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## **Advisory Announcement**

For Immediate Release: April 30, 2020

Togiak Herring

Update 2

"Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, and 12, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <u>https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-</u> <u>healthmandates/."</u>

This is the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Dillingham with an update regarding the Togiak herring fishery.

Department staff flew a survey of the Togiak herring district today, April 30. Survey conditions were poor with low clouds obscuring most of the area. The only areas staff were able to survey were the northern portions of Nunavachak and Togiak bays. One sea lion and numerous sea birds were observed. Several small schools of fish were observed near the beach int north east corner of Togiak Bay on today's flight. Staff flew a survey on Monday and observed schools of fish in this same area as well as on the west side of Togiak Bay and hard on the beach at the head of the bay. Based on the position of these schools, and no sign of fish schools along Cape Constantine or the east face of Hagemeister Island where herring traditionally enter the district, it is likely these fish are smelt.

All the bays of Togiak District are ice free as are the major rivers. The Sea Surface Temperature map that the National Weather Service maintains <u>https://www.weather.gov/images/afc/ice/SST.jpg</u> indicates 1-degree water in the Togiak District. On grounds water temperature reports indicate less than 2-degree water at Pyrite Point this morning. The next flight is planned for Sunday weather depending.

Informational updates are available on our recorded message line at (907) 842-5226.

This has been the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dillingham.