



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: April 4, 2021*

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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 20**

Today’s aerial survey of Sitka Sound covered an area ranging south to Povorotni Point, north to Salisbury Sound, and west to Shoals Point. Weather and visibility were poor with overcast skies, rain and snow showers, and 15-knot winds. Herring predators were scattered throughout the area with whales and sea lions mostly concentrated close to shore along the eastern shores of Kruzof Island, and south of Kasiana Island. Approximately 6.5 nautical miles of spawn was observed today along the Kruzof Island shoreline from Shoals Point to Rob Point, near Kresta Point, and on Gagarin and Crow Islands (Figure 1). Schools of herring were observed in Promisla Bay and Jamestown Bay.

Boat surveys conducted by department vessels located a very large biomass of herring south of town from Crescent Harbor to Entry Point and south to Whale Island. A comprehensive vessel survey was not conducted north of Kasiana Island this morning; however, 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. In the afternoon, the vessel survey observed multiple schools of herring near Middle Island and Crow Island.

No test sets were conducted today.

An opening of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery occurred today from 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. in 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.

Harvest from the fishery conducted on April 3 was approximately 1,400-tons of herring. The estimated cumulative harvest through April 3 is approximately 12,000-tons of herring. Harvest estimates from today’s fishery will be included in the next fishery update.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Monday, April 5, and the next fishery update will be released after aerial and vessel surveys are completed.

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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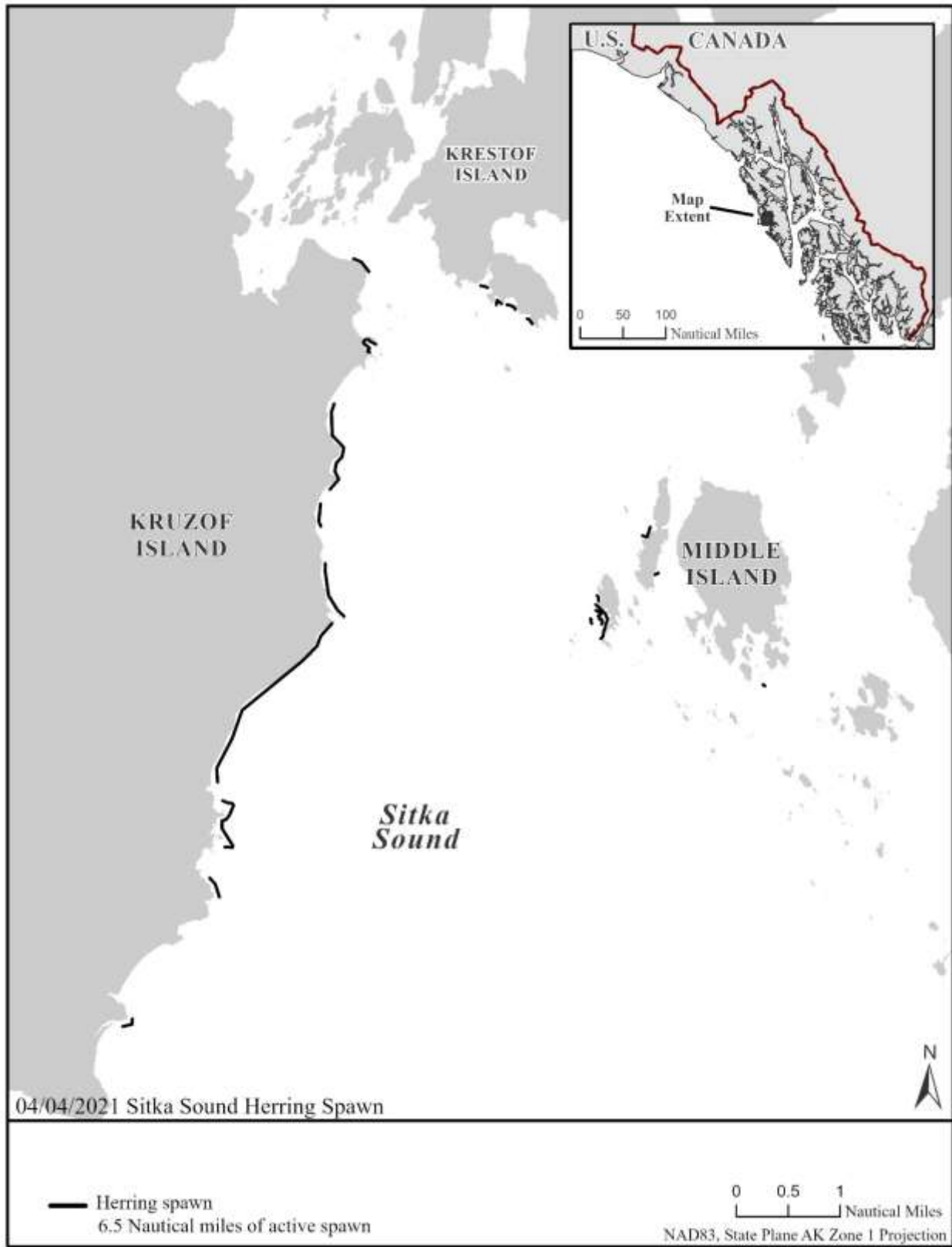


Figure 1.— Map of herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 4, 2021