



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 14, 2021

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 29

Today's aerial survey of Sitka Sound covered an area ranging south from Jamboree Bay and north to Salisbury Sound. Weather and visibility were good with cloudy skies, light rain, and 20-knot winds. Aside from a small spot spawn in Windy Passage, no other active herring spawn was observed today. The aerial survey conducted on April 13 was aborted early due to foul weather, therefore, a comprehensive survey was not conducted but a small amount of active spawn was seen near Povorotni Point.

A vessel survey was conducted today to locate areas of herring spawn missed during days aerial surveys could not be flown and after the aerial surveys were completed for the day. The vessel survey added approximately 6.3 nautical miles (nmi) of spawn area (Figure 1) to the cumulative total. Through April 14, the cumulative estimate of observed herring spawn in Sitka Sound is approximately 90.4 nmi.

This will be the last fishery update of the 2021 season. A season summary advisory announcement will be issued following the conclusion of aerial, vessel, and dive surveys. Aerial surveys will continue, weather permitting, to monitor for any more herring spawn until it is determined that spawning activity has ended for the 2021 season. The data collected and corresponding images will continue to be posted online immediately after each flight or vessel survey: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/52ffb83c47844ef5ba14e7a0f063fcc7/page/page_0/

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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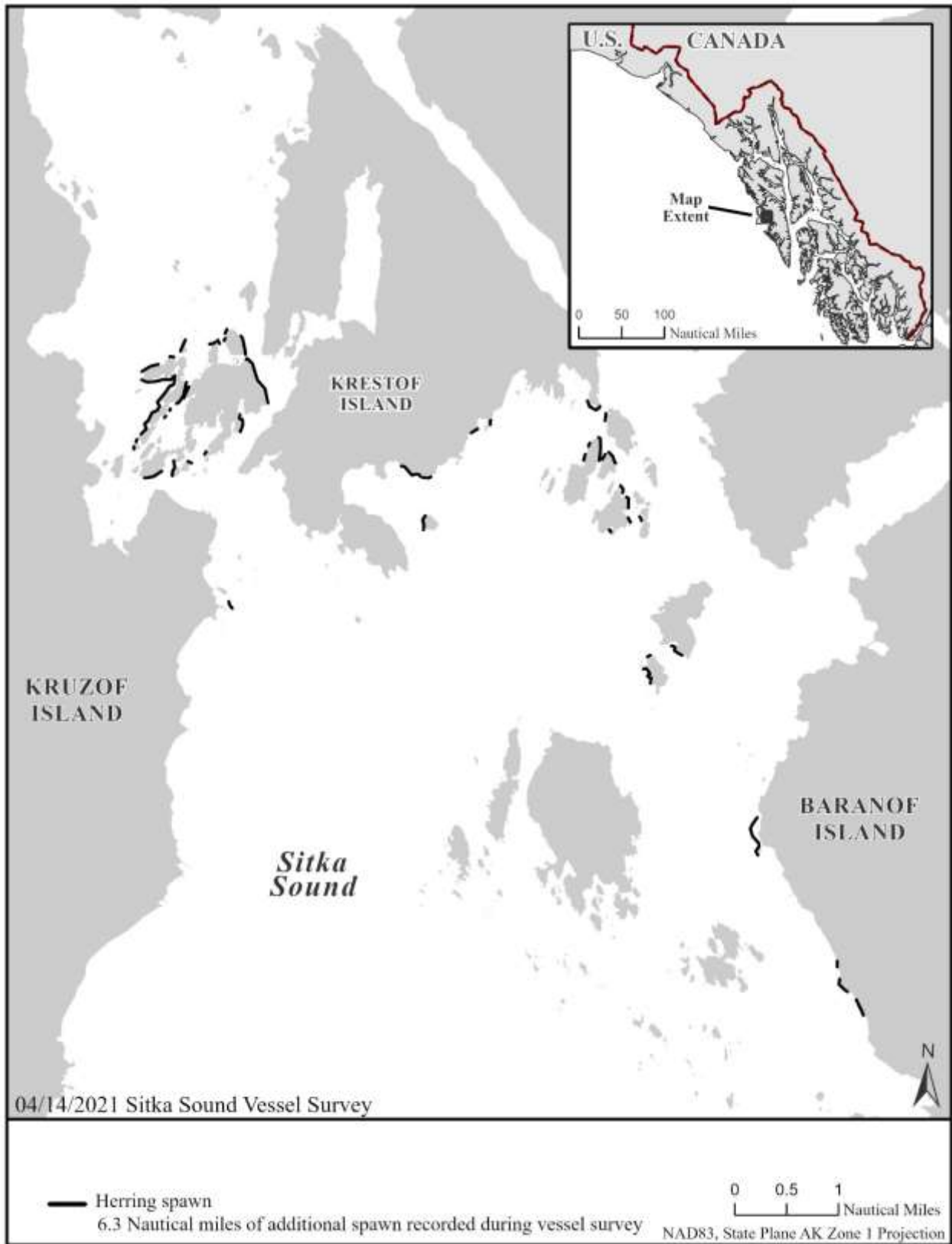


Figure 1.– Map of herring spawn located during the vessel survey in Sitka Sound on April 14, 2021