



**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: March 22, 2025***

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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 7**

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Redoubt Bay to St. Lazaria Island and Krestof Sound. No herring schools were observed today. Approximately 0.3 nautical miles of herring spawn was observed near Magic Island and Indian River. Humpback whales were observed in northern Sitka Sound, with the largest concentrations located near Inner Point and in Promisla Bay. Sea lions were concentrated near rockpiles between Fred's Creek and Kamenoi Point and in Promisla Bay. Predator numbers and locations are typical for this time of year.

Department and industry vessels surveyed Sitka Sound from Shoals Point to Eastern Bay and from Halibut Point to Watson Point. Herring were seen throughout the survey area. In many areas, herring schools were tighter to the beach in shallower water. Large concentrations of herring were observed north of the Eliason Harbor breakwater to Halibut Point, Promisla Bay, and along Kruzof Island from Fred's Creek to Inner Point.

Two successful test sets were conducted this afternoon; the results are as follows:

Time	Area	Tons	% Mature Roe	% Immature Roe	Avg weight	% Female
9:35	Promisla Bay	150	9.5%	3.3%	118g	48%
12:00	Inner Point	-	11.6%	0.5%	186g	47%

Herring mortality associated with test sets is likely minimal and there is no evidence that the small number of fish taken has any measurable impact on the subsistence fishery. Nevertheless, to ensure reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest of herring roe would not be negatively impacted by test setting, prior to authorizing test fishing in these areas the department considered the following: 1) the areas near Promisla Bay and Inner Point are outside the commercial closed waters and core subsistence areas; and 2) the fish encountered during test fishing represented a small fraction of the overall biomass in these areas.

An opening of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery occurred today from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., as stated in field announcement on VHF channel 10. The initial open area for this fishery included the waters of Sitka Sound south of 57°07.19' N lat, north of 57°00.80' N lat, and west of 135°32.28' W long (Figure 1). The emergency order corresponding with today's opening is EO 1H0225. Harvest estimates from today's fishery will be confidential.

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 18 indicated that there is a very large biomass of herring distributed throughout Sitka Sound; 2) schools of herring were observed within regulatory closed waters on the vessel survey that occurred on March 22 from Halibut Point to Watson Point; 3) herring spawn was observed within commercial closed waters and core subsistence areas today; 3) no subsistence branch sets were observed within the open area, no herring spawn was observed

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Sunday, March 23.

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>.

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<i>ADF&amp;G</i>	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220

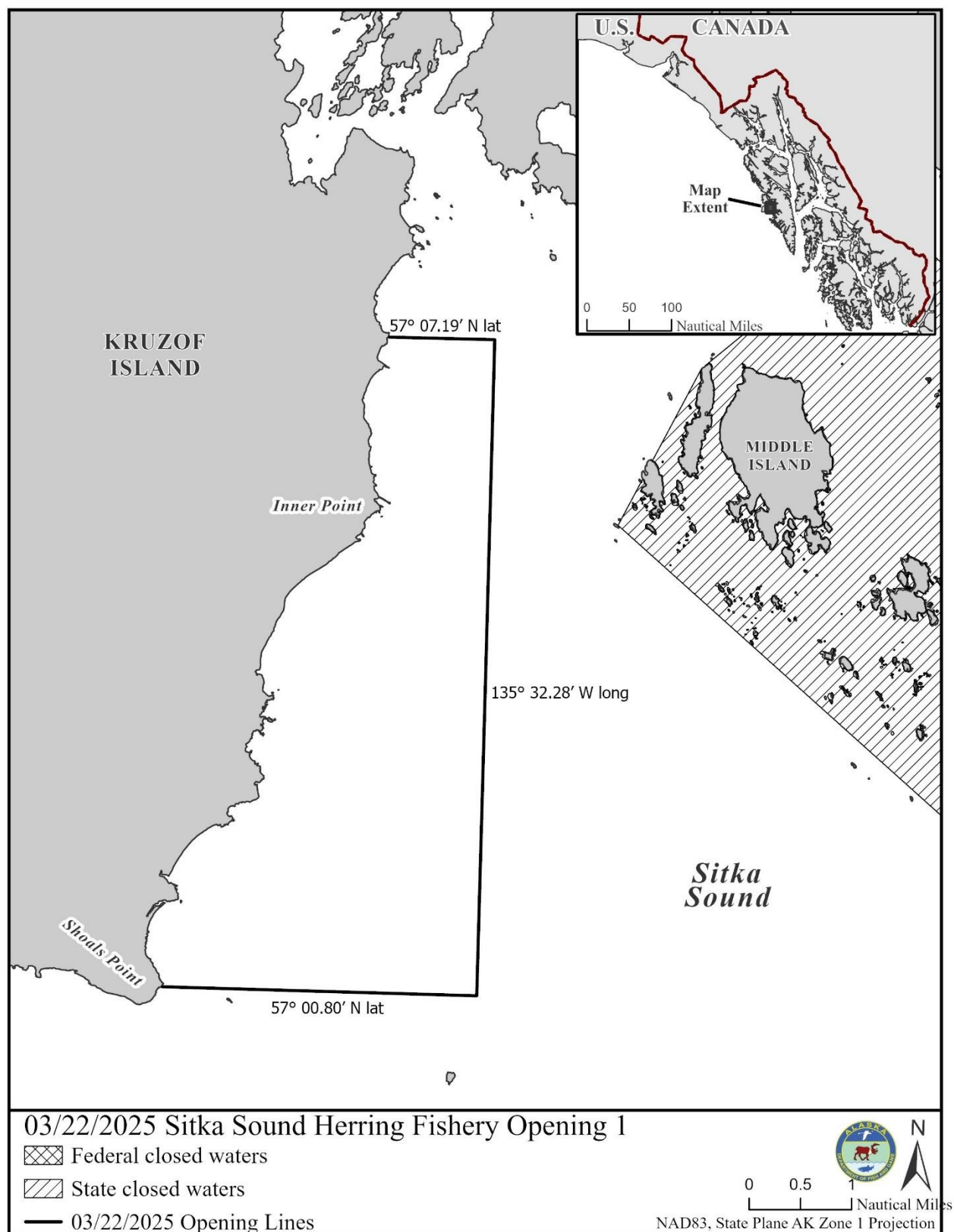


Figure 1.– Map of the initial area open for the March 22, 2025, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.