



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 2, 2023

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2023 KETCHIKAN HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 8

An aerial survey was conducted today, April 2, in Craig and West Behm Canal.

Craig

An aerial survey was conducted in the greater Craig area covering the Ballena Islands to Abbess Island, San Christoval Channel to Blanquiza Island, Portillo Channel, and the east side of San Fernando Island. Approximately 11.2 nautical miles (nmi) of active herring spawn was observed on north Fish Egg Island, Klawock Reef, the Alberto Islands, and the southwest side of Wadleigh Island (Figure 1). Predators were dispersed throughout the area surrounding spawn. Approximately 150 sea lions and 15 humpback whales were observed, with the highest concentration of humpback whales on the south end of Fish Egg Island. Additional predator activity was observed on the northwest side of Abbess Island. The Craig/Klawock spawn event is progressing very rapidly and fishermen participating in the commercial spawn-on-kelp fishery are advised to monitor the situation for opportunity to fill pound structures with quality herring. There are currently 54 pound structures on the grounds and approximately 40 pounds have had herring introduced.

2023 Craig/Klawock Herring Summary

March 17, 2023	Limited predator activity.
March 24, 2023	Increased predator activity.
March 28, 2023	Moderate predator activity.
March 30, 2023	Moderate predator activity.
April 1, 2023	1.3 nmi spawn on Wadleigh Island.
April 2, 2023	11.2 nmi spawn on Klawock Reef, Fish Egg, Clam, Alberto, and Wadleigh Islands.

Revilla Channel

The cumulative herring spawn observed in state waters in Revilla Channel was 4.6 nmi (Figure 2).

2023 Revilla Channel Herring Aerial Summary

March 17, 2023	No predator activity.
March 21, 2023	No predator activity.
March 24, 2023	No predator activity.
March 27, 2023	0.3 nmi spawn on Double Island.
March 28, 2023	1.0 nmi spawn on Double Island.
March 29, 2023	2.4 nmi spawn on Double and Dog Islands.
March 30, 2023	3.4 nmi spawn on Double, Dog, and Village Islands.
March 31, 2023	2.0 nmi spawn on Dog and Village Islands.
April 1, 2023	0.5 nmi spawn on Dog Island.

West Behm Canal

Today's aerial survey covered the Cleveland Peninsula, Indian Point, Naha Bay, and Clover Passage. Weather conditions were excellent with clear skies, no wind, and incredible visibility. No herring spawn or schools were observed. Approximately 20 sea lions were observed along the east side of the Cleveland Peninsula from Bond Bay to Raymond Cove.

2023 West Behm Canal Herring Aerial Summary

April 2, 2023 Limited predator activity.

The next aerial survey is planned for **Monday, April 3**. Fishery updates will be released after aerial surveys are completed for the day.

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:



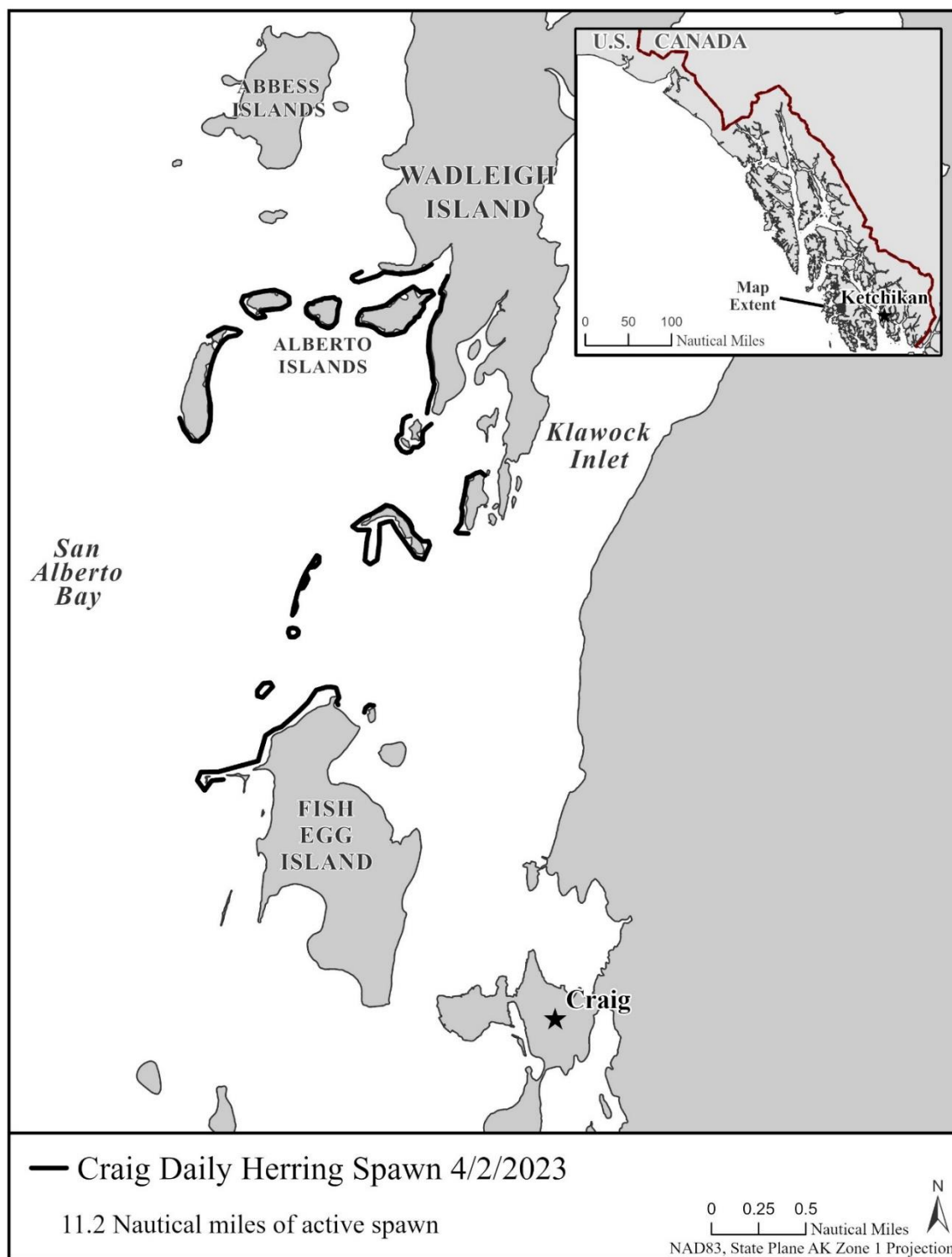


Figure 1. Active herring spawn in Craig for April 2, 2023.



Figure 2. Cumulative herring spawn for Revilla Channel 2023.

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

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