



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 6, 2020

CONTACT: Aaron Dupuis
Sitka Area Management Biologist
aaron.dupuis@alaska.gov
(907) 747-6688

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 15

Sitka...Aerial surveys were conducted April 5 and 6 of the Sitka Sound area from Crawfish Inlet to Salisbury Sound. On April 5, weather during the flight was good with light winds and clear skies. A total of 8.4 nautical miles (nmi) of active herring spawn was observed on Kruzof Island south of Shelikof Bay, Fred's Creek, from Inner Point to Point Brown, on Krestof Island from Rob Point to Eastern Bay, and in the Magoun and Siginaka islands. Spawn was also observed near West Crawfish Inlet between the first and second narrows. Smaller areas of spawn were observed closer to Sitka north of Watson Point and near Crescent Harbor (Figure 1). On April 6, weather during the flight was poor with 30-knot winds and low visibility. A total of 2.1 nmi of active herring spawn was observed on Kruzof Island south of Shelikof Bay, in the Magoun Islands and near Rob Point, south of Halibut Point, and near West Crawfish Inlet between the first and second narrows (Figure 2). The cumulative miles of herring spawn through April 6 is approximately 30.3 nmi.

The next aerial survey will be Tuesday, April 7 and the next fishery update will be issued on or before Wednesday, April 8.

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 most recent survey 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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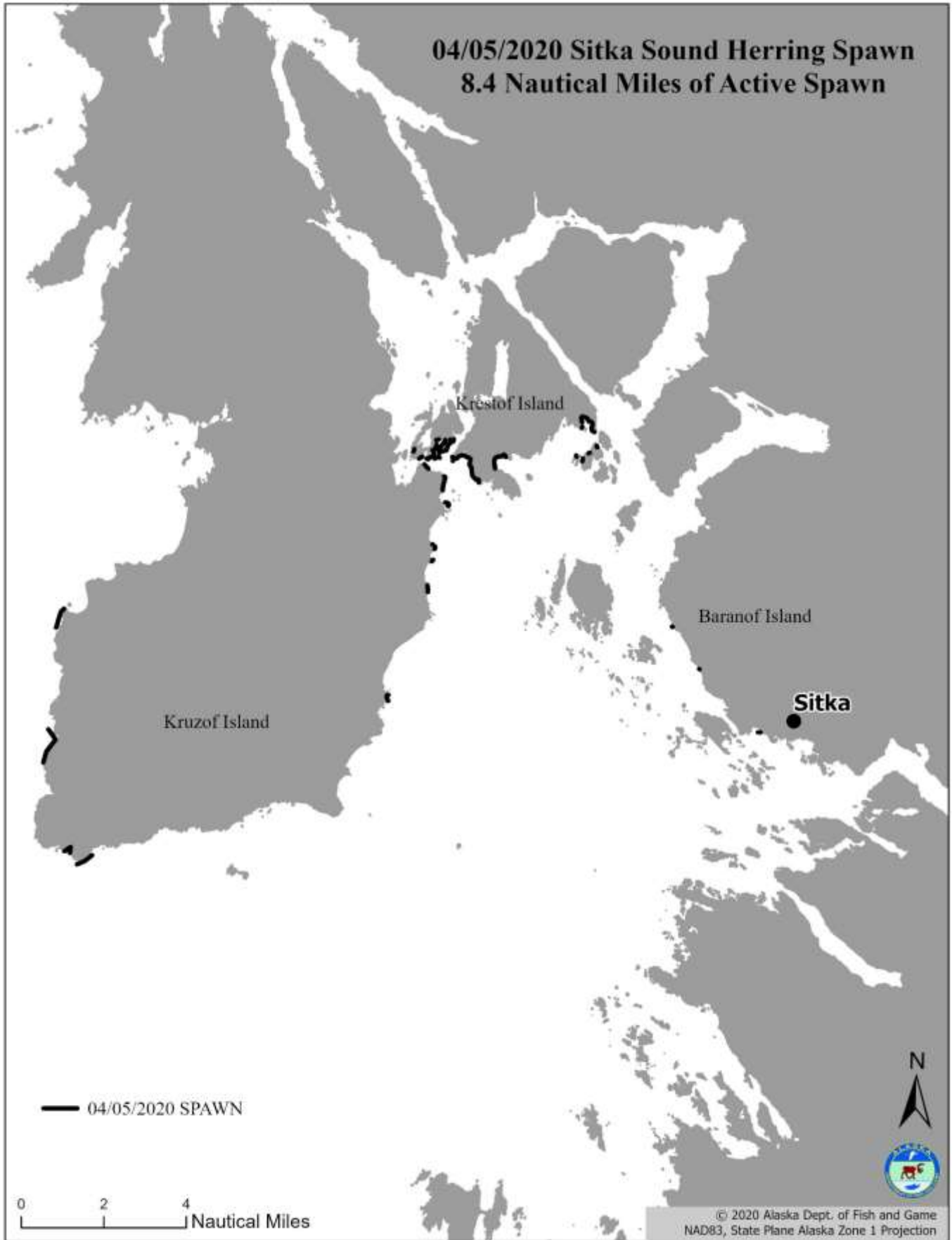


Figure 1. Active herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 5, 2020.

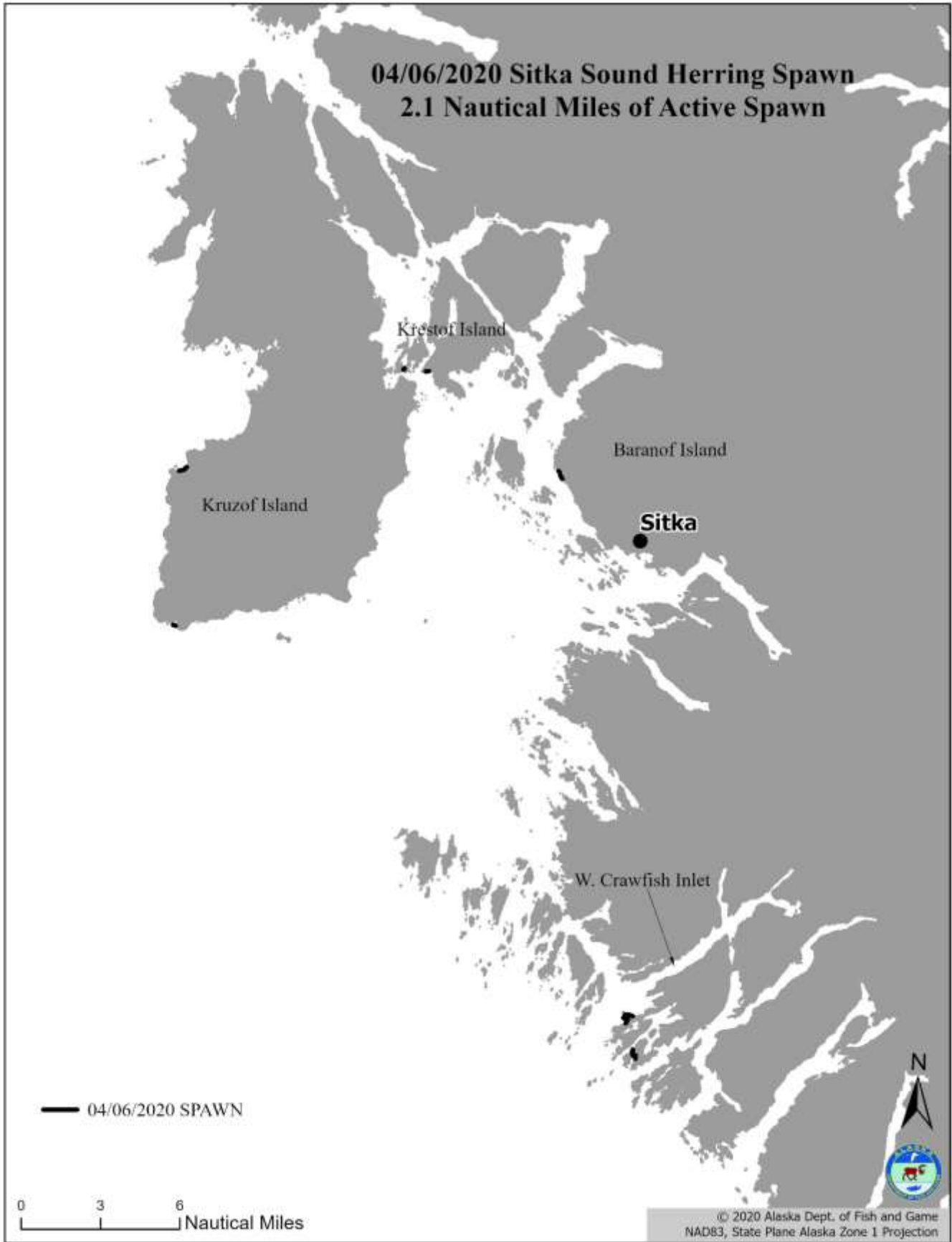


Figure 2. Active herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 6, 2020.