

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 3, 2020

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 13

Sitka... Today's aerial survey covered the Sitka Sound area from Crawfish Inlet to Krestof Sound. Weather during the flight was marginal with light winds and poor visibility. A total of 10.3 nautical miles of active herring spawn was observed on Kruzof Island south of Shelikof Bay to Fred's Creek, from Mountain Point to Point Brown, and on Krestof Island from Rob Point to Eastern Bay (Figure 1). Several smaller areas of spawn were observed closer to Sitka in Whiting Harbor, the Eliason Harbor breakwater, and near Crescent Harbor (Figure 1). The cumulative miles of herring spawn to date is approximately 23.1 nautical miles.

The next aerial survey will be Saturday, April 4, and the next fishery update will be issued by Sunday, April 5.

The department is experimenting with a mobile data collection app used during herring surveys to provide interactive maps for displaying survey spawning information. The "Sitka Sound daily herring spawn" map displays spawn location data for the current day and the "Sitka Sound herring surveys" map allows users to view all of the data collected for each survey throughout the 2020 season. Survey data have not been edited and are for reference purposes only. Because these maps are still under development, feedback is appreciated. The interactive maps are located on the department website at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.herring#maps>.

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: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

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

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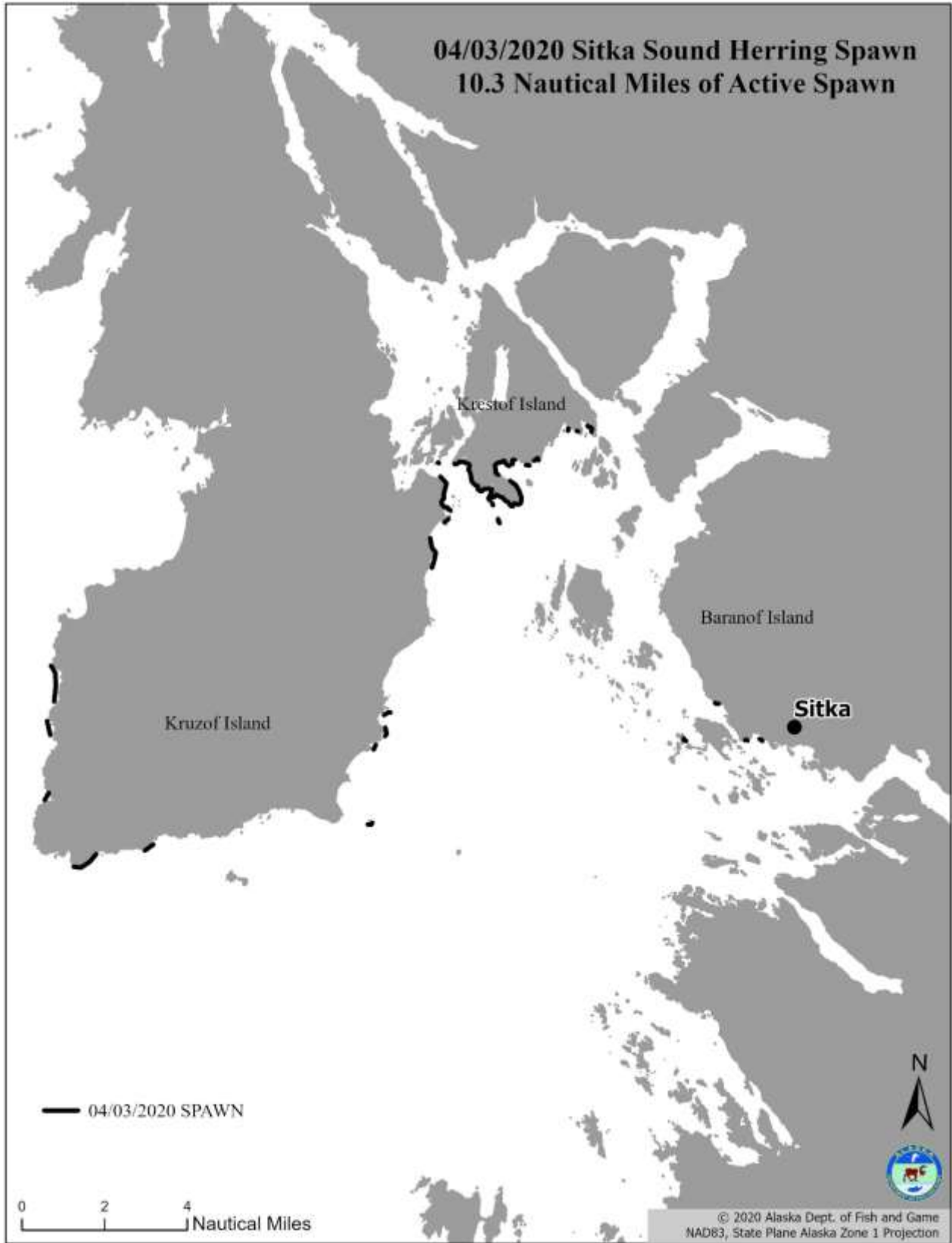


Figure 1. Active herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 3, 2020.