



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: April 3, 2022*

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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 18**

Poor weather prevented a thorough aerial survey from being conducted this morning, however by late afternoon a brief survey was able to be flown and covered Sitka Sound from Watson Point to Krestof Sound. Approximately 3.4 nautical miles (nmi) of active herring spawn was observed during the survey in the Magoun Islands, DeGroff Bay, and near Mud Bay (Figure 1). This morning herring spawn was observed along the Sitka road system near Magic Island by department vessels, but had dissipated by the time of the aerial survey. Department and industry vessels surveying Sitka Sound on April 3 located small schools of herring east of the Kasiana Islands. Industry vessels reported numerous schools of herring along the Sitka road system near Old Sitka Rocks. The *R/V Kestrel* departed Sitka Sound today at 11:00 a.m.

There were no test sets or opened fishery today. Harvest from the fishery that occurred on April 2, 2022, was approximately 1,700-tons of herring. Total harvest in the fishery through April 3 is approximately 14,300-tons of herring.

The department continues to work with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in response to the grounding of the vessel in Neva Strait. This includes tracking the geographic extent of the spilled fuel and assessing any potential impacts to the subsistence and commercial herring fisheries in Sitka Sound. Because the State of Alaska has a zero-tolerance policy with respect to fuel contamination of seafood, the department will not open a commercial fishery or conduct test fishing in areas where there is a risk of fuel contamination of gear, vessels, or harvested fish. More information can be found on the DEC website: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2022/01-tug-western-mariner-grounding/>

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Monday, April 4.

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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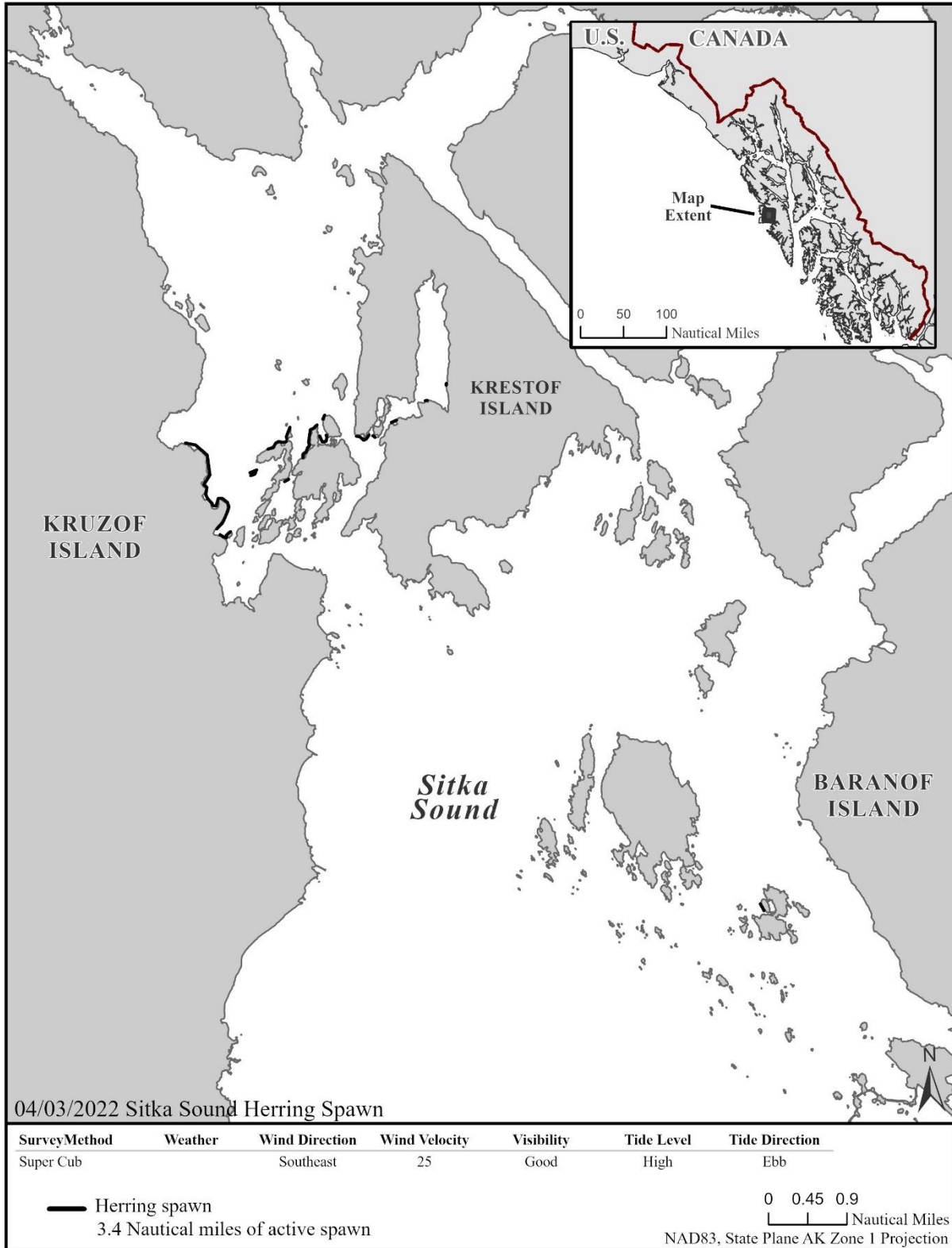


Figure 1.– Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on April 3, 2022.