



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: March 31, 2026*

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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 13**

Today’s aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Crescent Bay to Povorotni Point, St. Lazaria Island to St. John Baptist Bay, and Promisla Bay to Watson Point. Approximately 3.5 nautical miles (nmi) of spawn was observed today from Watson Point to Magic Island, near the north end of Kasiana Island, from Inner Point to Mountain Point, in Hayward Strait, and near Point Brown (Figure 1). Herring predators were observed throughout the surveyed area. The largest concentration of humpback whales were observed from Crescent Bay to Eastern Channel.

Department and industry vessels surveyed Sitka Sound today from Inner Point to the Magoun Islands, from Middle Island to Watson Point, and from Crescent Bay to Aleutkina Bay. Very large schools of herring were observed along the Kruzof Island shoreline from Inner Point to Krestof Sound, and from Watson Point to Halibut Point. Smaller schools of herring were observed from Crescent Bay to Aleutkina Bay.

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 1H0726. Harvest estimates from today’s fishery will be included in the next advisory announcement. Approximately 1,000 tons of herring were harvested in the fishery that occurred on March 30. Since March 27 approximately 3,965 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 since March 30; 3) no subsistence branch sets were observed within the open area; 4) a cumulative total of 2.2 nmi of herring spawn has been observed within closed waters since March 30.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Wednesday, 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:



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

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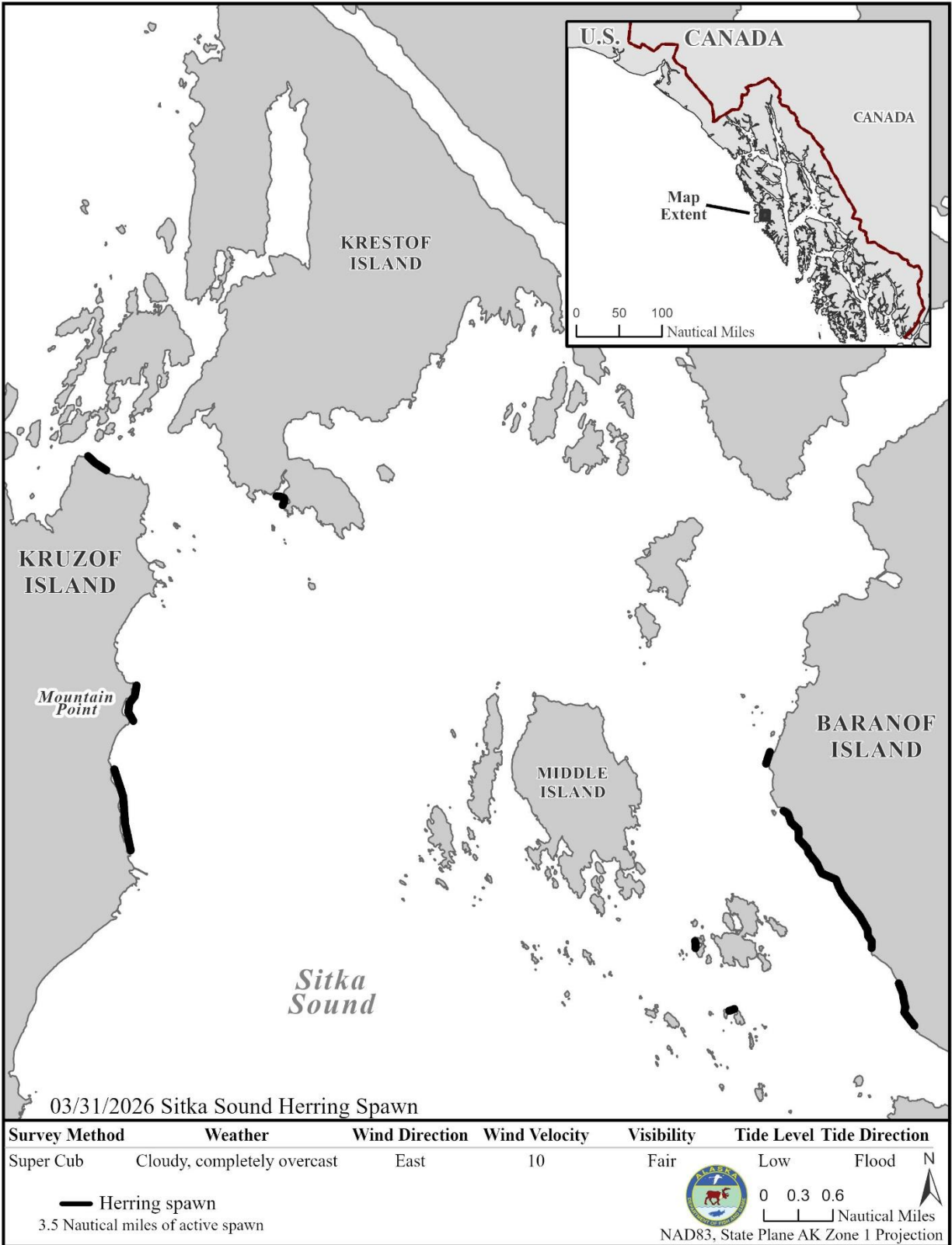


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on March 31, 2026.

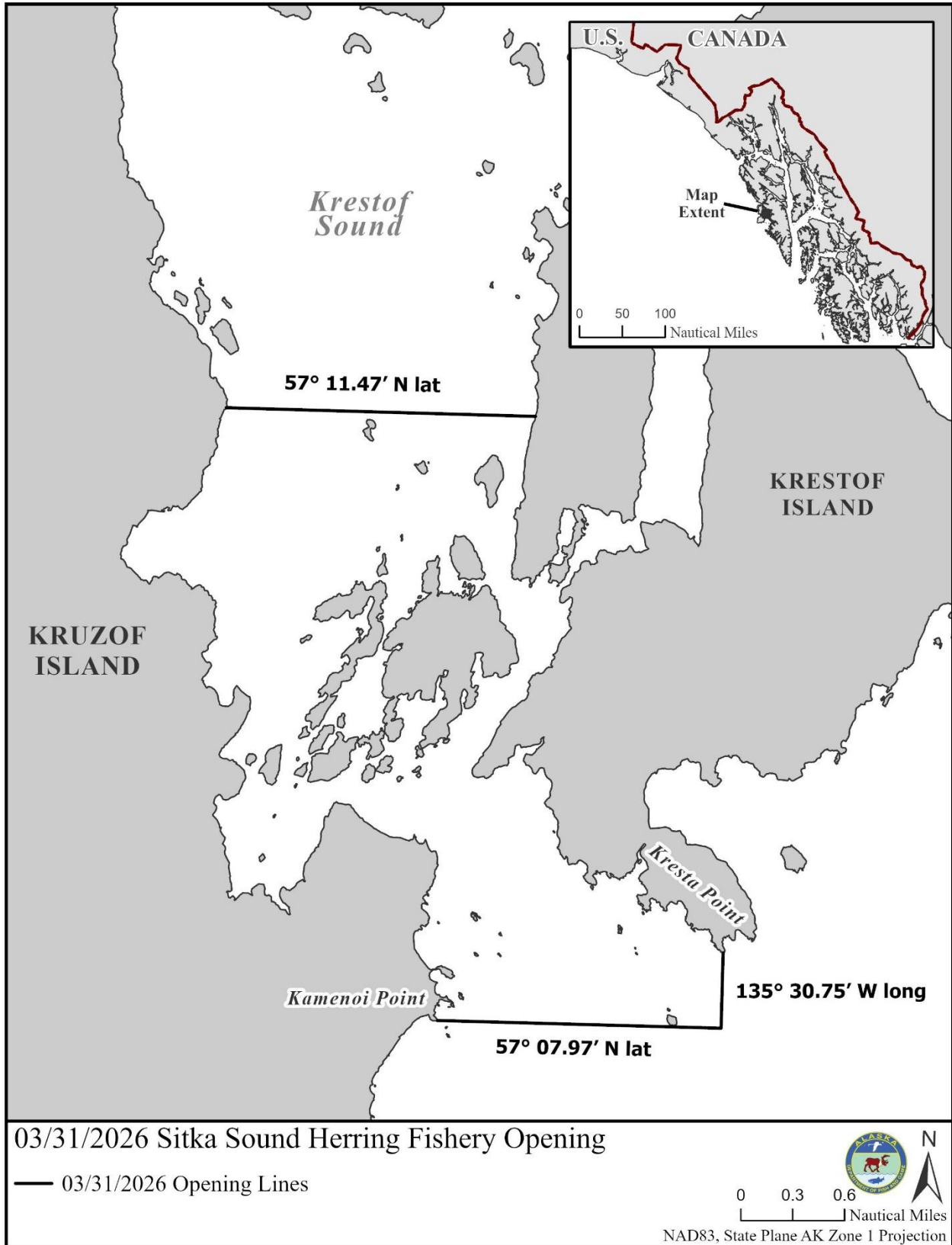


Figure 2.— Map of the area open for the March 31, 2026, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.