



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 31, 2025

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 16

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Windy Passage to Salisbury Sound and Shelikof Bay. No herring schools were visible from the air today. Approximately 25.3 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn was observed on Middle Island, Crow Island, Jamestown Bay, Hayward Strait, Eastern Bay, the Magoun Island, from Samsing Cove to Redoubt Bay, Windy Passage, and Shelikof Bay (Figure 1). Since March 22, a cumulative total of approximately 81.5 nmi of herring spawn has been observed in Sitka Sound.

An opening of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery occurred today from 8:00 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 1H1125.

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 26.6 nmi of herring spawn has been recorded within regulatory closed waters from March 22 through March 31.

Beginning March 31, due to a limited number of permit holders participating in the fishery (less than 3), the daily harvest estimates for the remainder of the season will be confidential. At the conclusion of the season, the final harvest estimate will be released; however, to accomplish this and adhere to State of Alaska Statutes and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Divisional Operating Procedures, the daily harvest estimate from March 30 must remain confidential as well. A total of approximately 6,030 tons of herring have been harvested through March 29. It is anticipated that the herring harvest between March 30 and the end of the season will be less than 500 tons.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Tuesday, April 1.

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:



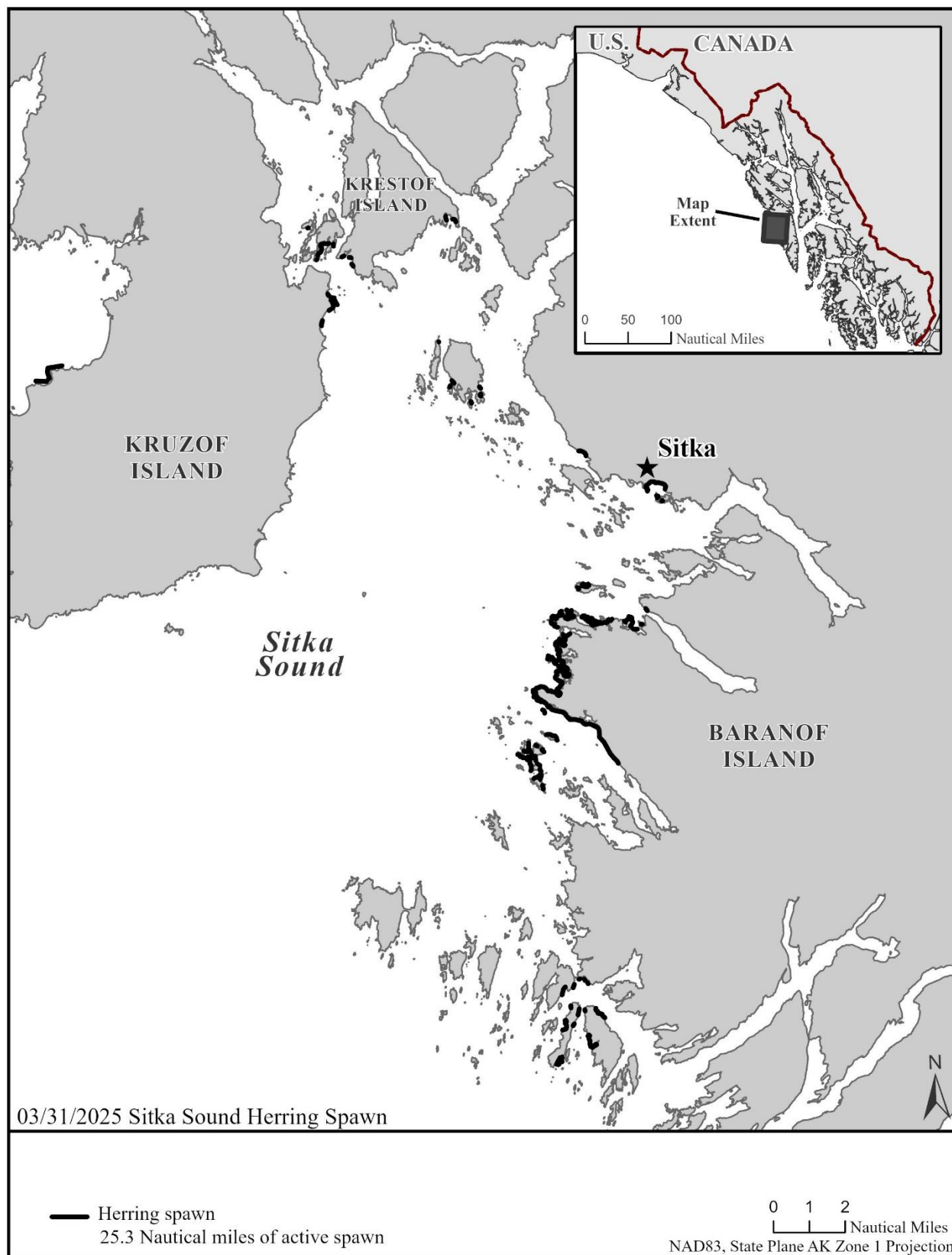


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on March 31, 2025.

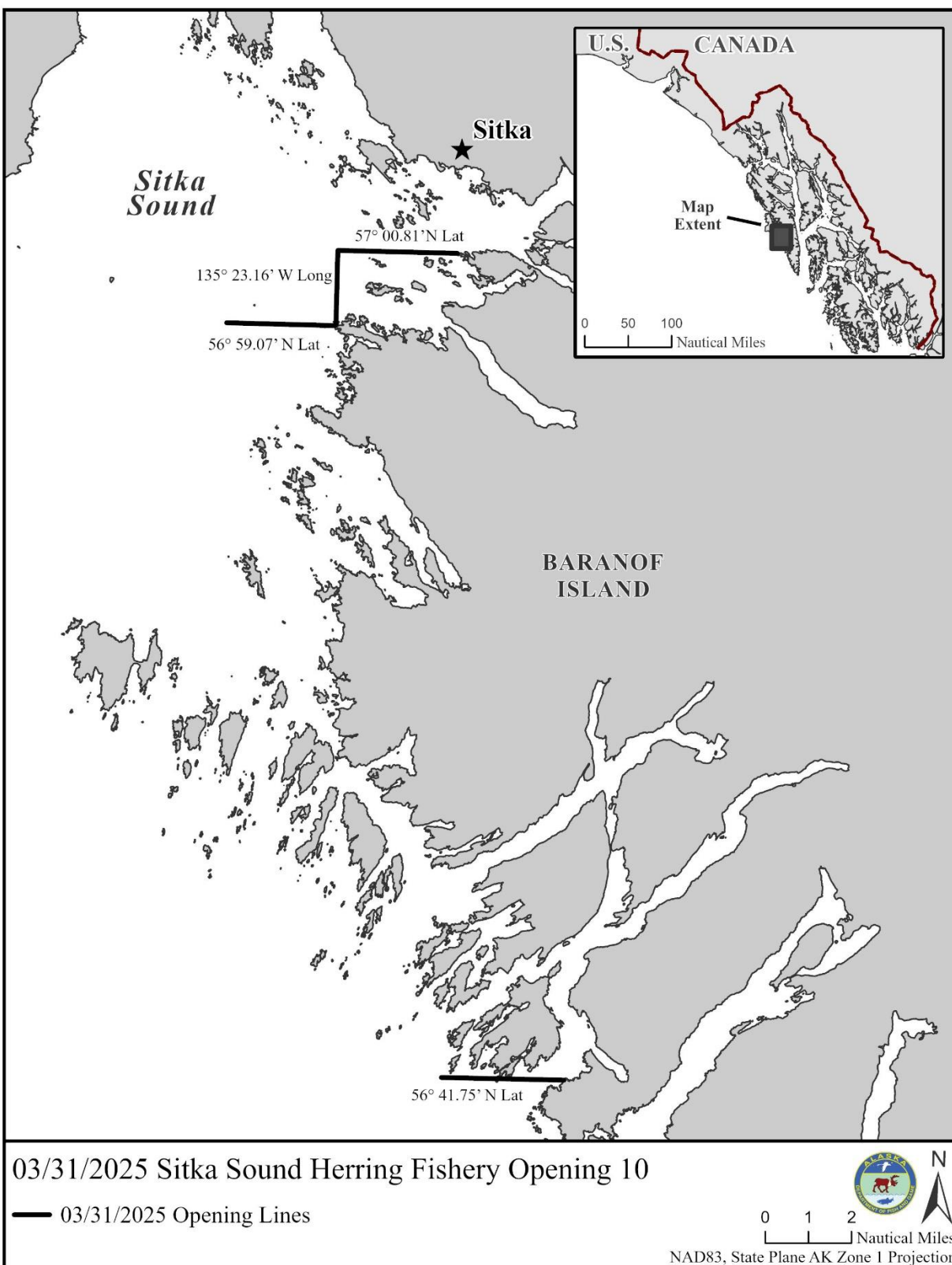


Figure 2.— Map of the area open for the March 31, 2025, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.

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

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