



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 23, 2025

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 8

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Cape Burunof to Shoals Point and Salisbury Sound. Several large herring schools were observed today near Shoals Point. Approximately 3.3 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn was observed along the Sitka Road System from Sandy Beach to Harbor Point and on the southern end of Kasiana Island (Figure 1). Humpback whales were observed in northern Sitka Sound and were distributed between Low Island and Mountain Point. Sea lions were observed near Inner Point. 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. Scattered schools of herring were seen throughout the survey area. Herring schools were observed tight to the beach from Shoals Point to Inner Point. Large concentrations of herring were observed along Kruzof Island from Shoals Point to Inner Point and within Promisla Bay. Schools of herring were also observed within regulatory closed waters.

No test sets were conducted today.

An opening of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery occurred today from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., as stated in field announcement on VHF channel 10. The 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 2). The emergency order corresponding with today's opening is EO 1H0325. 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 23 in regulatory closed waters; 3) approximately 3.3 nmi of herring spawn was observed within commercial closed waters and core subsistence areas today; 3) no subsistence branch sets were observed within the open area.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Monday, March 24.

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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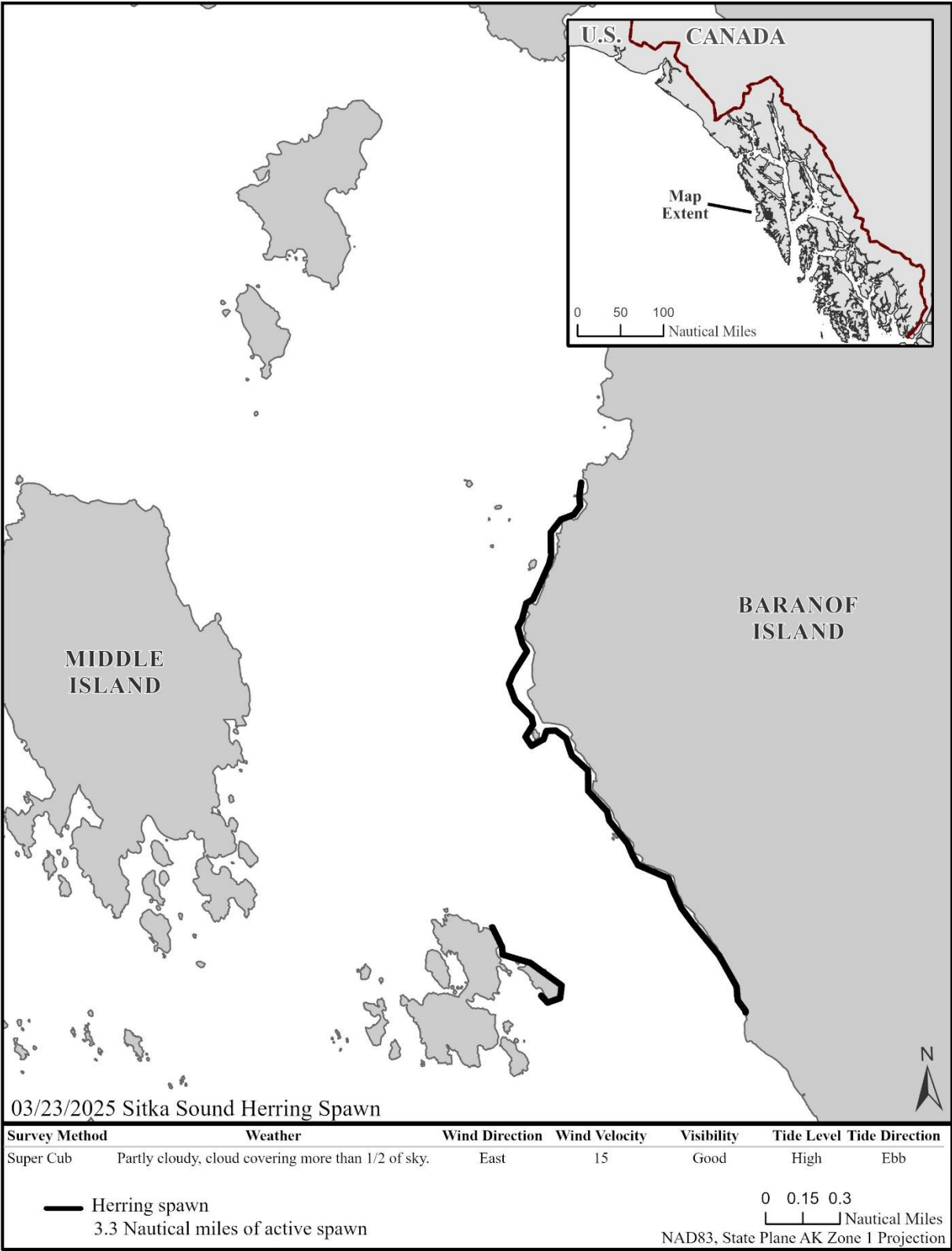


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on March 23, 2025.

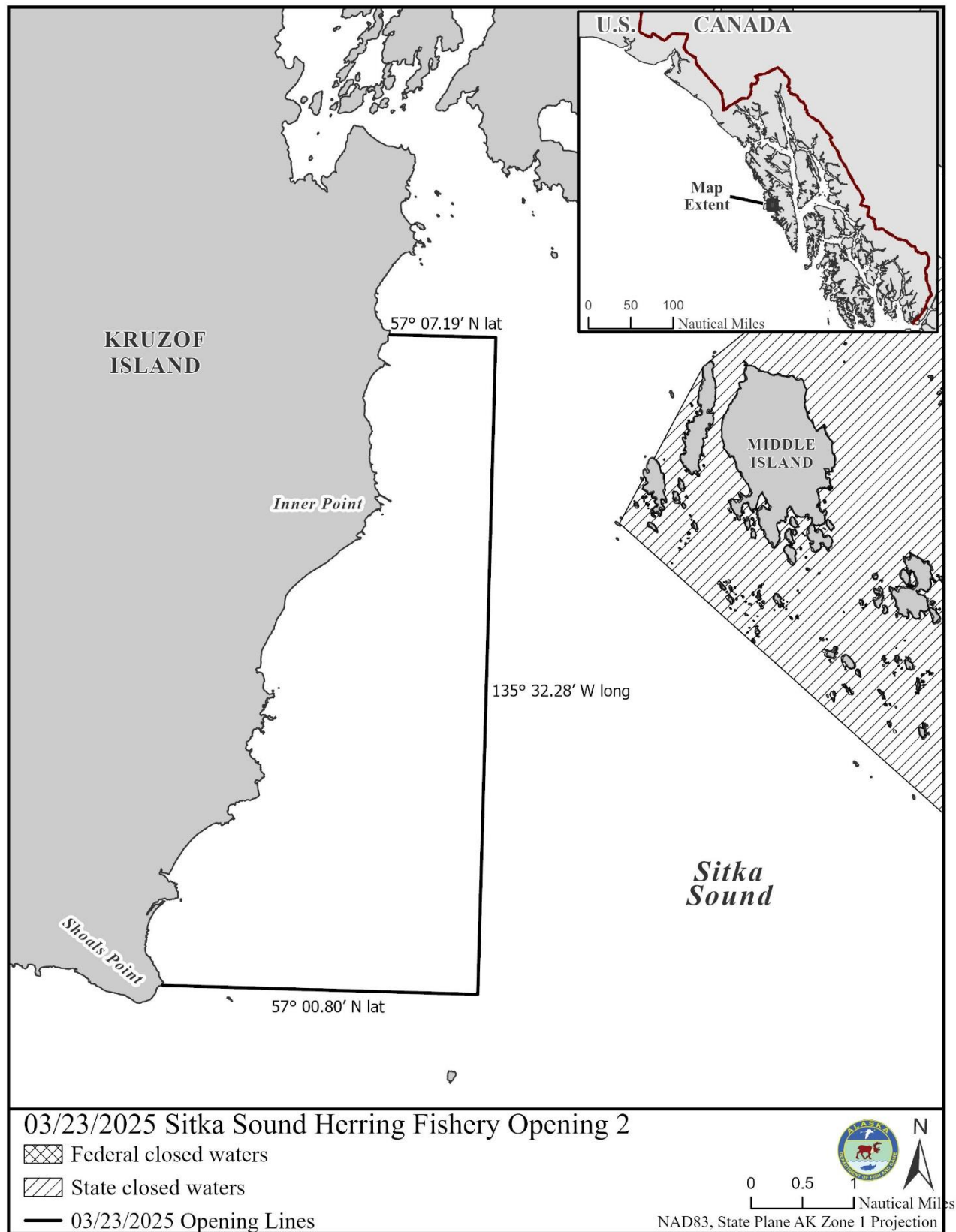


Figure 2.— Map of the area open for the March 23, 2025, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.