coast near Biorka Island and Crawfish Inlet still held several hundred sealions. Predator numbers and locations are normal for this time of year.

The next Fishery Updated can be expected on Thursday, March 19, after the first vessel survey conducted by the *R/V Kestrel* is completed or sooner if aerial surveys show a significant change in predator numbers or locations.

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

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