

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2013 KUSKOKWIM BAY-CAPE ROMANZOF HERRING PRELIMINARY SEASON  
SUMMARY**

The following is a summary of the 2013 commercial herring fishery in the Kuskokwim Bay and Cape Romanzof areas. Herring were harvested for sac roe with the use of gillnets. Approximately 664 short tons (st) were harvested throughout all districts in 2013. There was one registered buyer for all active districts in 2013. All of the data presented in this news release is preliminary and subject to change.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game would like to thank Coastal Village Seafoods for providing the funding support needed for aerial surveys, test fishing in Goodnews Bay and Toksook Bay, and commercial sampling.

**Goodnews Bay District**

Aerial Surveys of the Goodnews Bay District began May 14 with herring observed on the first flight. The largest observed biomass of herring was on May 15, with 4,054 st. The second highest biomass was observed on May 28, with 3,890 st. With information from the May 15 aerial survey, the guideline harvest level (GHL) was set at 800 st.

The Goodnews Bay District commercial herring fishery opened on May 18 at 11:00 a.m. and closed on June 1 at 11:00 p.m. Due to a substantial amount of sea ice within the bay, fisherman were not able to start fishing until May 24. The highest daily harvest of 63 st occurred on May 28. A total of 4 permits participated in the fishery and total harvest was 248 st (Table 1).

Table 1. Goodnews Bay District commercial herring fishery period open and closing times, deliveries, permits, and harvest in short tons (st).

Date	Time		Duration (hr.)	Deliveries	Permits	Harvest (st)
	Opened	Closed				
5/18	11:00		13	0	0	0
5/19	open		24	0	0	0
5/20	open		24	0	0	0
5/21	open		24	0	0	0
5/22	open		24	0	0	0
5/23	open		24	0	0	0
5/24	open		24	4	0	5
5/25	open		24	8	4	26
5/26	open		24	6	3	48
5/27	open		24	6	4	50
5/28	open		24	7	4	63
5/29	open		24	12	3	32
5/30	open		24	4	2	13
5/31	open		24	5	3	11
6/1		23:00	23	0	0	0
Totals:			348	52	4	248

### **Nelson Island District**

Aerial surveys of the Nelson Island District began May 25 with no herring observed. The largest observed biomass of herring was on June 6 with 4,893 st.

The Nelson Island District commercial fishery opened on June 3 at 12:00 p.m. and closed on June 11 at 3:00 a.m. Due to a substantial amount of shore fast ice in Toksook Bay, fishermen were not able to start fishing until June 5. The highest daily harvest of 110 st occurred on June 6. A total of 10 permits participated in the fishery and total harvest was 346 st (Table 2).

Table 2. Nelson Island District commercial herring fishery period open and closing times, deliveries, permits, and harvest in short tons (st).

Date	Time		Duration (hr.)	Deliveries	Permits	Harvest (st)
	Opened	Closed				
6/3	12:00	20:00	8	0	0	0
6/4	13:00	21:00	8	0	0	0
6/5	14:00	22:00	8	7	6	25
6/6	3:00		24	32	9	110
6/7	open		24	18	8	75
6/8	open		24	17	10	53
6/9	open		24	9	9	20
6/10	open		24	10	10	35
6/11		3:00	24	10	10	28
Totals:			168	103	10	346

### **Cape Avinof District**

Aerial surveys of the Cape Avinof District occurred on May 25 and June 6, however survey conditions were poor and a biomass estimate was not obtainable.

The Cape Avinof District commercial fishery opened on June 12 at 12:00 a.m. and closed on June 15 at 12:00 a.m. A total of 11 permits participated in the fishery and the total harvest was 30 st (Table 3).

Table 3. Cape Avinof District commercial herring fishery period open and closing times, deliveries, permits, and harvest in short tons (st).

Date	Time		Duration (hr.)	Deliveries	Permits	Harvest (st)
	Opened	Closed				
6/12	0:00		24	13	10	14
6/13	open		24	13	11	16
6/14		23:59	24	0	0	0
Totals:			72	26	11	30

### **Cape Romanzof District**

The Cape Romanzof District commercial fishery opened on June 12 and closed on June 14 (Table 4). The single registered buyer had difficulties getting tenders to the district in time for the opening because of lingering sea-ice. Beginning June 14, high winds and inclement weather hindered fishing efforts. In conjunction with decreasing harvests, the buyer ceased operations on June 14. The preliminary commercial harvest in the district was 42 st from 16 permit holders.

Flying aerial surveys of the Cape Romanzof District is problematic because inclement weather and persistent poor survey conditions. An aerial was flown on June 12 with good survey conditions. Approximately 148 st of biomass was observed.

Table 4. Cape Romanzof District commercial herring fishery period open and closing times, deliveries, permits, and harvest in short tons (st).

Date	Time		Duration (hr.)	Deliveries	Permits	Harvest (st)
	Opened	Closed				
6/10	11:00		13	0	0	0
6/11	open		24	0	0	0
6/12	open		24	31	16	40
6/13	open		24	2	2	2
6/14		14:00	14	0	0	0
Totals:			99	31	16	40

ADF&G's fishery managers can be reached by calling Travis Elison at (907) 543-2709 and Aaron Tiernan at (907) 543-2331 in the Bethel office for Kuskokwim Bay, and Jeff Estensen (907) 459-7217 in the Fairbanks office for Cape Romanzof. Current fishery information will be available by calling the telephone recorder in Bethel at (907) 543-2598 or toll free at (855) 933-2433. Recordings will be updated as information becomes available. Fishery updates will also be available at the Commercial Fisheries website:

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

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