



**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: March 29, 2025***

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

**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 14**

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Windy Passage to Salisbury Sound. No herring schools were visible from the air today. Approximately 31.4 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn was observed near Watson Point, Middle Island, Crow Island, Gagarin Island, Whiting Harbor, along the causeway, near the entrance of Sealing Cove Harbor, from Crescent Harbor to Jamestown Bay, from Whale Island to Galankin Island, from Hayward Strait to Eastern Bay, the Siginaka Islands, from Samsing Cove to Long Island, Povorotni Point, Redoubt Bay, and in Windy Passage (Figure 1). Since March 22 a cumulative total of approximately 53.3 nmi of herring spawn has been observed in Sitka Sound.

Department and industry vessels surveyed northern Sitka Sound from Fred's Creek to 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 Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay, and contiguous waters south of 57°00.81' N lat and east of 135°23.16' W long, and in the waters within 3 nmi from the Baranof Island shoreline south of the latitude of Cape Burunof at 56°59.07' N lat and north of 56°41.75' N lat, (near Aspid Cape) except for the waters of Whale and Necker Bays (Figure 2). The emergency order corresponding with today's opening is EO 1H0925.

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) a cumulative total of approximately 26 nmi of herring spawn has been recorded within regulatory closed waters since March 22.

Approximately 438 tons of herring were harvested in the fishery that occurred on March 28; a total of approximately 5,046 tons of herring have been harvested through March 28. Harvest estimates for the fishery that occurred on March 29 will be included in the next advisory announcement.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Sunday, March 30.

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:



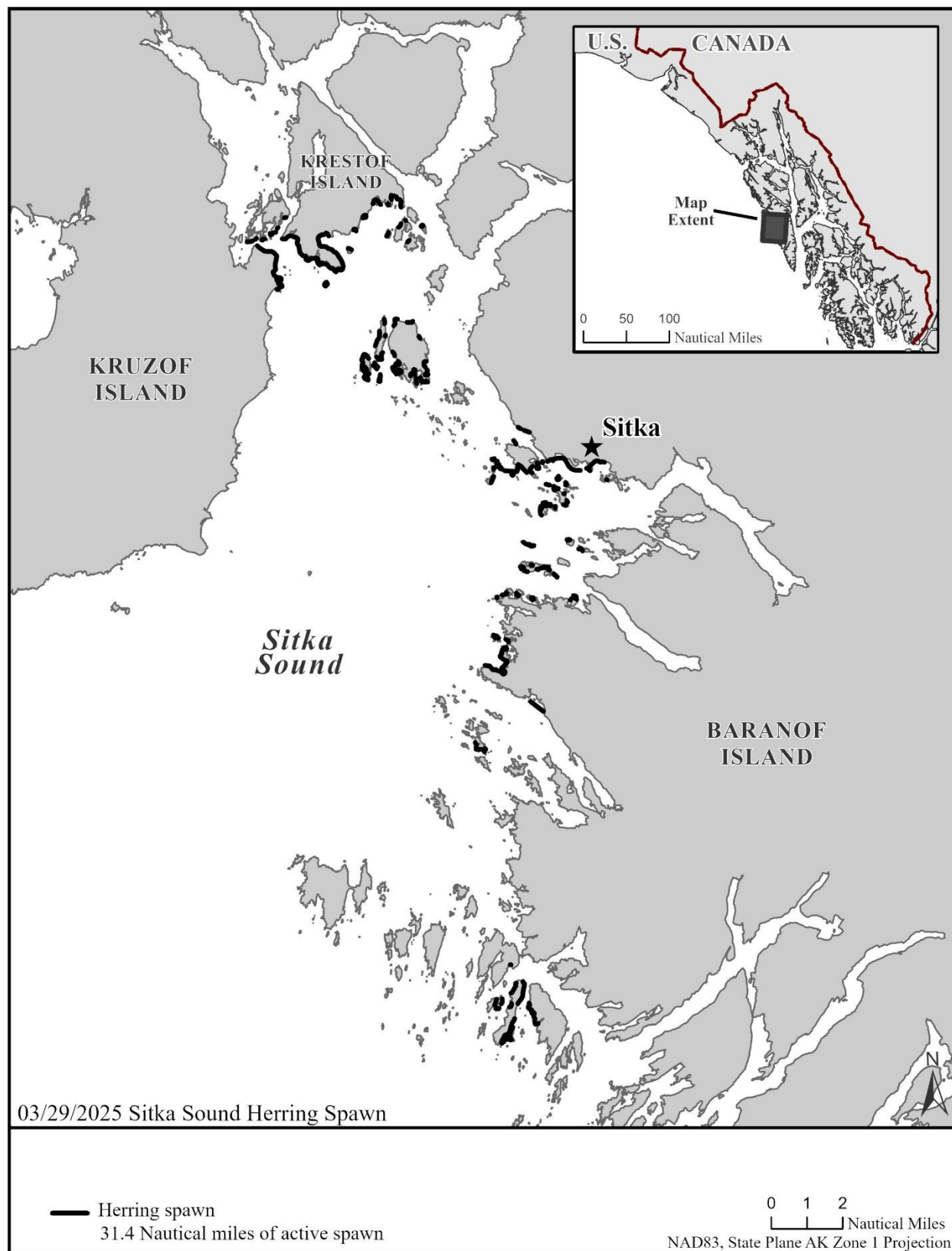


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on March 29, 2025.

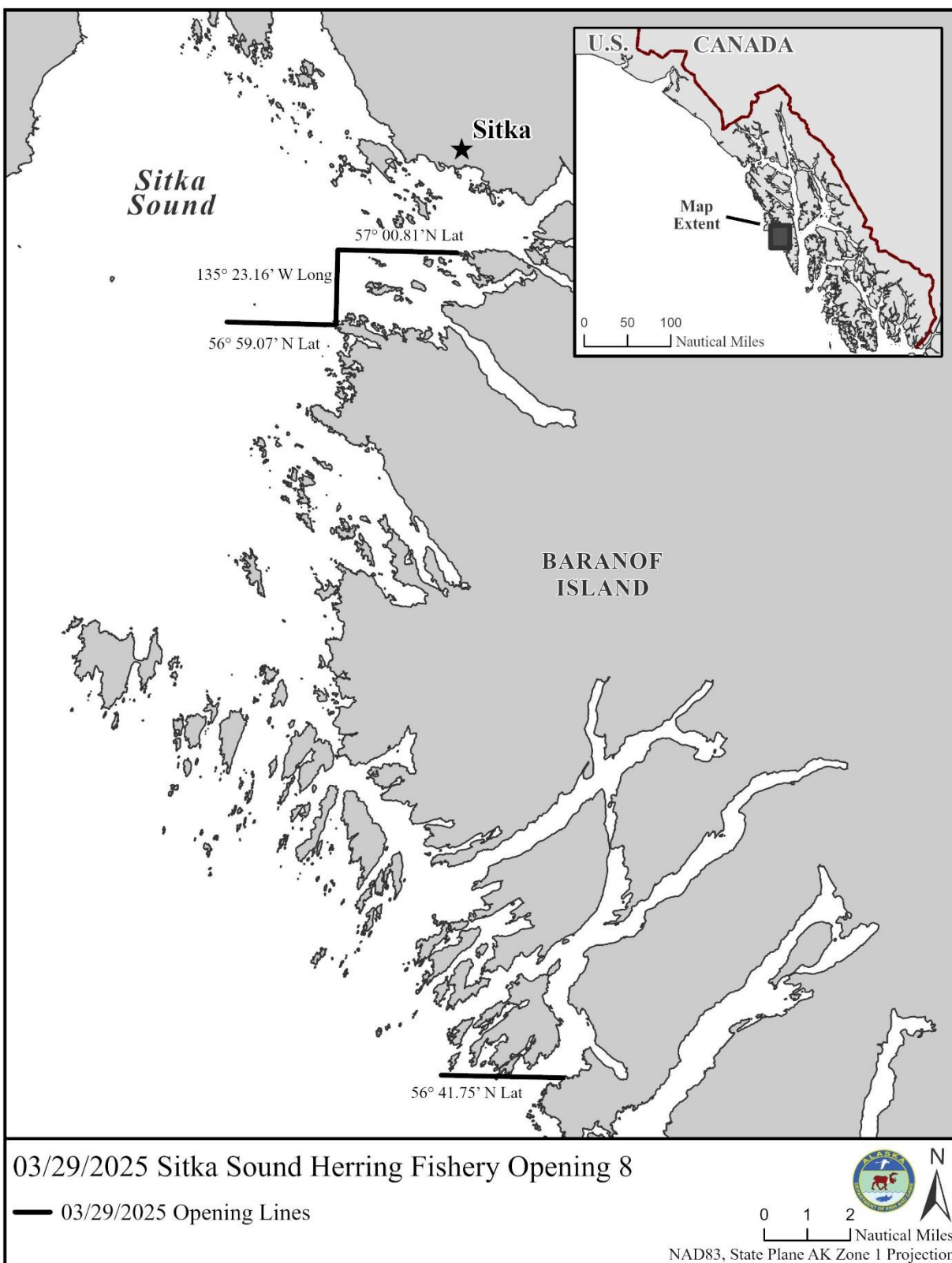


Figure 2.— Map of the area open for the March 29, 2025, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.

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

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