



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 5, 2021

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 21

Today's aerial survey of Sitka Sound covered an area ranging south to West Crawfish Inlet, north to Krestof Sound, and west to Cape Edgecumbe. Weather and visibility were poor with overcast skies, rain and snow showers, and 15-knot winds. Approximately 14.9 nautical miles of spawn was observed today along the Kruzof Island shoreline from Shoals Point to Rob Point, from Point Brown to Kresta Point, and on Gagarin and Crow Islands (Figure 1). Smaller areas of spawn were observed on Middle Island, the Chaichei Islands, Pirates Cove, and near Golf Island. Schools of herring were observed along the beach near Watson Point and in Eliason Harbor.

The *R/V Kestrel* departed Sitka Sound this morning at 5:00 a.m.

The Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. daily beginning on Monday, April 5, 2021, until closed by field or advisory announcement in the waters of Deep Inlet and Aleutkina Bay south of 57°00.81' N lat and east of 135°21.93' W long, and the waters south of the latitude of Povorotni Point at 57°00.81' N lat and north of the latitude of Aspid Cape at 57°41.75' N lat, except for the waters of Whale and Necker Bays. Fishing boundaries and times may be modified by subsequent announcement.

Harvest from the fishery conducted on April 4 was approximately 1,700-tons of herring. The estimated cumulative harvest through April 4 is approximately 13,800-tons of herring. Harvest estimates from today's fishery will be included in the next fishery update.

The next aerial survey is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 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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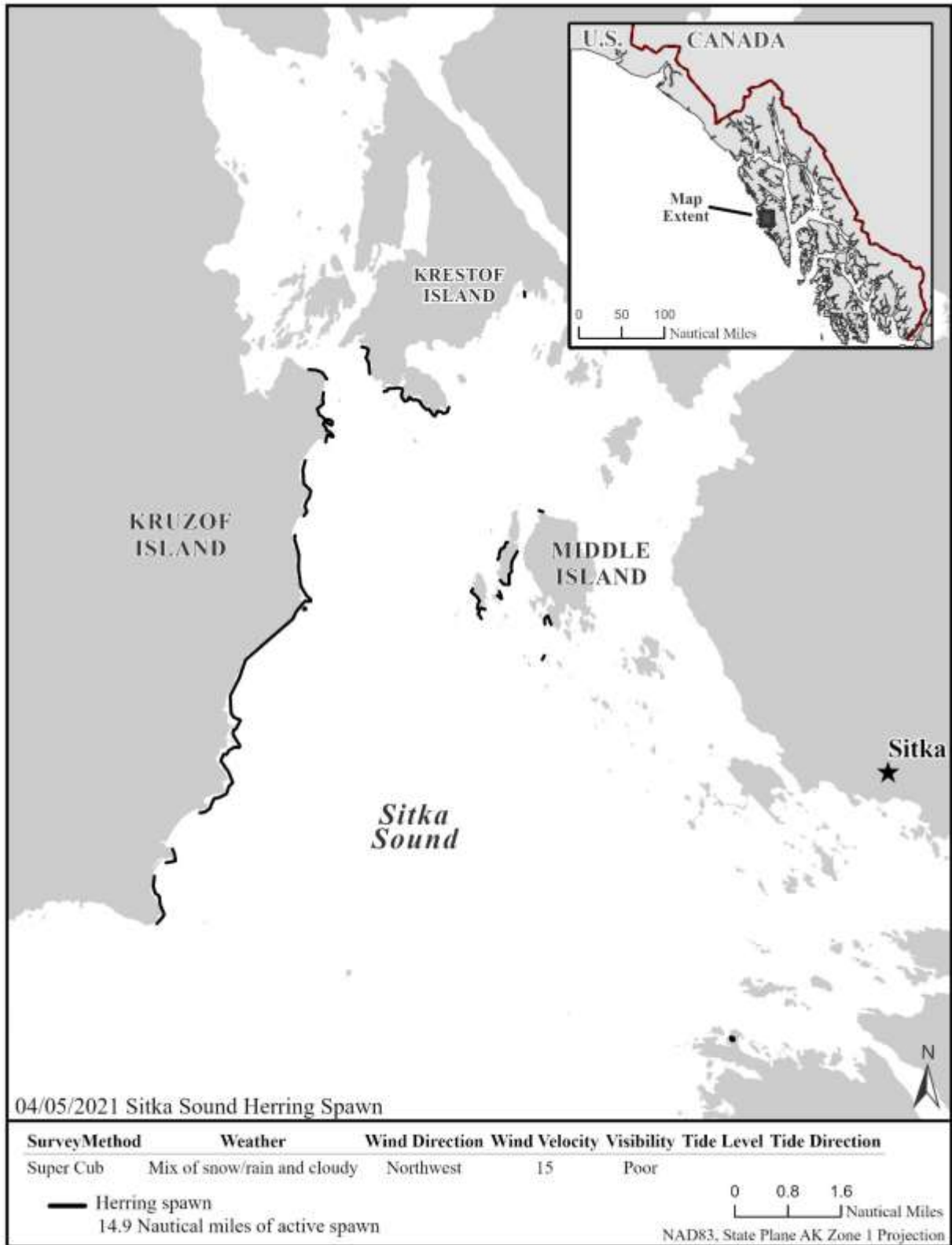


Figure 1.— Map of herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 5, 2021