



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 25, 2025

CONTACT: Aaron Dupuis
Sitka Area Management Biologist
aaron.dupuis@alaska.gov
(907) 747-6688

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 10

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from West Crawfish Inlet to Sitka Point and Krestof Sound. No herring schools were visible from the air today. Approximately 3.3 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn was observed along the Sitka Road System from Watson Point to Harbor Point, Old Sitka Rocks, Battery Island, Kasiana Island, and near the entrance of Sealing Cove Harbor (Figure 1). Humpback whales were observed throughout the surveyed area and were concentrated from Freds Creek to Hayward Strait. Sea lions were observed between Inner Point and Hayward Strait. Predator numbers and locations are typical for this time of year.

Department and industry vessels surveyed northern Sitka Sound from Middle Island to Krestof Sound and from Mountain Point to Fred's Creek. The southern portion of the Sitka Sound was also surveyed from Long Island to Crescent Harbor. Scattered schools of herring were seen throughout the survey area. Large concentrations of herring were observed from Guide Island to Krestof Sound and from Inner Point to Fred's Creek. Schools of herring were also observed within regulatory closed waters tight to the beach from Harbor Point to Watson Point.

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 Hayward Strait and Krestof Sound south of 57°11.47' N lat, north of 57°07.97' N lat, and west of 135°30.75' W long (Figure 2). The emergency order corresponding with today's opening is EO 1H0525.

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 during the vessel survey that occurred on March 25; 3) approximately 3.3 nmi of herring spawn was observed within commercial closed waters and core subsistence areas today; 3) there were no known subsistence sets or active herring spawn within the open area.

State of Alaska Statutes and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Divisional Operating Procedures stipulate that harvest information is confidential this season due to the limited number of processors; however, the participating processors have voluntarily agreed to waive their rights to harvest data confidentiality for this season. Approximately 1,950 tons of herring have been harvested during the openings that occurred on March 22 (496 tons of herring), March 23 (455 tons of herring), and March 24 (1,000 tons of herring). Harvest estimates for the fishery that occurred on March 25 will be included in the next advisory announcement.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Wednesday, March 26.

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>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&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

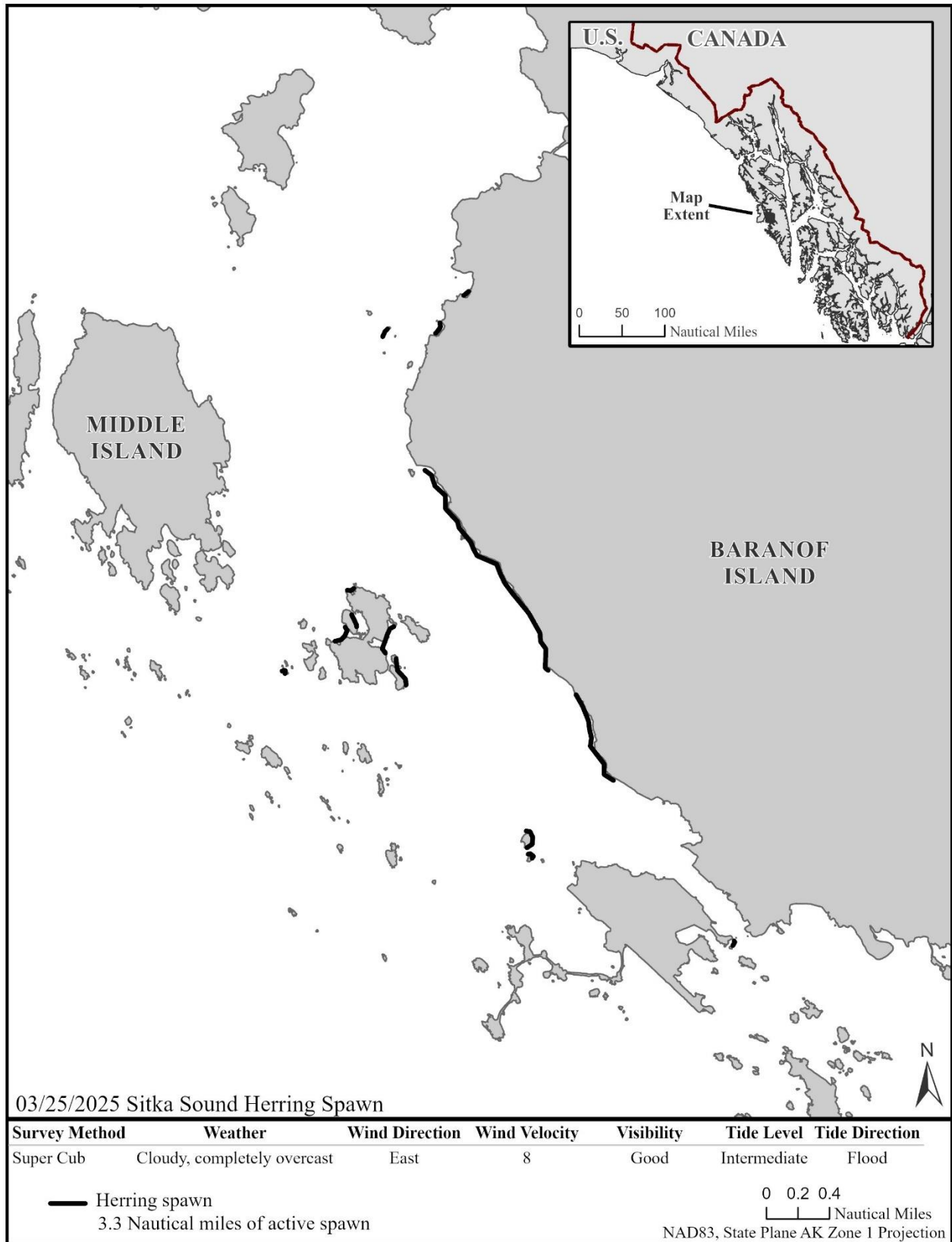


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on March 25, 2025.

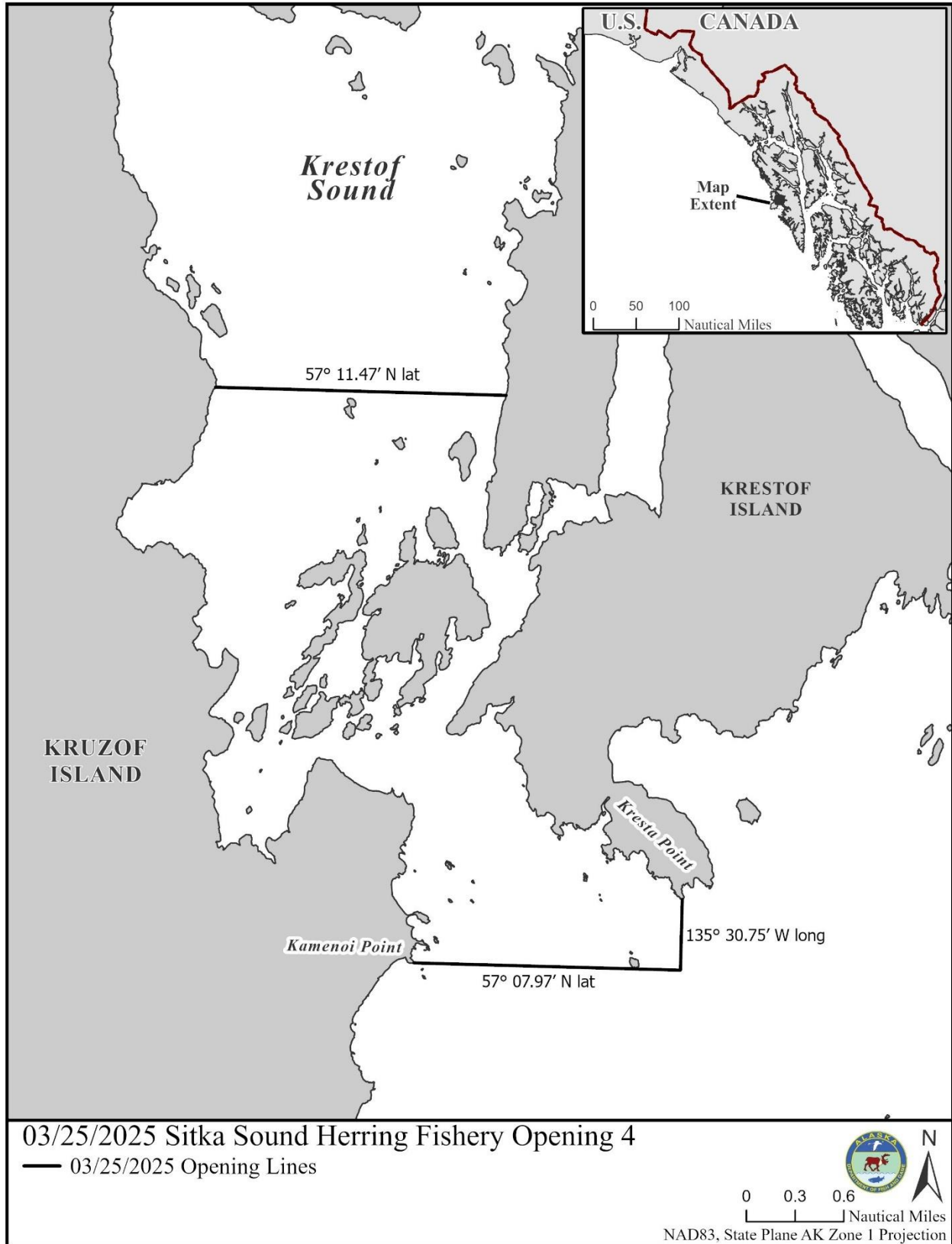


Figure 2.— Map of the area open for the March 25, 2025, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.