



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 4, 2021

CONTACT: Aaron Dupuis
Sitka Area Management Biologist
aaron.dupuis@alaska.gov
(907) 747-6688

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery opened at 10:30 a.m. today, April 4, 2021. The waters south of 57°02.60' N lat, north of 57°01.15' N lat, west of 135°16.61' W long, and east of 135°20.85' W long, and the waters south of 57°00.81' N lat and east of 135°21.93' W long, will close by field announcement on marine VHF radio.

The attached map shows the boundaries for a Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery opening as initially announced at approximately 9:30 a.m. on this date by field announcement on marine VHF radio. This map is for informational purposes only and is subject to change at any time by subsequent field announcement. Any boundary changes made by subsequent field announcement will not be published in fishery updates on this date.

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) while a comprehensive vessel survey was not conducted north of Kasiana Island this morning, numerous large schools of herring were observed in the state and federal regulatory closed waters extending from Eliason Harbor to the southern end of Kasiana Island, near Apple Island, in the Parker Group, west of the airport, and beyond into the islands south of the airport; 2) the boundaries and time allowed for this fishery were restricted relative to the previous opening in order to reduce commercial activity in the area; 4) approximately 6.5 nautical miles of herring spawn was observed this morning on the Kruzof Island shoreline from Shoals Point to Rob Point, on Krestof Island from Point Brown to Kresta Point, near Gagarin Island, and on Crow Island; 5) known subsistence branch sets are located in the areas that received herring spawn this morning; 6) at the time of the field announcement there were no known subsistence branch sets and there was no herring spawn observed in the water on the adjacent shoreline of the open area.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

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

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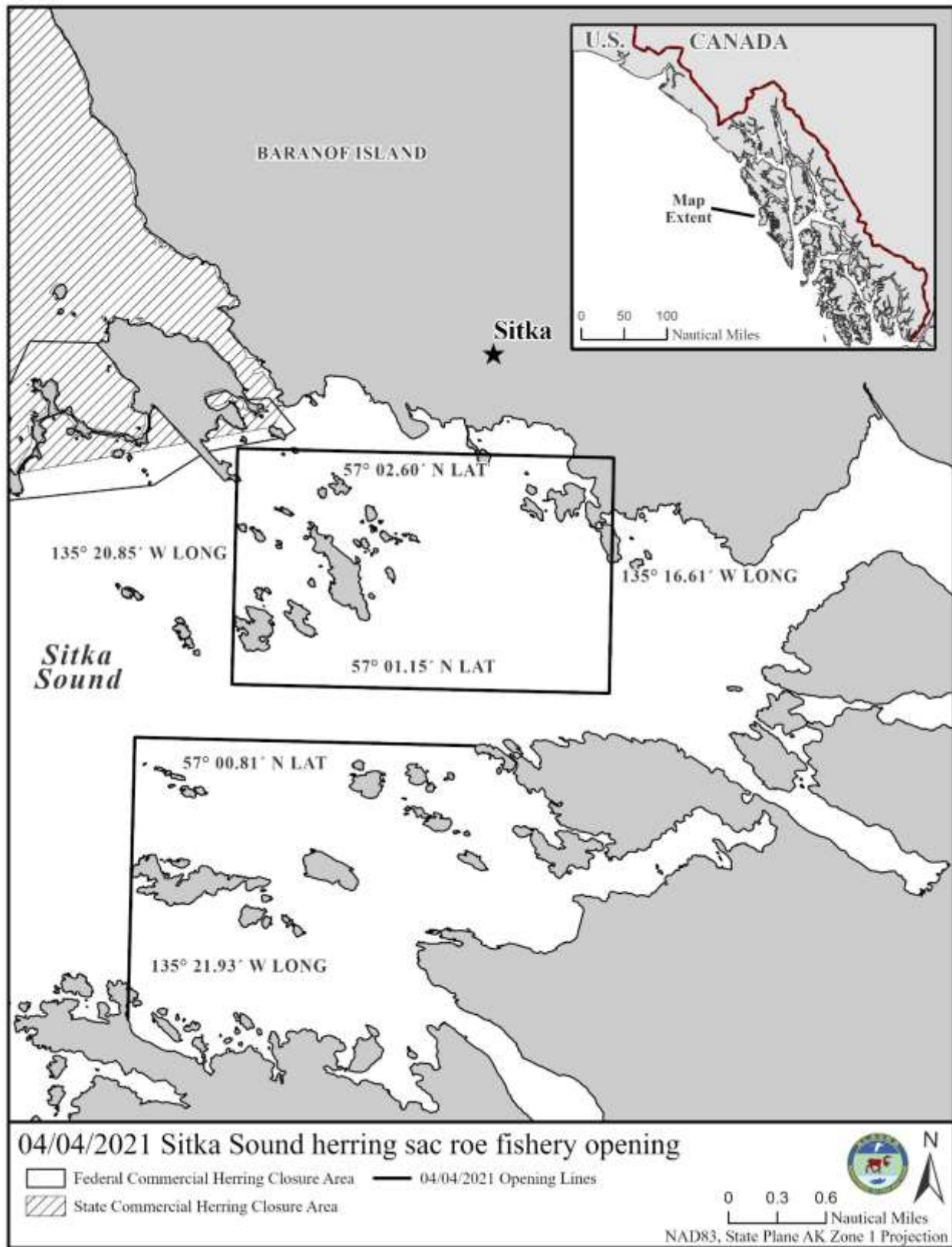


Figure 1.– Map of the initial area open for the April 4, 2021 Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery.