



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: March 28, 2025

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 13

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Hot Springs Bay to Krestof Sound. Herring schools were visible from the air in Redoubt Bay. Approximately 25.7 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn was observed near Watson Point, Battery Island, Middle Island, Crow Island, Gagarin Island, the Chaichei Islands, Whiting Harbor, Kasiana Island, Apple Island, near the Parker Group, along the causeway, near the entrance of Sealing Cove Harbor, from Crescent Harbor to Jamestown Bay, Whale Island, Galankin Island, Hayward Strait, Promisla Bay, Eastern Bay, Povorotni Point, and Long Island (Figure 1).

Department and industry vessels surveyed northern Sitka Sound from Shoals Point, Krestof Sound, and Salisbury Sound. Southern Sitka Sound was also surveyed from Redoubt Bay to Crescent Harbor. Herring schools were observed throughout the surveyed area.

An opening of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery occurred today from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 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). In order to separate commercial activity from subsistence branch sets associated with active herring spawn, the waters of Hayward Strait from a point at 57°09.45' N lat, 135°33.00' W long to the longitude of Kresta Point at 135°30.75' W long was closed within 200 yards from shore. The emergency order corresponding with today's opening is EO 1H0825.

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) approximately 14.3 nmi of herring spawn was observed within regulatory closed waters on March 28; 3) waters within the open area that had known subsistence branch sets and active herring spawn were closed to within 200 yards from shore.

Approximately 857 tons of herring were harvested in the fishery that occurred on March 27; a total of approximately 4,600 tons of herring have been harvested through March 27. Harvest estimates for the fishery that occurred on March 28 will be included in the next advisory announcement.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Saturday, March 29.

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:



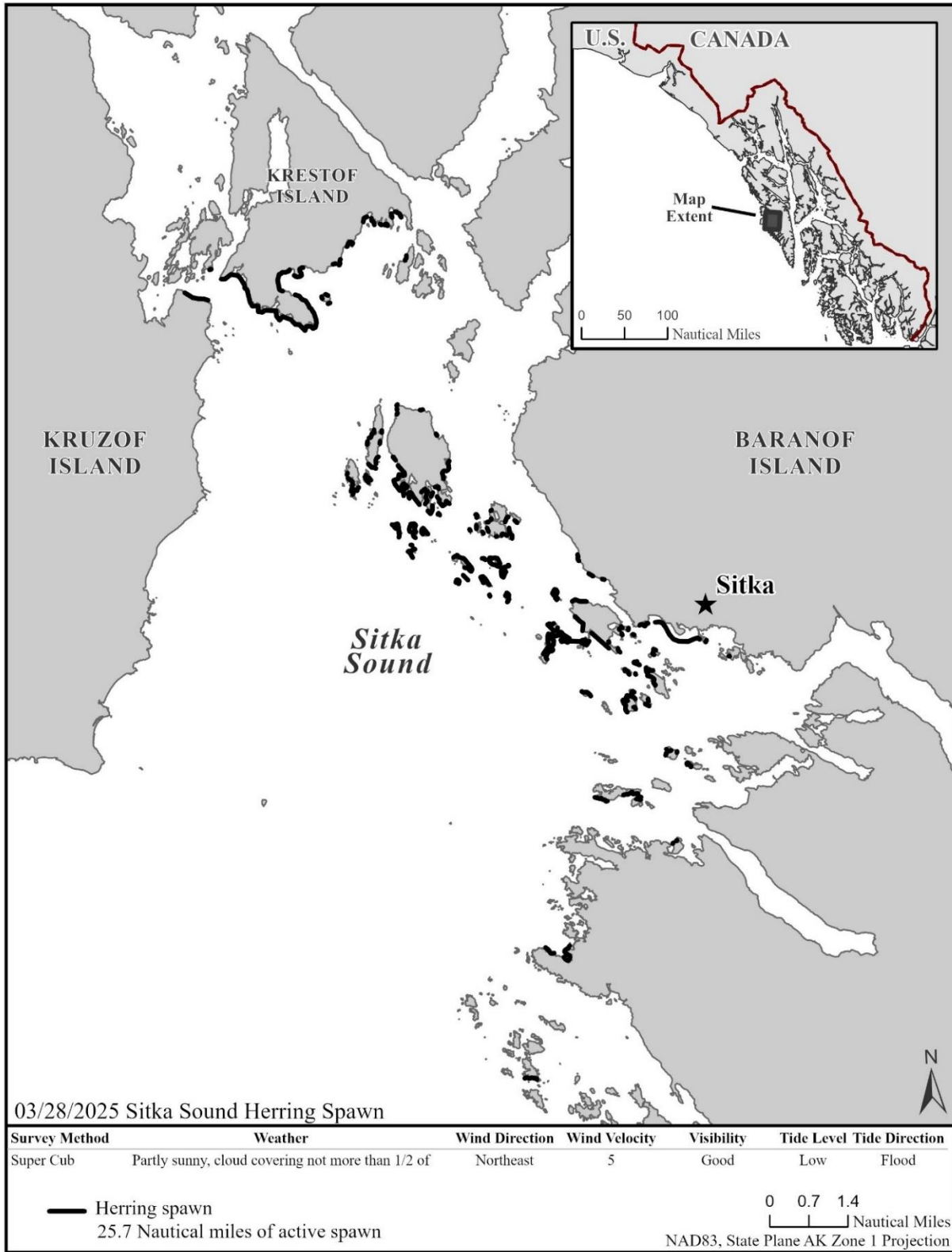


Figure 1.– Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on March 28, 2025.

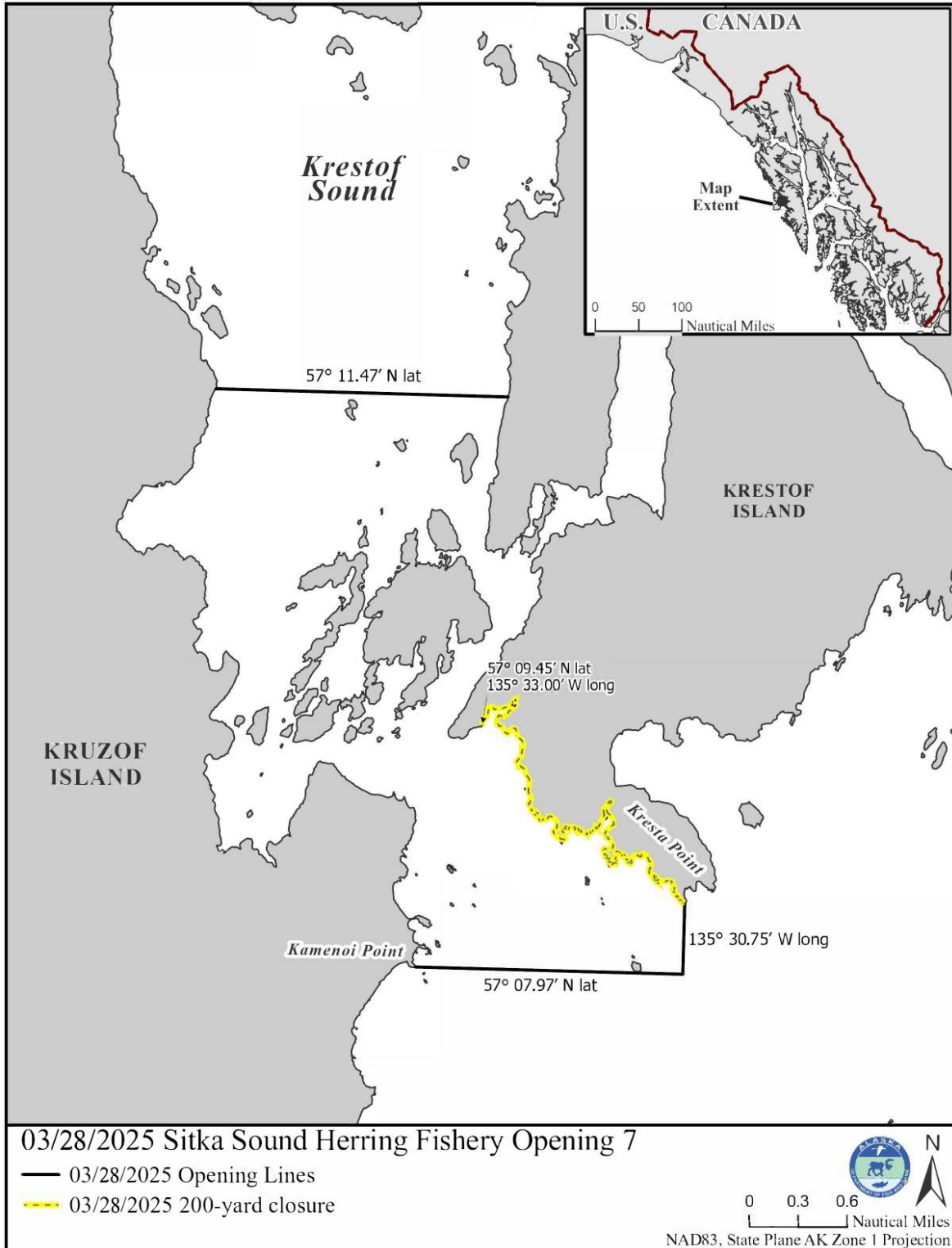


Figure 2.— Map of the area open for the March 28, 2025, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.

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

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