



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: April 4, 2021*

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

**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. daily beginning on Monday, April 5, 2021, until closed by field or advisory announcement in the waters of Deep Inlet and Aleutkina Bay south of 57°00.81' N lat and east of 135°21.93' W long, and the waters south of the latitude of Povorotni Point at 57°00.81' N lat and north of the latitude of Aspid Cape at 57°41.75' N lat, except for the waters of Whale and Necker Bays (Figure 1). Fishing boundaries and times may be modified by subsequent announcement.

The department has determined that the opening described above would not harm a reasonable opportunity for participants in the subsistence fishery to harvest the amount of roe necessary for subsistence uses. When making this determination, the department considered: 1) vessel and aerial surveys conducted by the department on April 3 and April 4 have located numerous large schools of herring within and adjacent to regulatory closed waters, as well as in other areas that support subsistence roe harvest (i.e., Hayward Strait, Promisla and Eastern Bays, and Siginaka Islands); 2) the boundaries allowed for this fishery were restricted relative to the previous openings in order to direct the commercial fishery away from important subsistence areas; 4) approximately 6.5 nautical miles of herring spawn was observed on April 4 on the Kruzof Island shoreline from Shoals Point to Rob Point, on Krestof Island from Point Brown to Kresta Point, near Gagarin Island, and on Crow Island; 5) known subsistence branch sets are located in the areas that received herring spawn this morning; 6) at the time of this announcement there was one known subsistence branch set and no herring spawn observed on the shoreline adjacent to the open area; 7) the department will monitor the locations of known subsistence sets within the open areas and should spawn occur there, closure lines will be announced to separate commercial activities from subsistence activities to help ensure that the quality of the subsistence harvest is not degraded.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

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

| Office | Ketchikan | Petersburg | Wrangell | Sitka    | Juneau   | Haines   | Yakutat  |
|--------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ADF&G  | 225-5195  | 772-3801   |          | 747-6688 | 465-4250 | 766-2830 | 784-3255 |
| AWT    | 225-5111  | 772-3983   | 874-3215 | 747-3254 | 465-4000 | 766-2533 | 784-3220 |

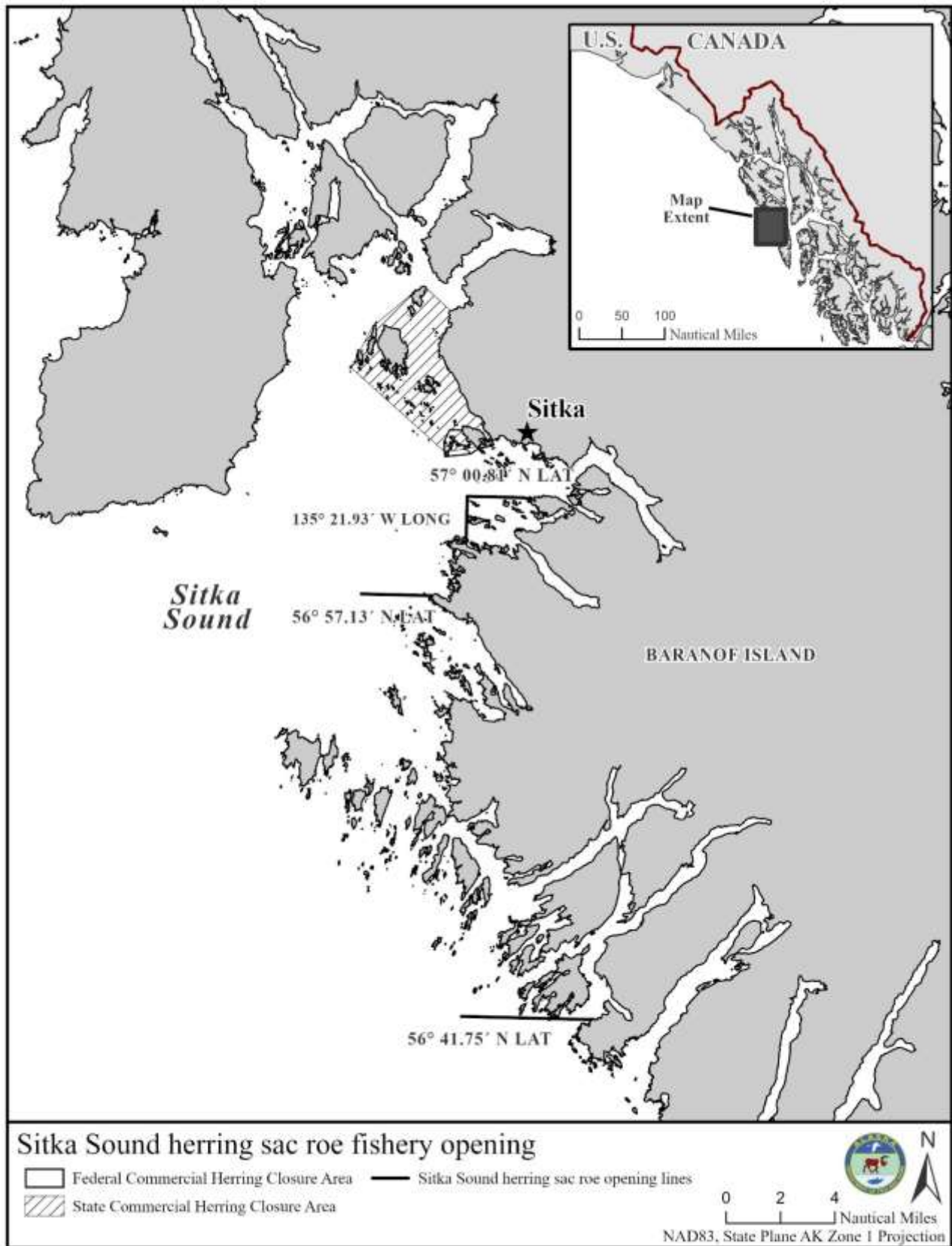


Figure 1.– Map of the area open for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery beginning on April 5.