



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: April 2, 2023*

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

**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 18**

Today’s aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from as far south as Aspid Cape, to as far north as Krestof Sound, and west to Shelikof Bay. Survey conditions today were excellent with good visibility, clear skies, and 5-knot winds. Approximately 9 nautical miles (nmi) of active spawn was observed today from around Inner Point, Mountain Point, Hayward Strait, Promisla and Eastern Bays, and within closed waters on the north and west shorelines of Middle Island, and on west Crow Island. Herring predators were seen scattered around southern Kruzof Island, in Aleutkina Bay, and south of Povorotni Point to Goddard. The cumulative spawn estimate through today is approximately 20.6 nmi.

Department and industry vessels surveyed Sitka Sound from St. John Baptist Bay, Hayward Strait, the eastern shore of Kruzof Island, Aleutkina and Leesoffskaia Bays, Deep Inlet, and Kanga Bay. Scattered schools of herring were located on sonar throughout the surveyed area; however, very large schools of herring were located near Frosty Reef.

One successful test set was conducted today; the results were:

Time	Area	Tons	% Mature Roe	% Immature Roe	Avg weight	% Female
12:20	Kanga Bay	100	8.4 %	1.5 %	90 g	38.7 %
15:07	Deep Inlet	100	9.4 %	0.1 %	90 g	47.5 %

Herring mortality associated with test sets is likely minimal and there is no evidence that the small number of fish taken has any measurable impact on the subsistence fishery. Nevertheless, to ensure reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest of herring roe would not be negatively impacted by test setting, prior to authorizing test fishing in these areas the department considered the following: 1) the areas sampled today were outside the commercial closed waters and core subsistence areas; and 2) the fish encountered during test fishing represented a small fraction of the overall biomass in each area.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Monday, April 3.

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>

Office	Keetchikan	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

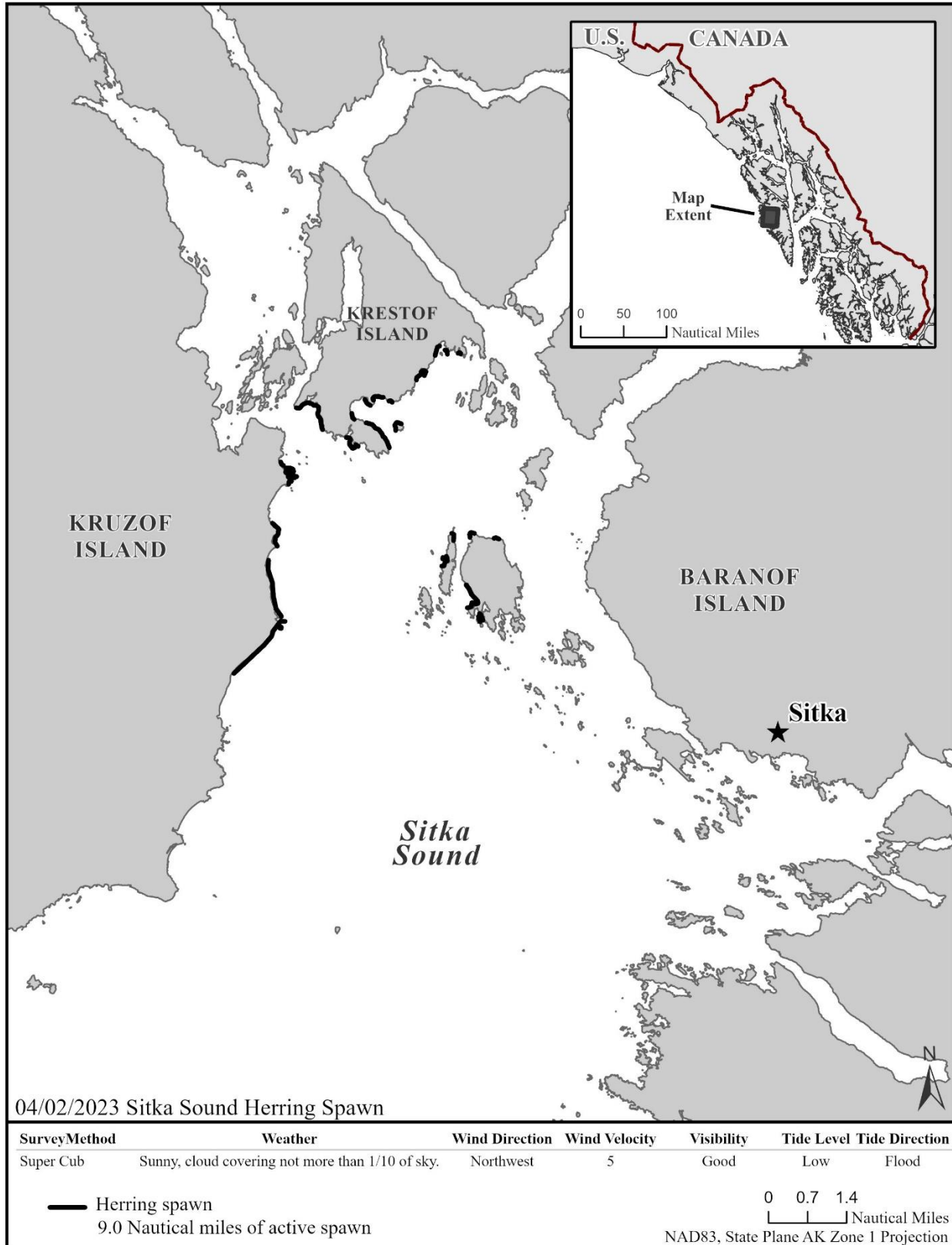


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on April 2, 2023.