



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: April 4, 2025

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 20

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Windy Passage to Krestof Sound and Shoals Point. No herring schools were visible from the air today. A very small amount of herring spawn was observed in Windy Passage.

Vessel surveys conducted in Sitka Sound on April 3 and April 4 found an additional 7.0 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn that was not recorded during the aerial surveys this season. The total cumulative herring spawn observed to date (including the vessel observed spawn) in Sitka Sound is approximately 93.4 nmi (Figure 1).

An opening of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery occurred today from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., as stated in field announcement on VHF channel 10. The open area for this fishery included the in 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. The emergency order corresponding with today's opening is EO 1H1535.

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 29.4 nmi of herring spawn has been recorded within regulatory closed waters since March 22.

The Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery will close to broad scale openings, small scale openings may be authorized dependent on fish availability. Final harvest estimates will be announced in the season summary advisory announcement.

This will be the last fishery update of the 2025 season. A season summary advisory announcement will be issued following the conclusion of aerial, vessel, and dive surveys. Aerial surveys will continue, weather permitting, to monitor for additional herring spawn in Sitka Sound until it is determined that spawning activity has ended for the 2025 season. The data collected and corresponding images will continue to be posted online immediately after each flight survey.

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:



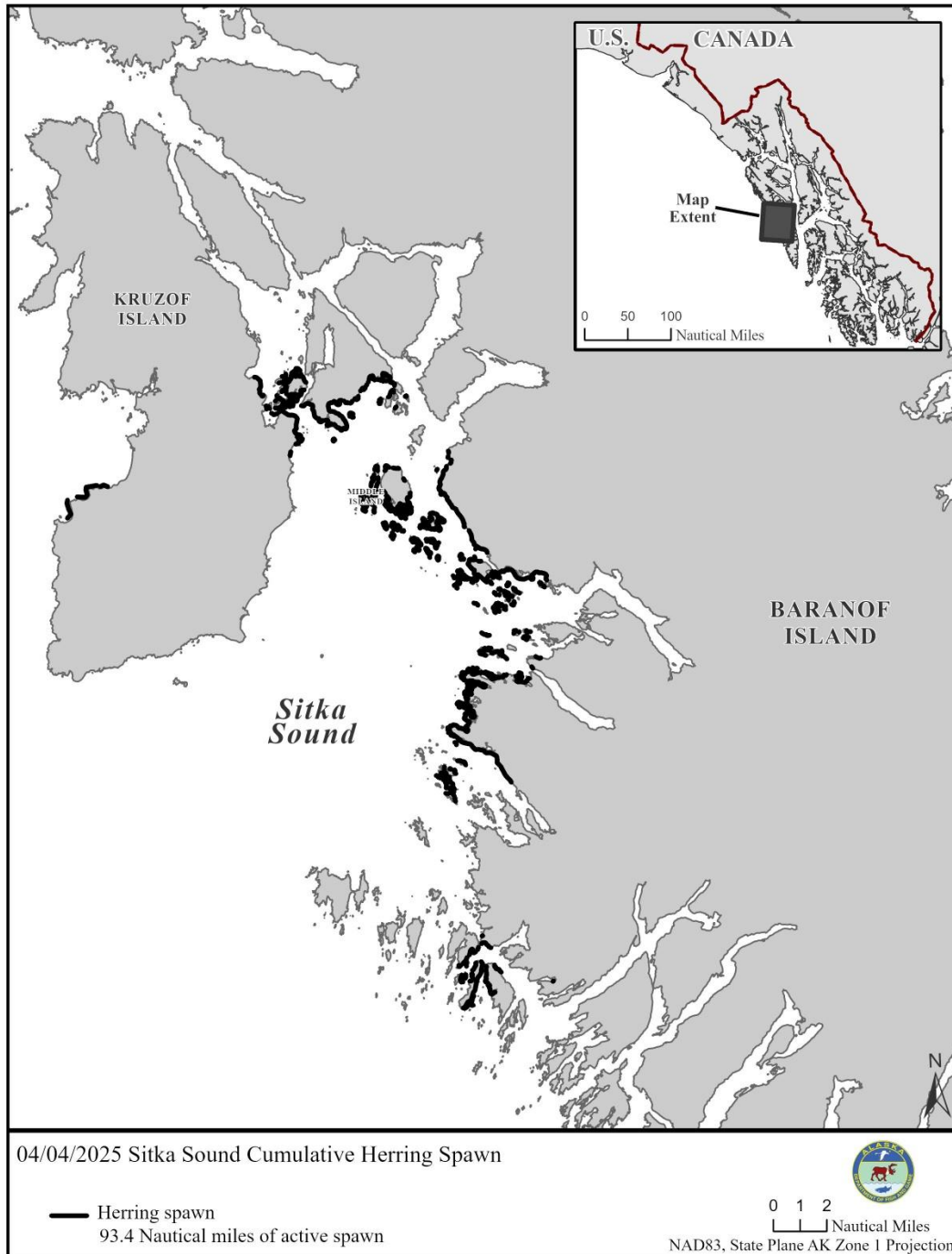


Figure 1.— Map of the total cumulative herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound through April 4, 2025.

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

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