



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 27, 2024

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 10

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Deep Inlet to Salisbury Sound and St. Lazaria Island. Herring schools were visible from the air in the vicinity of the Magoun Islands, Krestof Sound, Salisbury Sound, Eastern Bay, Crescent Bay, and Leesoffskaia Bay. Approximately 10.3 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn was observed along the Sitka road system from Halibut Point to Harbor Point and on Kasiana, Apple, Crow, Gagarin, and Middle Islands, and near Fred's Creek (Figure 1). Herring predators were widely distributed throughout the surveyed area. No significant concentration of predators was noted today.

Department and industry vessels surveyed Sitka Sound from Harbor Point to Shoals Point and from Crescent Bay to Samsing Cove. Numerous large schools of herring were observed along the Sitka road system from Harbor Point to Halibut Point, in Deep Inlet, and in northern Hayward Strait, and southern Krestof Sound. Very large schools of herring were observed in shallow water along the Kruzof Island shoreline from Point Brown to Shoals Point.

No test sets were conducted today.

An opening of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery occurred today from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., as stated in field announcement on VHF channel 10. The two open areas for this fishery included areas north and south of Sitka. South of Sitka included the area of Deep Inlet, Samsing Cove, Aleutkina Bay and contiguous waters south of 57°00.81' N lat and east of 135°21.93' N lat (Figure 2). The area north of Sitka included the waters of Hayward Strait and Krestof Sound south of 57°11.24' N lat and north of 57°08.94' N lat (Figure 3). The emergency order corresponding with today's opening is EO 1H0624. No harvest estimates from today's fishery are available at this time but will be included in the next fishery update. Approximately 1,580 tons of herring were harvested in the fishery that occurred on March 25. Since March 22, an estimated 5,610 tons of herring have been harvested.

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 surveys conducted by the department beginning on March 20 indicated that there is a very large biomass of herring distributed throughout Sitka Sound; 2) schools of herring were observed within regulatory closed waters on the vessel survey that occurred on March 26 from Harbor Point to Halibut Point; 3) herring spawn was observed within commercial closed waters and core subsistence areas today; 3) while subsistence branch sets were observed within the open northern area, no herring spawn was observed.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Thursday, March 28.

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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<i>ADF&G</i>	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220

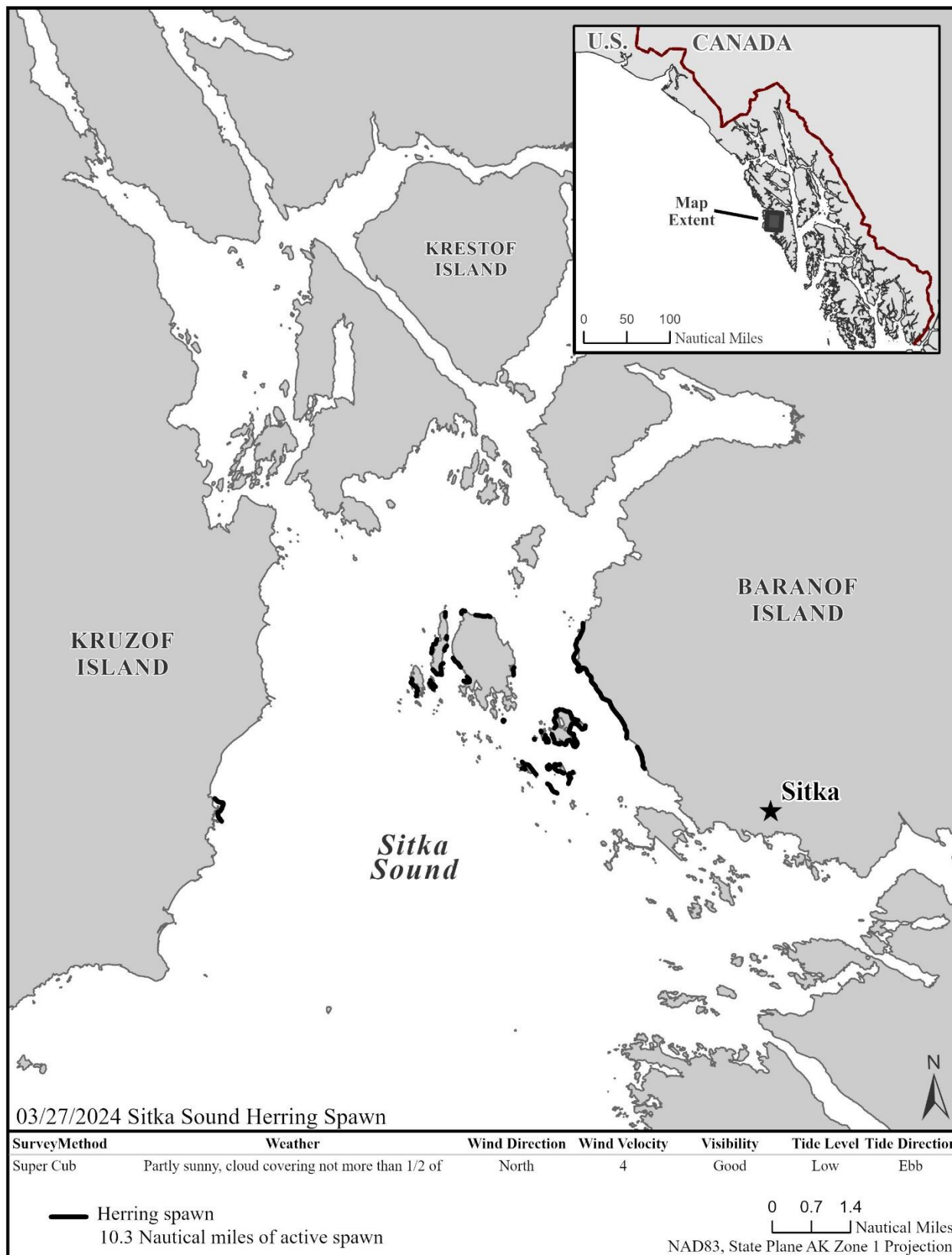


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on March 27, 2024.

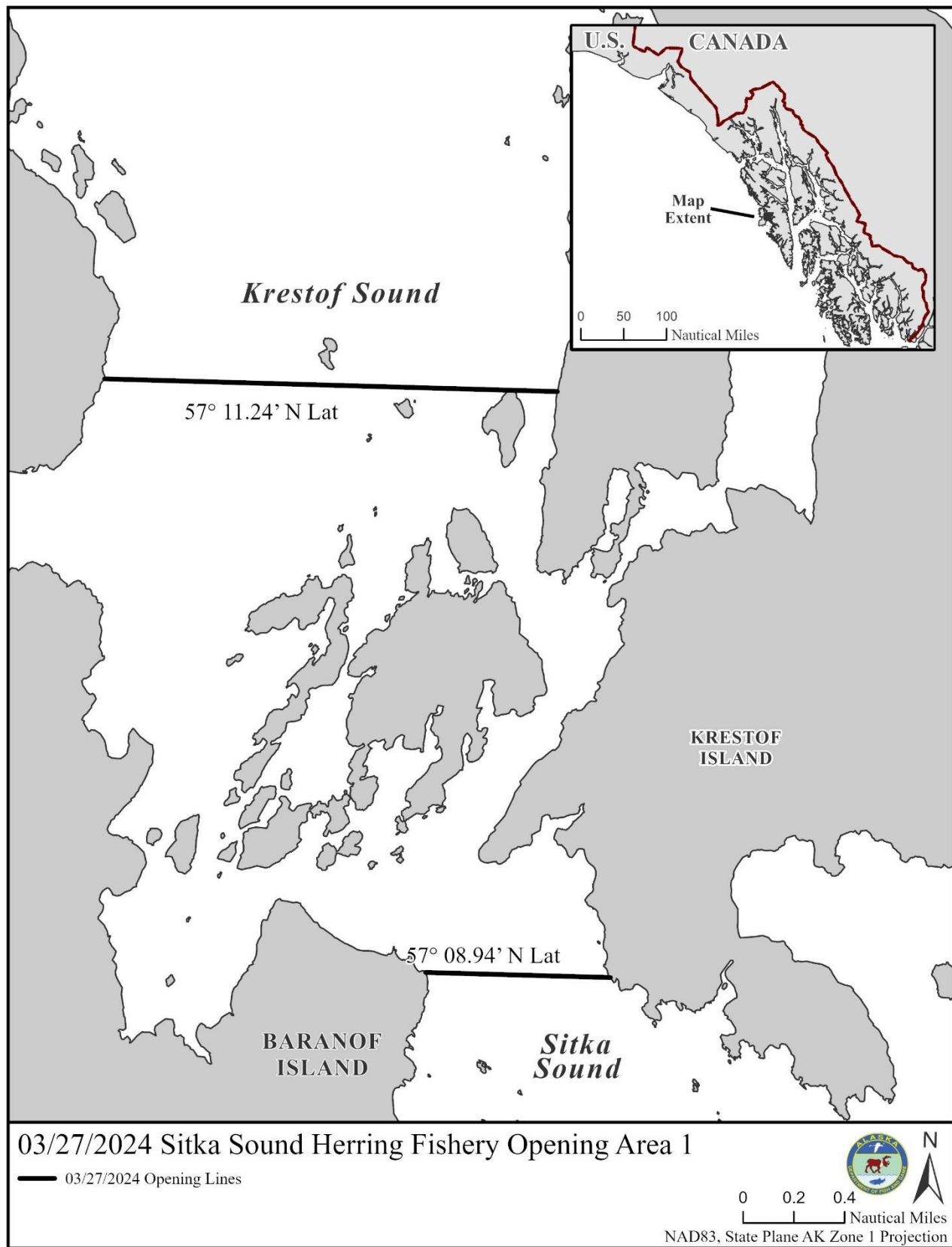


Figure 2.— Map of the northern area open for the March 27, 2024, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.

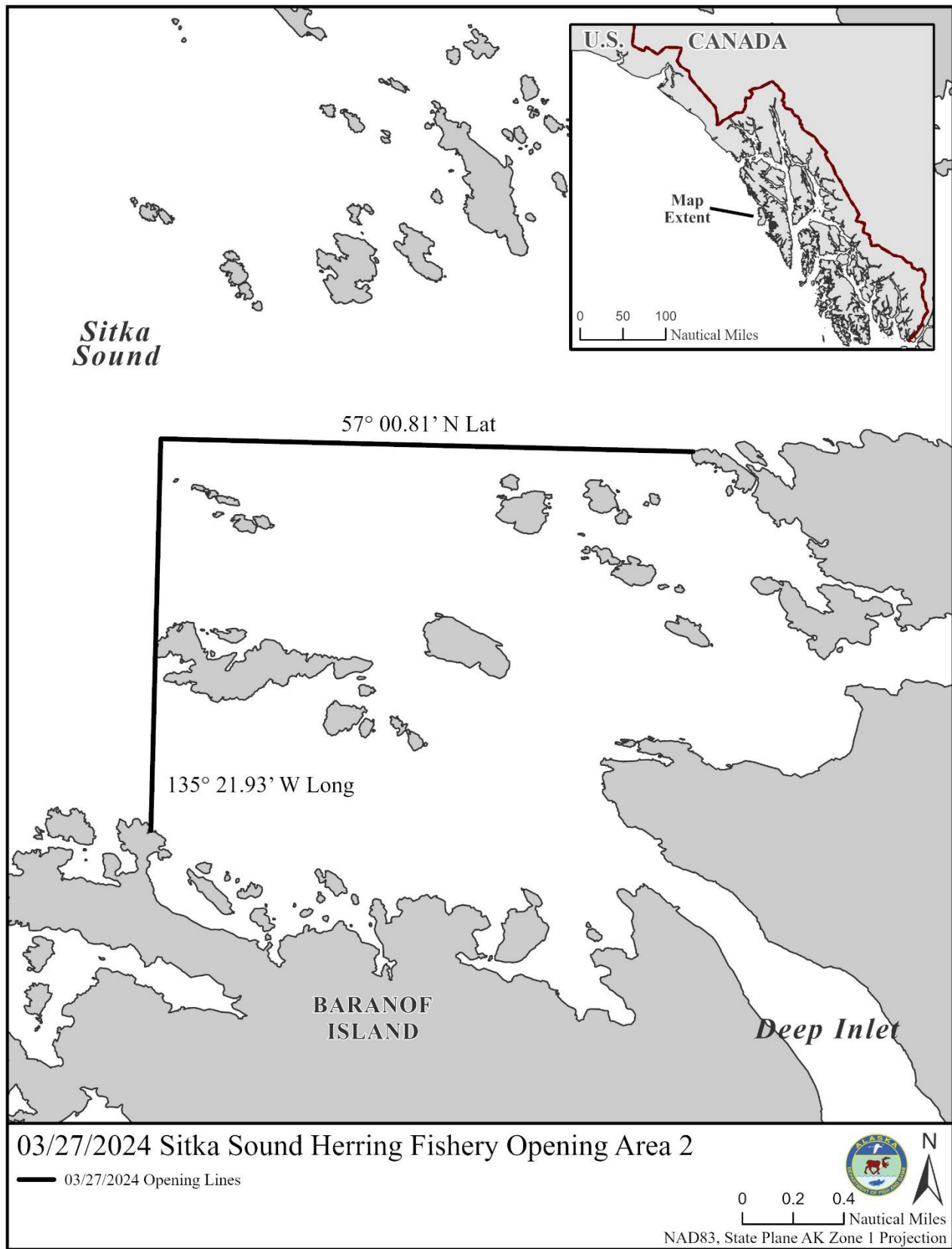


Figure 3.— Map of the southern area open for the March 27, 2024, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.