



## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: April 11, 2023*

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### SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 27

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Jamboree Bay to Salisbury Sound, and west to Shelikof Bay. Survey conditions today were good with 5-knot north winds, and clear skies. Approximately 1.3 nautical miles (nmi) of active spawn was observed from Dorothy Narrows to around the Goddard area during this flight. A department vessel survey was conducted today to map additional spawn not observed during the daily aerial surveys. The vessel survey covered the area from Hayward Strait to the Magoun Islands and near Dorothy Narrows that mapped an additional 3.0 nmi of spawn. The cumulative spawn estimate (including vessel mapped spawn) is approximately 73.6 nmi.

Department and industry vessels surveyed Sitka Sound from Crescent Bay to Windy Passage. Several schools of herring were located on sonar throughout the surveyed area. No fishery occurred today.

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

Time	Area	Tons	% Mature Roe	% Immature Roe	Avg weight	% Female
10:51	Windy Pass	100	8.4 %	2.4 %	84 g	-

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 this area the department considered the following: 1) the area sampled today was 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 the area.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Wednesday, April 12.

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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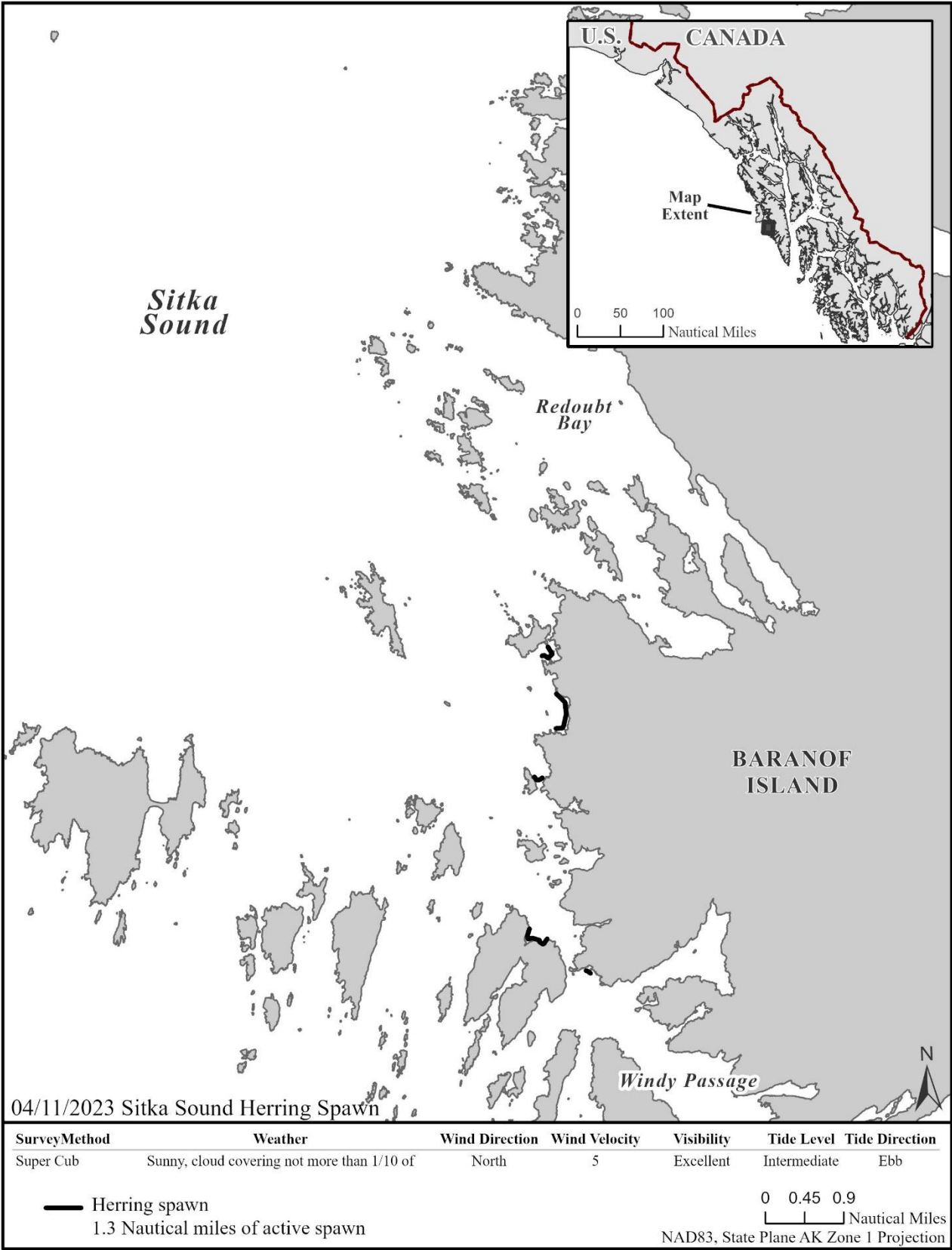


Figure 1.– Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on April 11, 2023.