



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 30, 2024

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 will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. daily, beginning on Sunday, March 31, 2024, in the waters of Salisbury Sound, St. John Baptist Bay, and Sukoi Inlet north of 57°16.40' N lat, south of the latitude of Point Kakul at 57°21.75' N lat, and east of 135°45.90' W long, in the waters of Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay and contiguous waters south of 57°00.81' N lat and east of 135°21.93' W long, and in the waters within 3 nautical miles (nmi) from the Baranof Island shoreline south of the latitude of Povorotni Point at 56°57.13' N lat and north of 56°41.75' N lat, (near Aspид Cape) except for the waters of Whale and Necker Bays (Figures 1 and 2) until closed by field or advisory announcement. Fishing boundaries and open times may be modified by subsequent announcement.

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) vessel surveys conducted by the department beginning on March 20 indicated that there is a very large biomass of herring within Sitka Sound; 2) the boundaries allowed for this fishery were restricted in order to direct the commercial fishery away from important subsistence areas; 3) the cumulative herring spawn mileage to date within regulatory closed waters is approximately 23.7 nmi; 4) the cumulative herring spawn mileage to date in all of Sitka Sound is approximately 45 nmi; 5) the department will monitor the open area for subsistence sets and should spawn occur there, closure lines will be announced to separate commercial activities from subsistence activities to help ensure that the quality of the subsistence harvest is not degraded.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Sunday, March 31.

All aerial herring survey data can be reviewed online, including spawn lines and photos, in an interactive map application found at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.herring#maps> or scan:



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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220

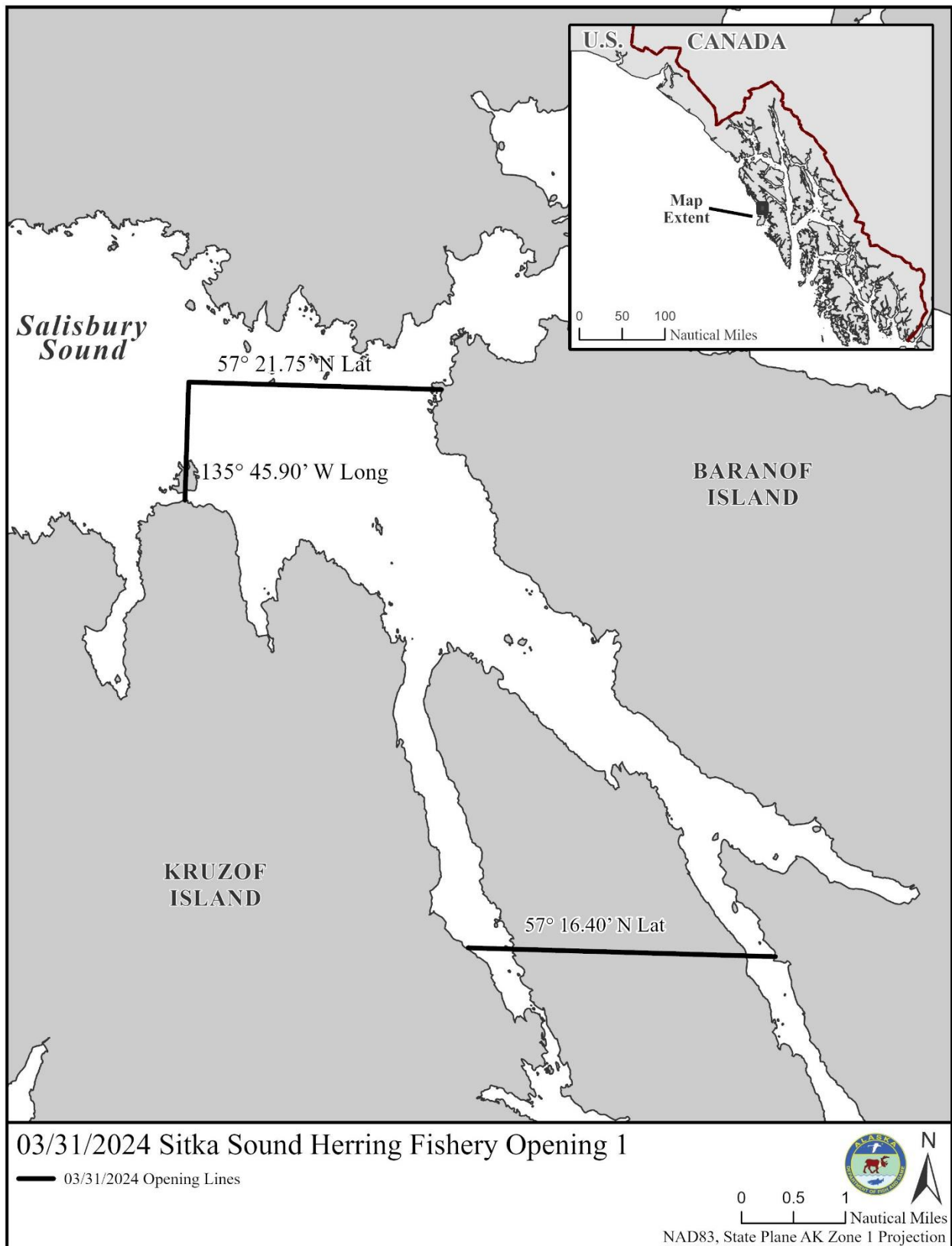


Figure 1.— Map of Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery northern boundaries beginning March 31, 2024.

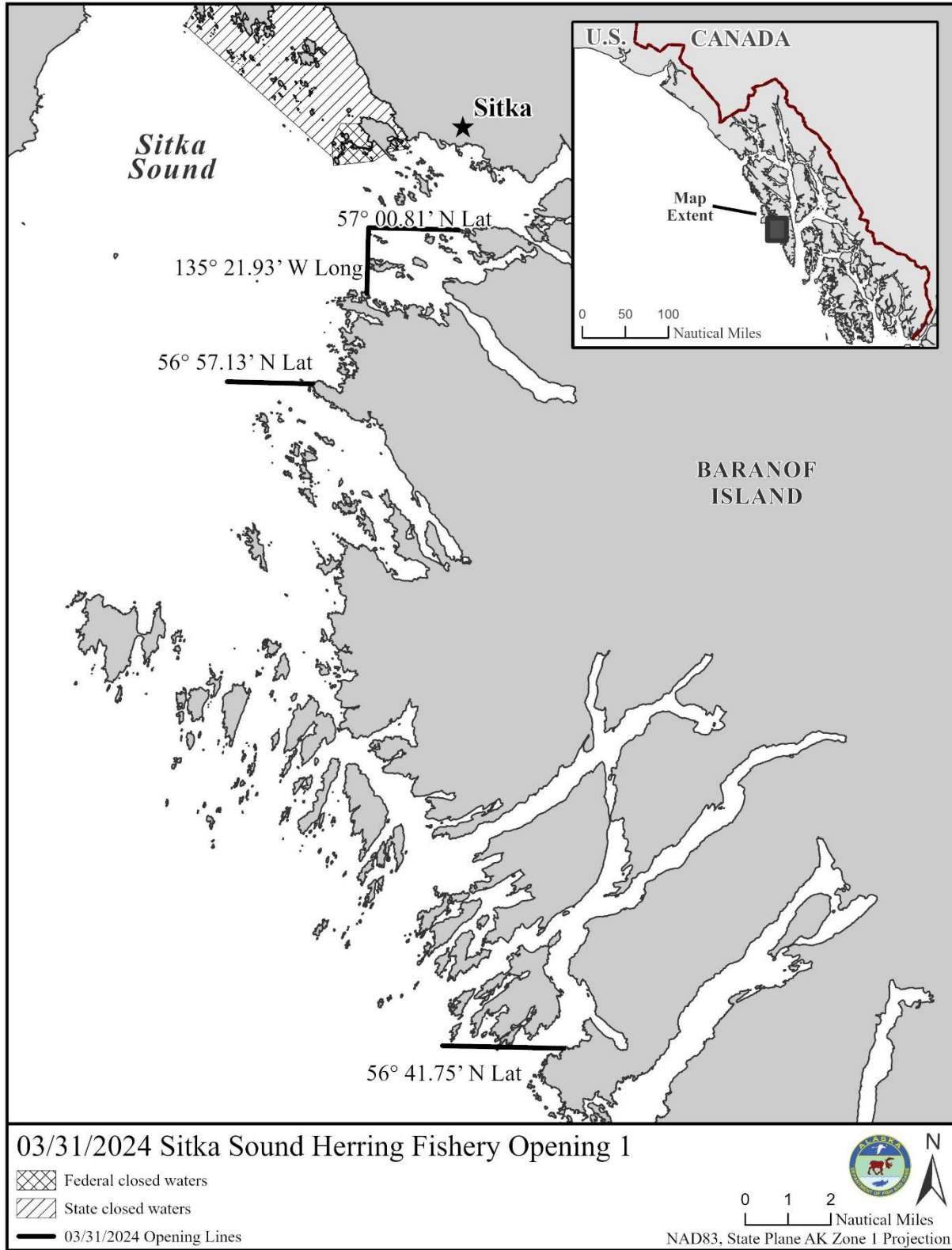


Figure 2.– Map of Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery southern boundaries beginning March 31, 2024.