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Advisory Announcement

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 1

Aerial surveys have begun for the 2024 Sitka Sound herring season. The survey flight conducted on March 15 covered Sitka Sound from Eastern Channel to Hayward Strait. Survey conditions were poor with low clouds, rain, 30-knot winds, and fog obscuring visibility. No herring schools or spawn were observed today; herring predators were observed throughout the surveyed area. Humpback whales were observed north of Bieli Rocks and in Eastern Bay. Small concentrations of sea lions were observed near Inner Point, Eastern Bay, and east of the Siginaka Islands. Predator numbers and locations are typical for this time of year.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Saturday, March 16 and the next fishery update can be expected on Monday, March 18, or sooner if a significant change in predator numbers or distribution is observed.

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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