



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: March 30, 2026*

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

**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 12**

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Cape Burunof to Krestof Sound, and Promisla Bay to Watson Point. Approximately 2.0 nautical miles (nmi) of active spawn was observed today from Sandy Beach to Magic Island, near the north end of Kasiana Island, and Mountain Point (Figure 1).

Department and industry vessels surveyed Sitka Sound today from Inner Point to Mud Bay, and from Middle Island to Watson Point. Very large schools of herring were observed throughout the surveyed area.

No test sets were conducted today.

An opening of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery occurred today from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., as stated in a field announcement on VHF channel 10. The open area for this fishery included the waters of Hayward Strait, the Magoun Islands, 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 1H0626. Harvest estimates from today's fishery will be included in the next advisory announcement. Approximately 1,515 tons of herring were harvested in the fishery that occurred on March 29. Since March 27 approximately 2,957 tons of herring have been harvested.

The department has determined that the openings 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 20 indicated that there is a very large biomass of herring distributed throughout Sitka Sound; 2) scattered schools of herring have been observed within regulatory closed waters since March 20 and very large schools of herring were observed on March 30; 3) no subsistence branch sets were observed within the open area; 4) approximately 1.6 nmi of herring spawn was observed within closed waters on March 30.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Tuesday, March 31.

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>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220

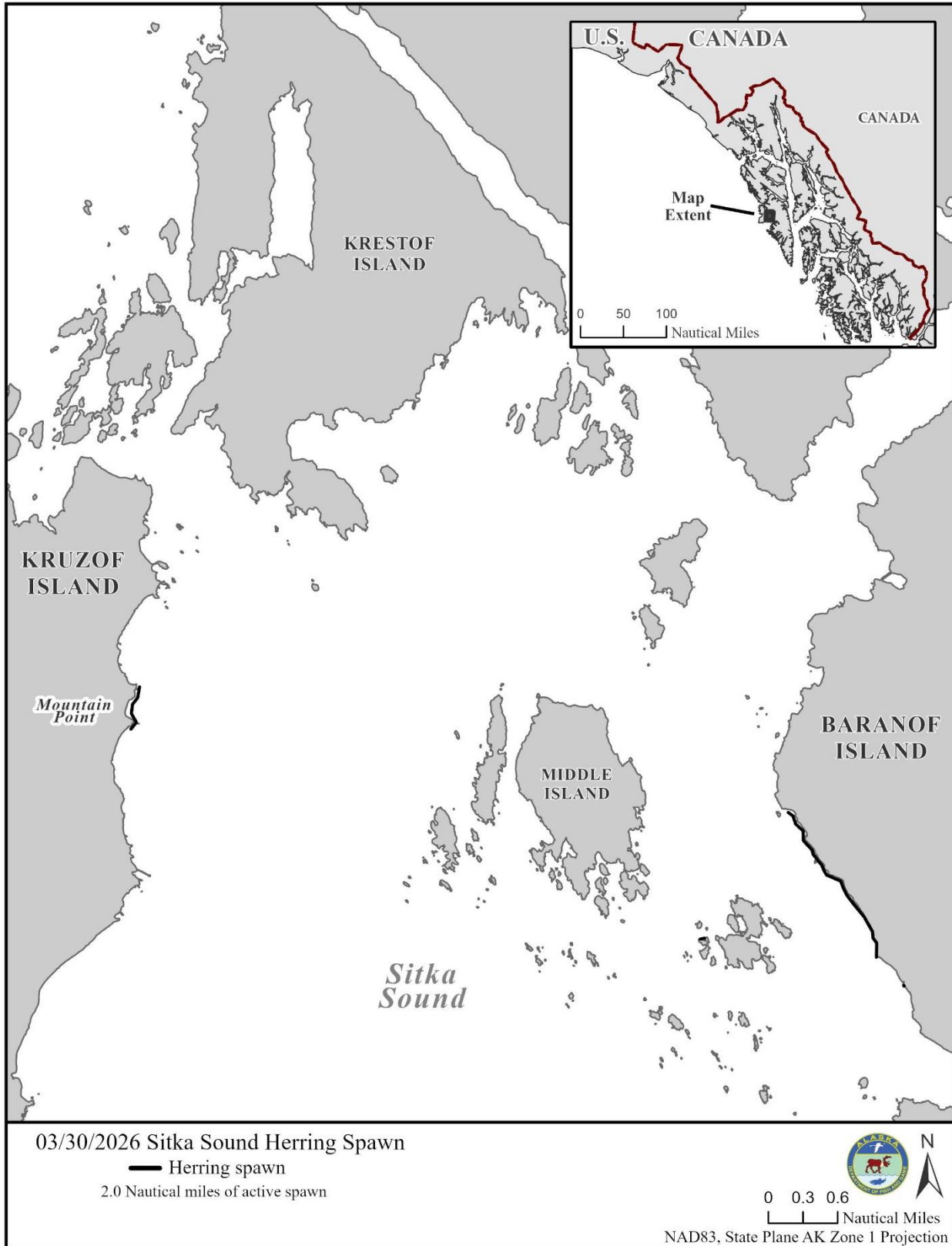


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on March 30, 2026.

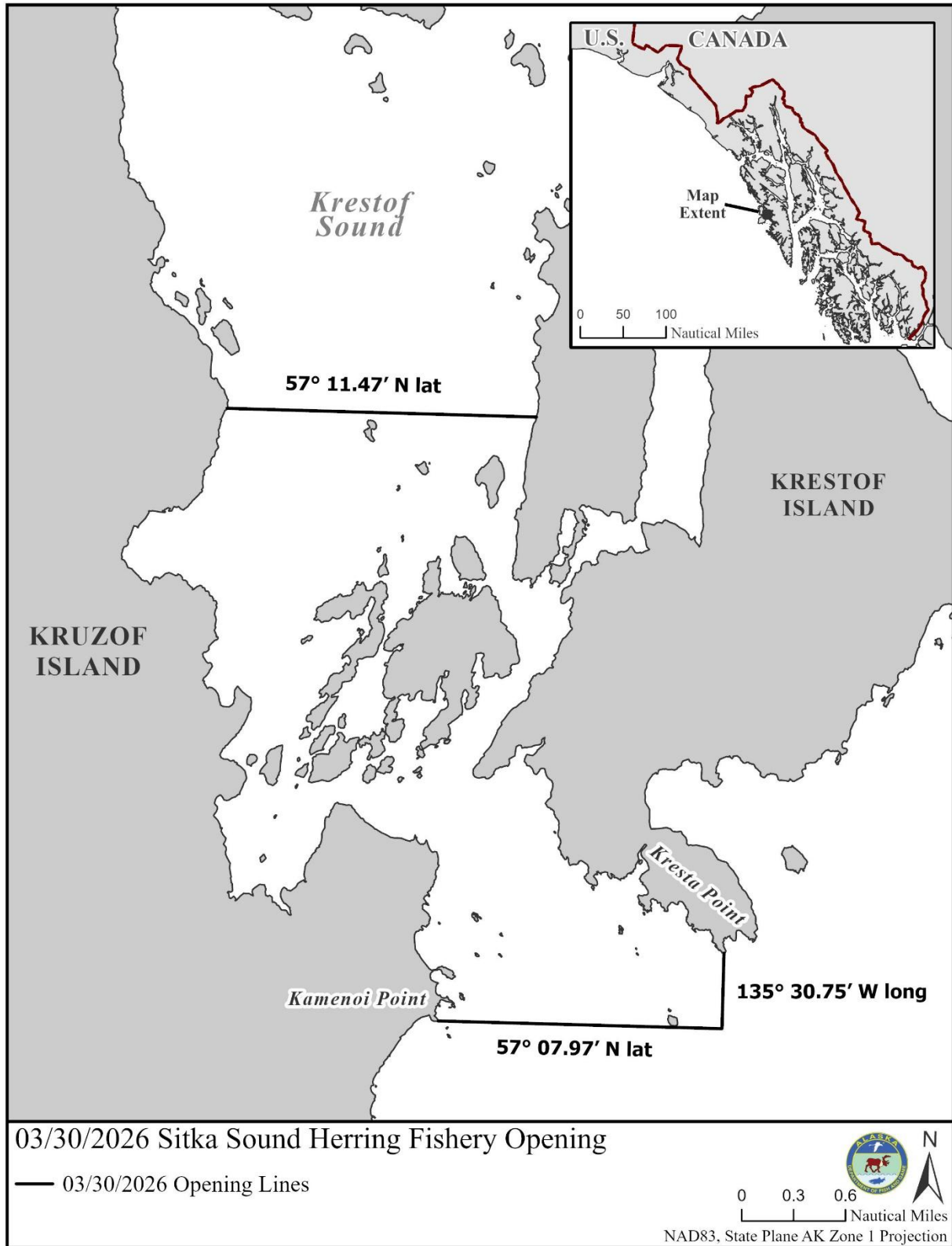


Figure 2.— Map of the area open for the March 30, 2026, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.