



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: April 15, 2020*

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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 19**

Sitka... Aerials survey were conducted of the Sitka Sound area on April 14 and April 15 from Crawfish Inlet to Katlian Bay. On April 14, weather during the flight was poor with light winds and low visibility. A total of 2.6 nautical miles (nmi) of active herring spawn was observed on Middle Island, the Kasiana Islands, near Galankin Island, Jamestown Bay, and Povorotni Point (Figure 1). On April 15, weather during the flight was poor with light winds and low visibility. A total of 2.7 nmi of active herring spawn was observed on Middle Island, near Galankin Island, Jamestown Bay, between Cape Burunof and Povorotni Point, and near West Crawfish Inlet between the first and second narrows (Figure 2). The cumulative miles of herring spawn through April 15 is approximately 54.9 nmi.

The next aerial survey will be Thursday, April 16 and surveys will continue daily until herring spawning activity ceases. This will be the final fishery update for the 2020 season; a season summary will be issued after the herring spawn has concluded and final spawn mileage is calculated.

Daily herring spawn locations and photographs will continue to be made available through the interactive herring spawn maps on the department's website. The "Sitka Sound daily herring spawn" map displays spawn location data for the most recent survey and the "Sitka Sound herring surveys" map allows users to view all of the data collected for each survey throughout the 2020 season. Survey data have not been edited and are for reference purposes only. Because these maps are still under development, feedback is appreciated. The interactive maps are located on the department website at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.herring#maps>. Additionally, individuals may also call the Sitka ADF&G office to receive updates of herring spawn activity.

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, and 12, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

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

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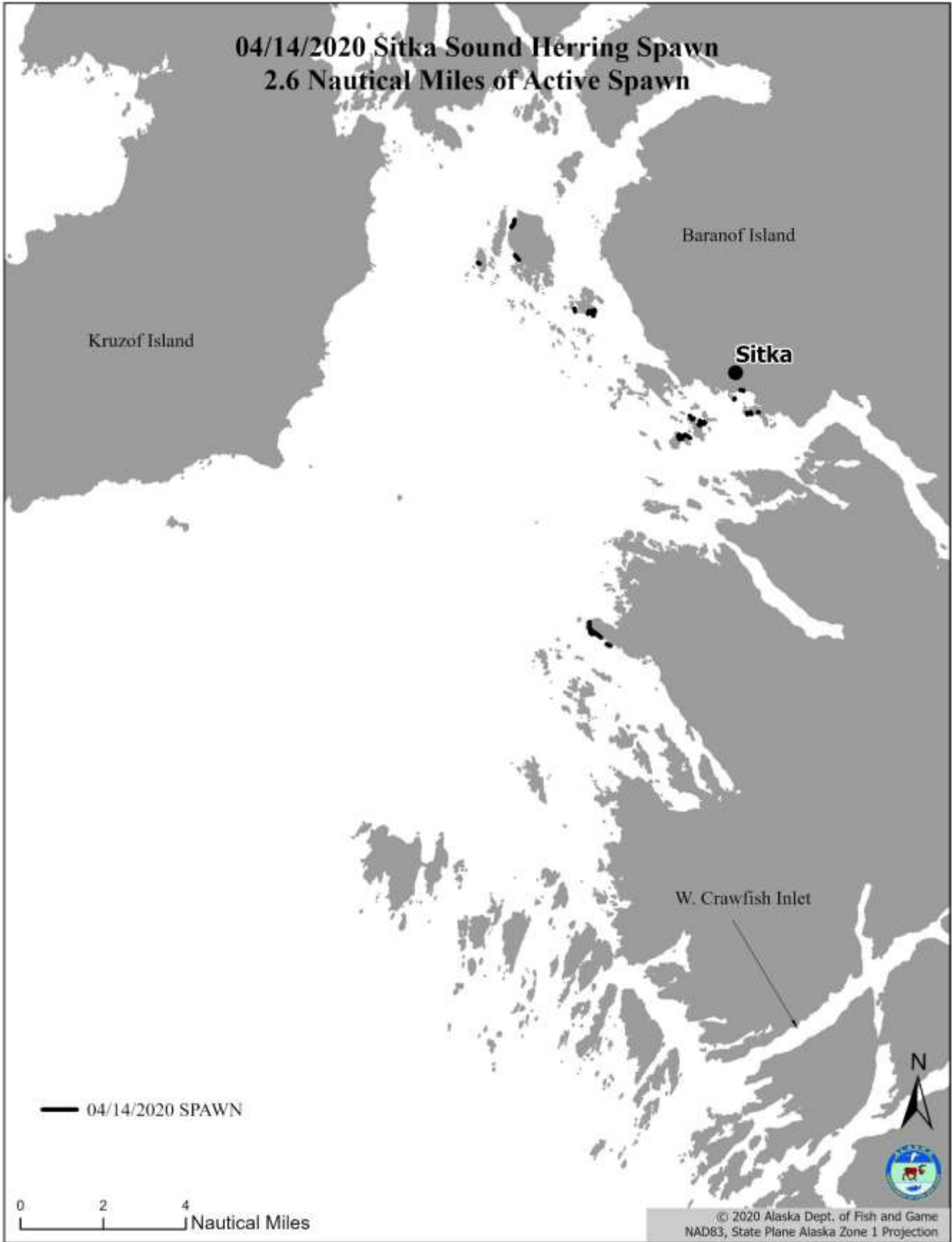


Figure 1. Active herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 14, 2020.

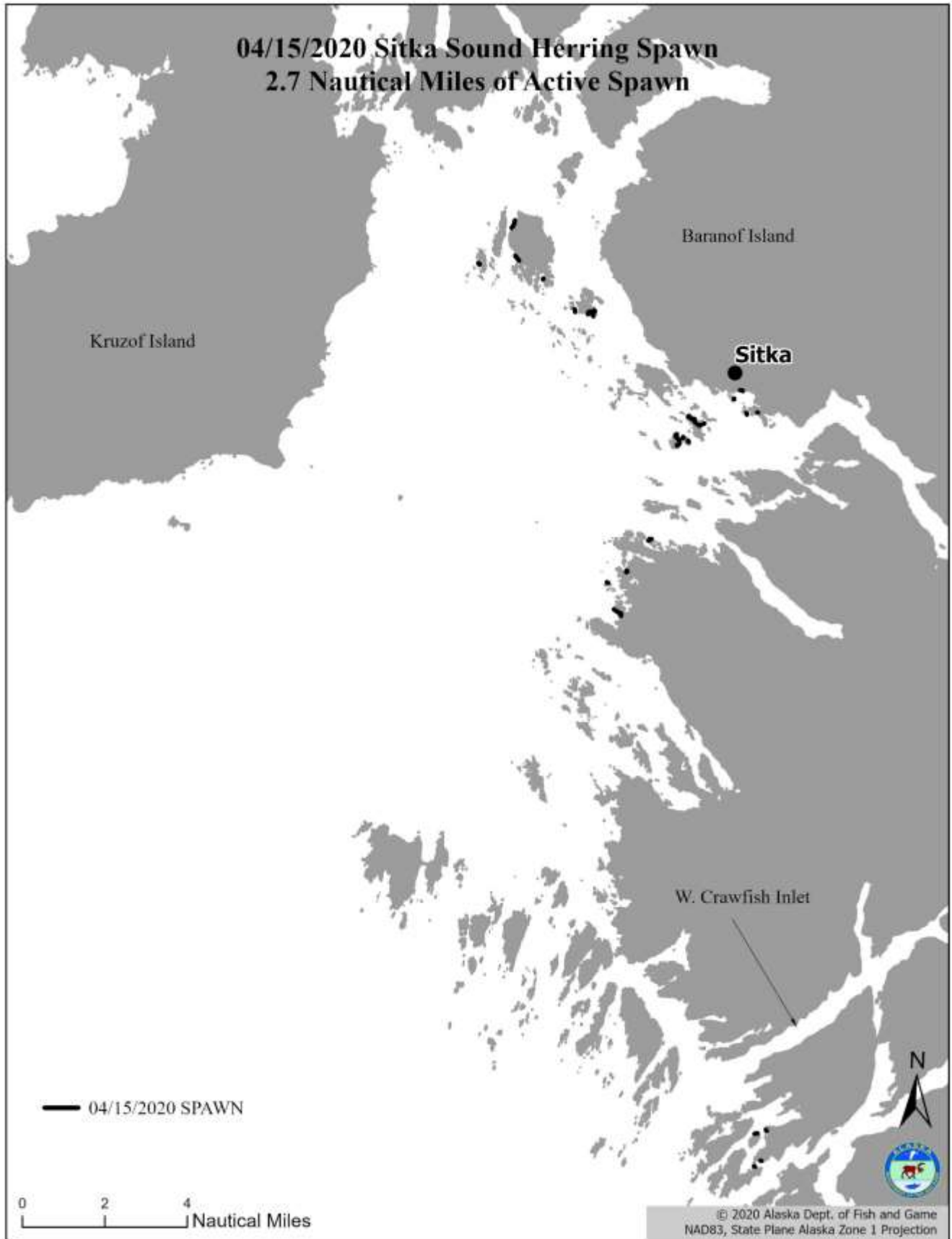


Figure 2. Active herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 15, 2020.