



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 13, 2020

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 18

Sitka... Aerial surveys were conducted of the Sitka Sound area on April 11 and April 12, from Crawfish Inlet to Salisbury Sound. On April 11, weather during the flight was good with light winds and clear skies. A total of 10.4 nautical miles (nmi) of active herring spawn was observed in Katlian Bay, between Starrigavan Bay and Watson Point, near Indian River, north Middle Island, near Apple Island, the Kasiana Islands, Redoubt Bay, and near West Crawfish Inlet between the first and second narrows (Figure 1). On April 12, weather during the flight was good with light winds and clear skies. A total of 11.4 nmi of active herring spawn was observed between Starrigavan Bay and Watson Point, near Indian River, Middle Island, near Apple Island, the Kasiana Islands, Redoubt Bay, and near West Crawfish Inlet between Gornoi Island and the Rakof Islands (Figure 2). The cumulative miles of herring spawn through April 12 is approximately 51.3 nmi.

An aerial survey was not conducted on April 13 by the time of this announcement due to poor weather. The next aerial survey will be Tuesday, April 14 and the next fishery update will be issued on or before Wednesday, April 15.

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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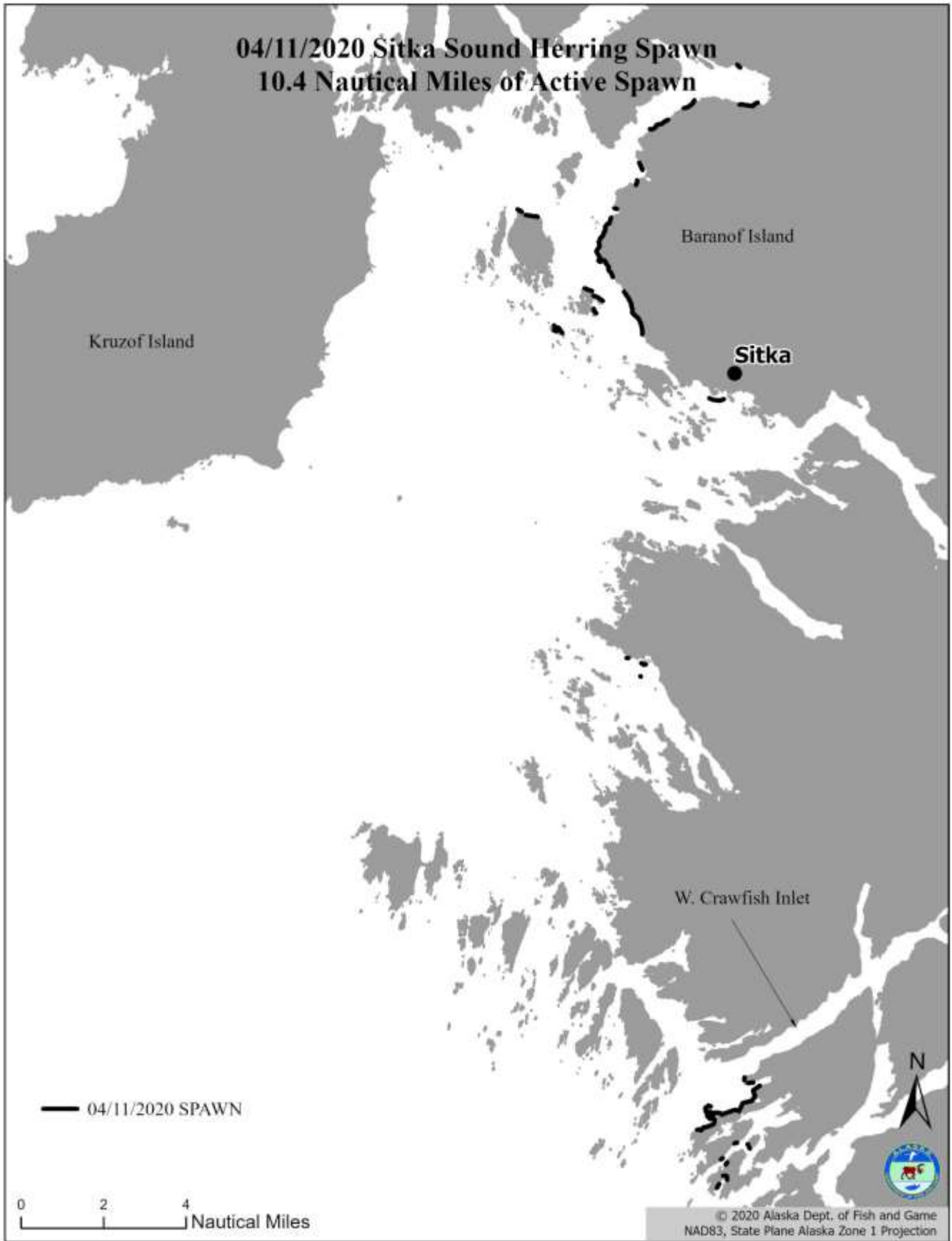


Figure 1. Active herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 11, 2020.

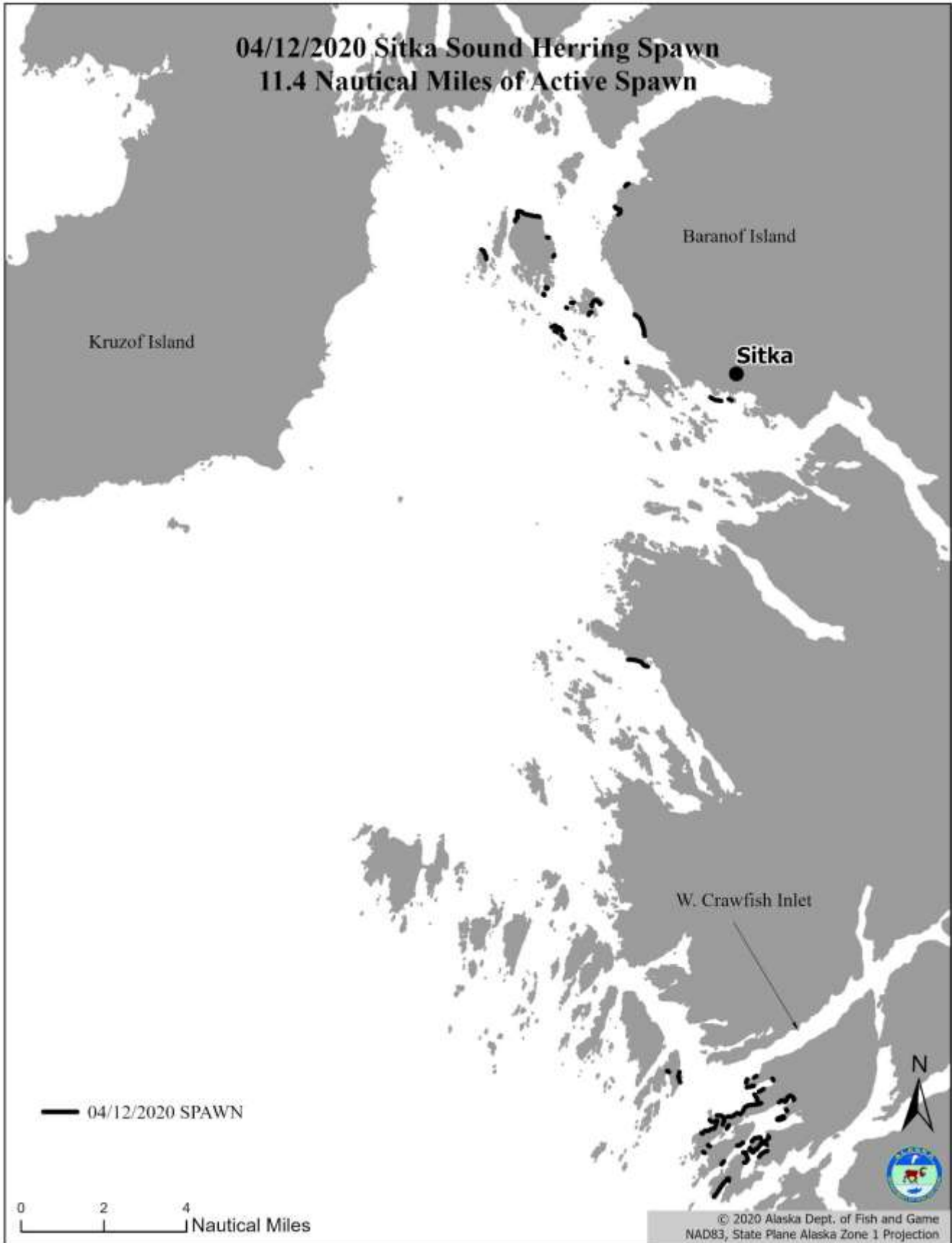


Figure 1. Active herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 12, 2020.