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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Date: March 29, 2016

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Time: 9:15 a.m.

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#### SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced at 4:00 p.m. yesterday on marine VHF radio, that the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery will be closed for the remainder of the season. Recent test samples were showing an increasing mix of smaller herring decreasing the value of additional harvest. The decision to close the fishery was made in consultation with industry representatives.

The preliminary total harvest for the season is approximately 10,000 tons leaving 4,700 tons of this season's GHL unharvested. Harvest by opening was as follows:

March 17 – 3,600 tons  
March 19 – 4,500 tons  
March 23 – 1,900 tons

The first spawn was recorded March 18, the earliest date on record. Spawning peaked on March 25 when 20.5 nautical miles of active spawning was recorded. The total shoreline receiving spawn to date is 46.5 nautical miles (see attached map). This season the spawn was focused primarily in the Hayward Strait area with heavy multiday spawns observed on the Kruzof Island shoreline from south of Inner Point into Hayward Strait, the Magoun Islands, Kresta Point, and Promisla Bay. Active spawn was mapped broadly around the northern Sitka Sound area. During yesterday's aerial spawn survey no active spawn was observed. It is expected that additional spawning will occur between now and the middle of April. The department will continue to conduct aerial surveys until the middle of April to monitor later spawning events. Dive teams on the *R/V Kestrel* will begin spawn deposition assessment dive surveys on April 1.

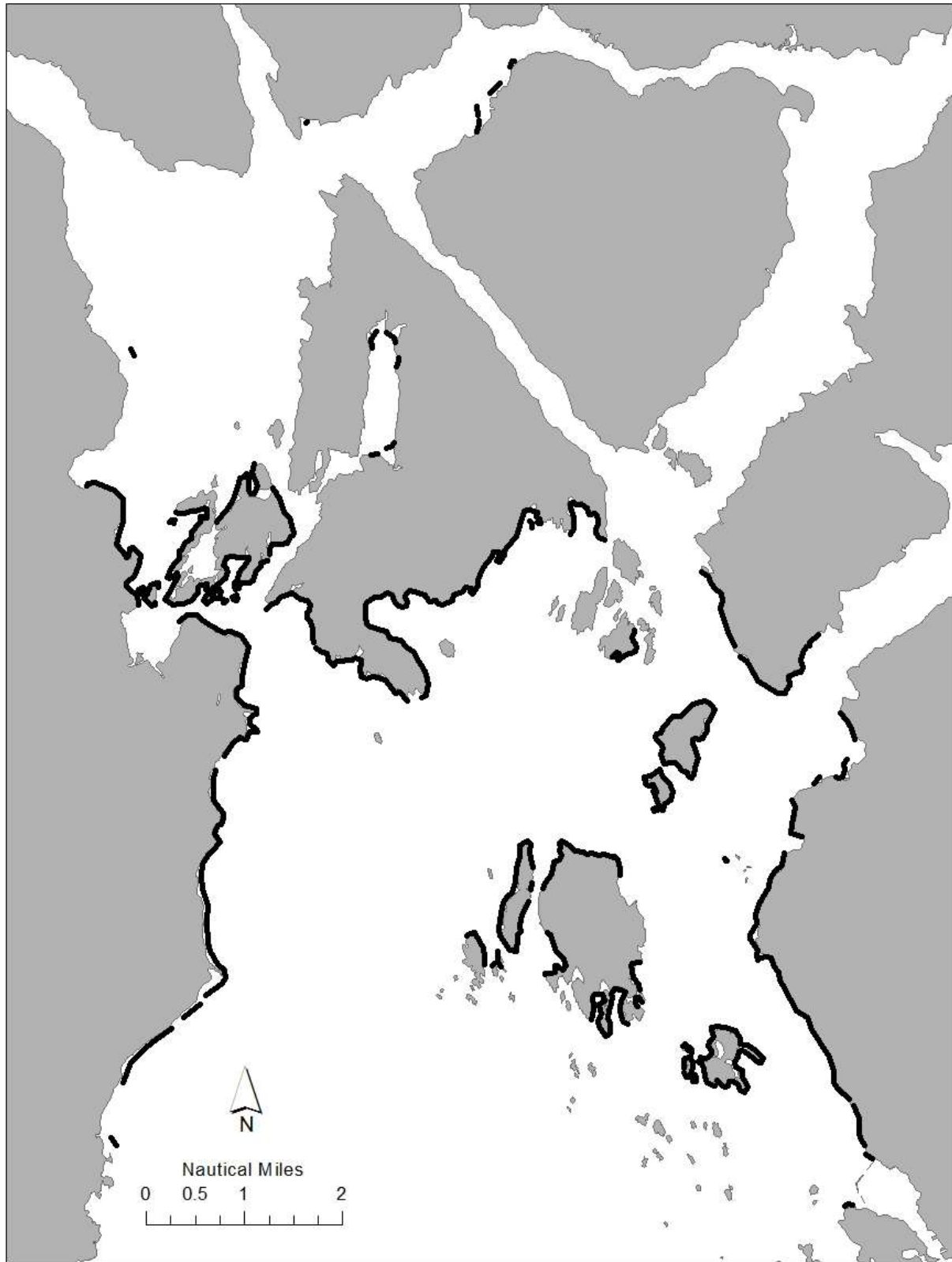
Seine boats needing to stretch nets may do so in Eastern Channel south of Jamestown Bay and north of Old Sitka Rocks.

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

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Map of northern Sitka Sound showing locations herring spawn was recorded through March 28, 2016.