



## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: April 3, 2023*

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### SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 19

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from as far south as Windy Passage, to as far north as Salisbury Sound, and west to St. Lazaria Island. Survey conditions today were excellent with good visibility, partly cloudy skies, and 10-knot winds. Herring schools were observed off of Indian River, in Leasoffskaia Bay, in Krestof Sound, and Sukoi Inlet. Approximately 17.9 nautical miles (nmi) of active spawn was observed today along the southern and eastern Kruzof shoreline to Hayward Strait, Promisla and Eastern Bays, around Middle and Crow Islands. Herring predators were seen concentrated off of Povorotni Point scattered along southern Kruzof Island, and from Povorotni Point to Goddard.

Department and industry vessels surveyed Sitka Sound from St. John Baptist Bay, Krestof Sound, the eastern shore of Kruzof Island, Aleutkina and Leasoffskaia Bays, Deep Inlet, Kanga Bay, and Redoubt Bay. Scattered schools of herring were located on sonar throughout the surveyed area; however, very large schools of herring were located near Calming Island and Windy Passage.

Harvest from the fishery that occurred on April 1 was approximately 1,100-tons of herring. No fishery occurred today. Approximately 4,200-tons of herring have been harvested so far this season.

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

Time	Area	Tons	% Mature Roe	% Immature Roe	Avg weight	% Female
11:08	Redoubt Bay	200	11.8 %	0.1 %	146 g	46.6 %
12:15	Windy Passage*	50	-	-	-	-
14:16	Calming Island	100	8.4 %	1.6 %	93 g	44.4 %

\*Results from this test sample were not available at the time this advisory announcement was published.

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 Tuesday, April 4.

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>

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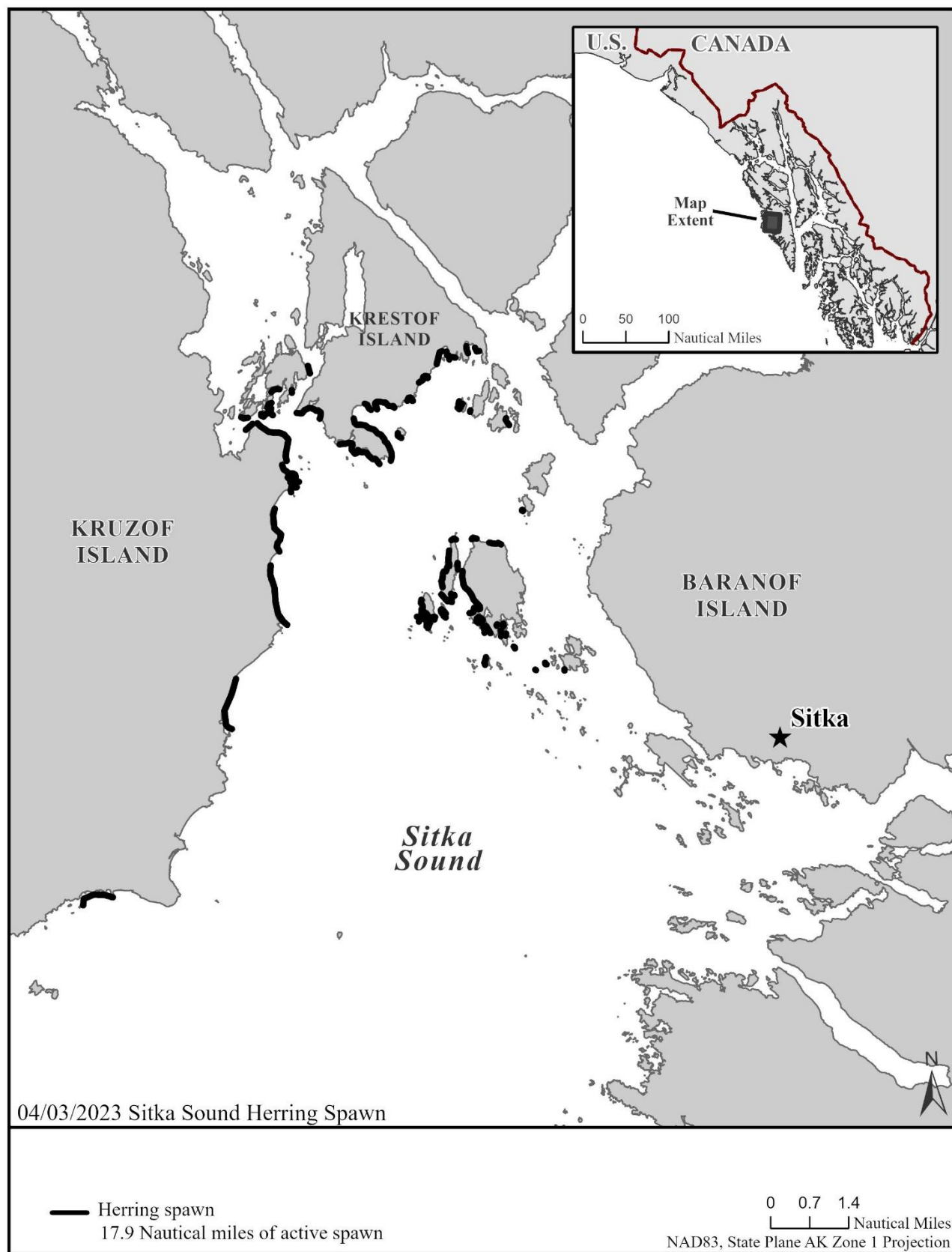


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on April 3, 2023.