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Advisory Announcement
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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 20

Aerial surveys conducted from March 6 through March 8 covered Sitka Sound from West Crawfish Inlet to Salisbury Sound and Hayward Strait. During these flights, small amounts of herring spawn were observed in St. John Baptist Bay, De Groff Bay, Promisla Bay, Eastern Bay, and in Hayward Strait.

A vessel survey conducted in the area from Middle Island to Battery Island today found an additional 4.4 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn that was not recorded during the aerial surveys this season. The total cumulative herring spawn observed to date (including today's vessel observed spawn) in Sitka Sound is approximately 78.8 nmi (Figure 1). Another vessel survey is planned for April 9.

This will be the last fishery update of the 2024 season. A season summary advisory announcement will be issued following the conclusion of aerial, vessel, and dive surveys. Aerial surveys will continue, weather permitting, to monitor for additional herring spawn in Sitka Sound until it is determined that spawning activity has ended for the 2024 season. The data collected and corresponding images will continue to be posted online immediately after each flight survey.

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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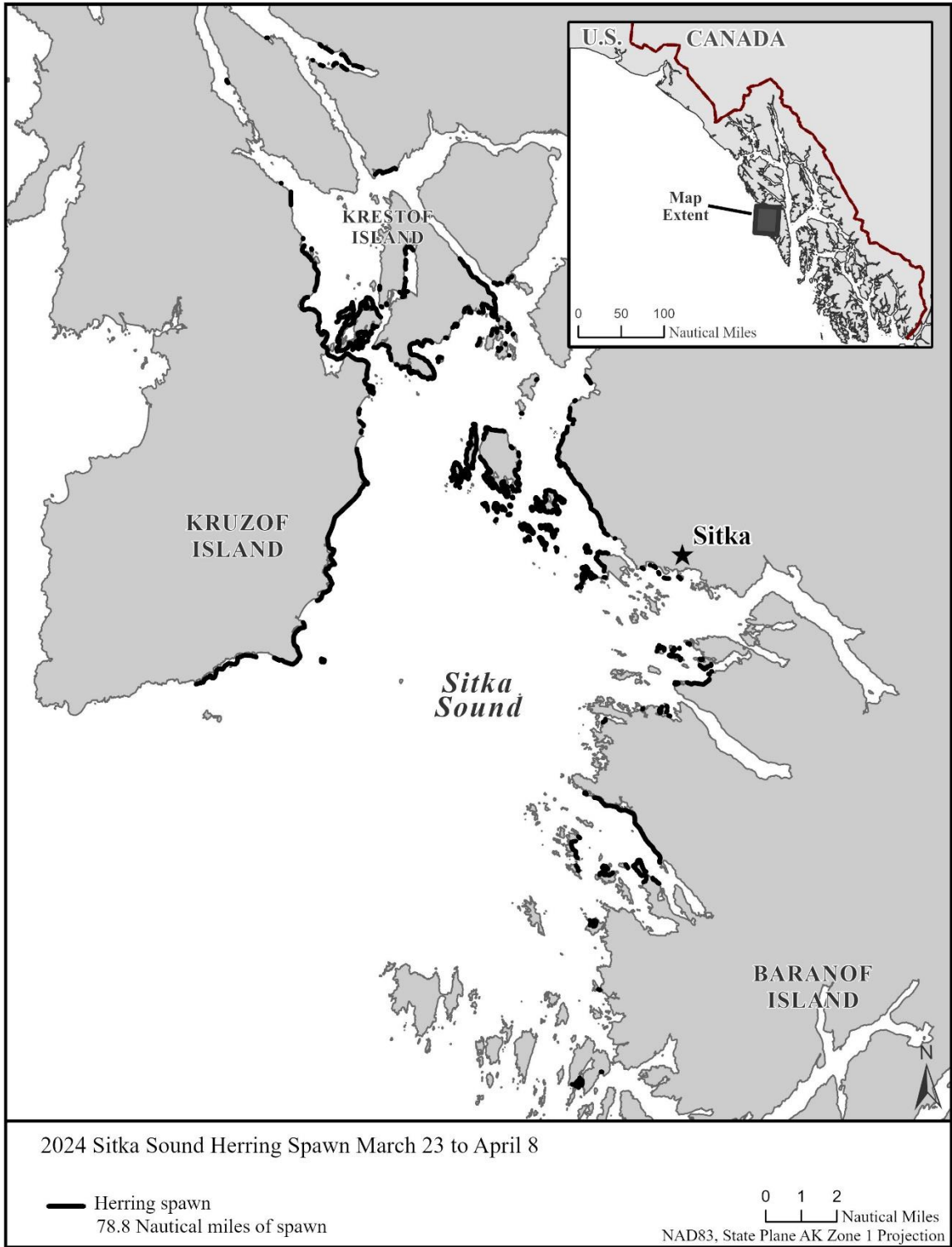


Figure 1.— Map of the cumulative herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound from March 23 through April 8, 2024.