



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 2, 2026

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 15

Today’s aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Crescent Bay to Frosty Reef, St. Lazaria Island to Krestof Sound, and Promisla Bay to Watson Point. Herring predators were observed throughout the surveyed area. The largest concentration of gray whales were observed from Inner Point to Mountain Point. Approximately 14.9 nautical miles (nmi) of spawn was observed today from Watson Point to Magic Island, Kasiana Island, along the causeway, the Apple Islands, from Fred’s Creek to Point Brown, and from Rob Point to Kresta Point (Figure 1); small areas of spawn were observed near Thimbleberry Bay, between Promisla and Eastern Bays, between Katz Island and Kutkan Island (near Indian River). A cumulative total of 16.1 nmi of herring spawn has been recorded in Sitka Sound since March 30.

Department and industry vessels surveyed Sitka Sound today from Fred’s Creek to Krestof Sound, from Promisla Bay to Eastern Bay, and in Silver Bay. Large schools of herring were observed throughout the surveyed area. Along the Kruzof Island shoreline and from Promisla to Eastern Bay, the herring tended to be in very shallow water adjacent to the shoreline.

An opening of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery occurred today from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., as stated in a field announcement on VHF channel 10. The open areas 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 and the waters Shoals Point to Kamanoi Point south of 57°07.97’ N lat, north of 57°00.80’ N lat, and west of 135°32.28’ W long (Figure 2). The emergency order corresponding with today’s opening is EO 1H0926. 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 April 1. Since March 27 approximately 5,155 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) while there was spawn recorded within the open area, no subsistence branch sets were observed; 4) a cumulative total of 6.8 nmi of herring spawn has been observed within closed waters since March 30.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Friday, April 3.

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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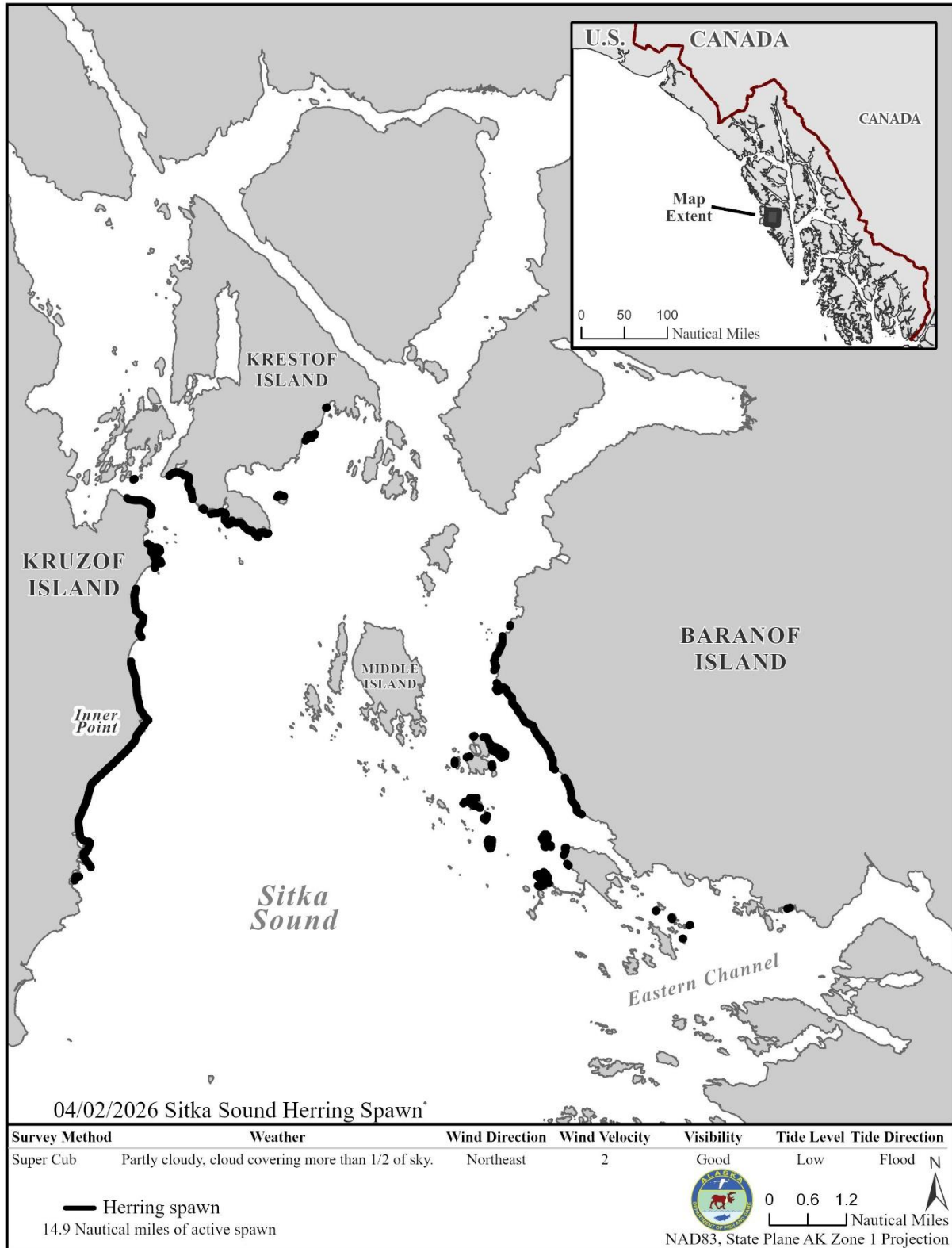


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on April 2, 2026.

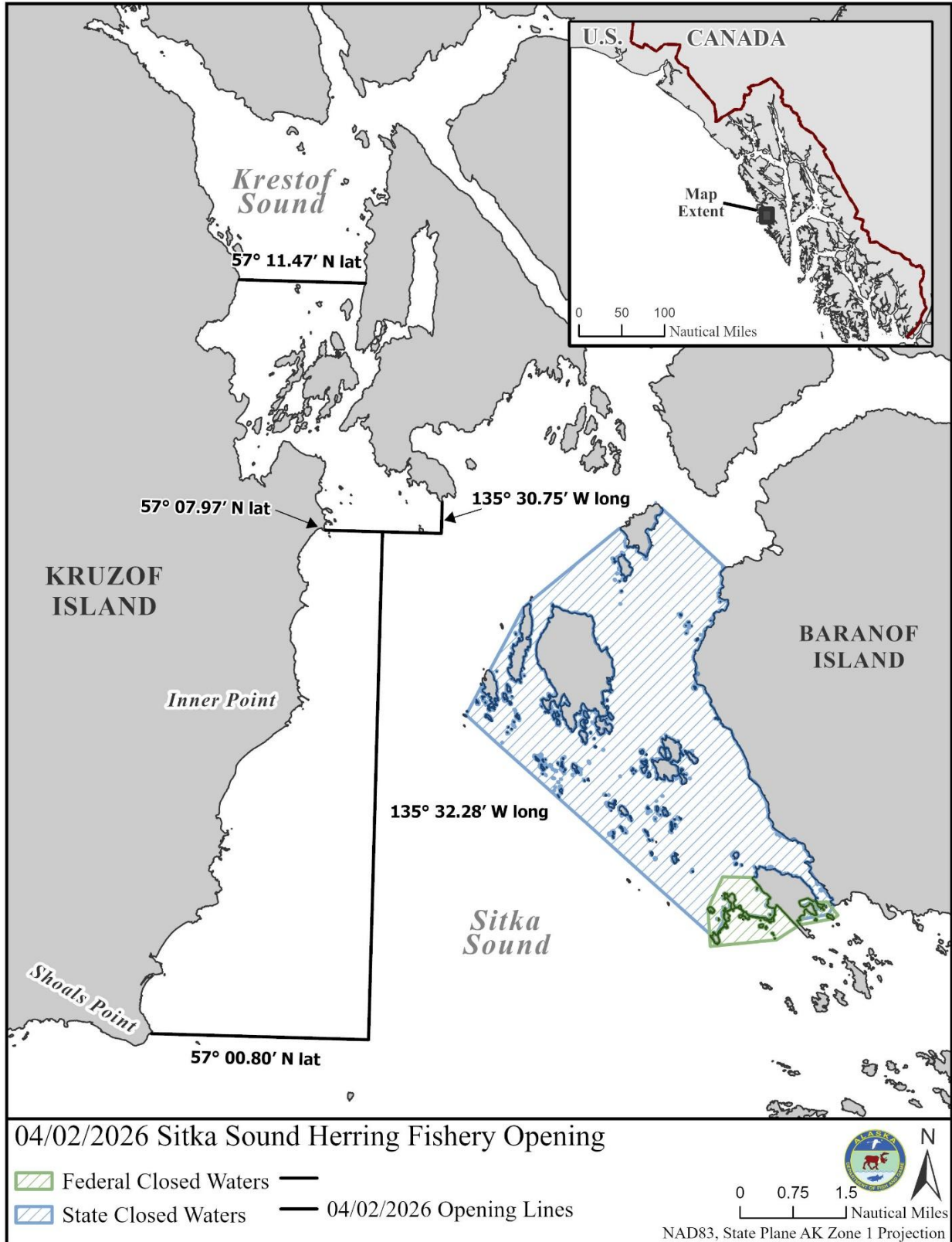


Figure 2.— Map of the area open for the April 2, 2026, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.