



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 6, 2022

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 21

The aerial survey conducted on April 6 covered Sitka Sound from Windy Passage to Salisbury Sound. Weather during the flight was good with 20-knot winds and cloudy skies. Viewing conditions were good. There was approximately 5.5 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn observed on April 6. Active spawning areas include Eastern Bay, Signaka Islands, Apple and Kasiana Islands, Whiting Harbor, along the Sitka road system near Halibut Point and Watson Point, and near Crescent Harbor (Figure 1). The cumulative herring spawn mileage to date is 50.5 nmi.

Daily openings of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery began at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, and will continue until closed by field or advisory announcement. Open area includes the waters of Deep Inlet and Aleutkina Bay south of 57°00.81' N lat and east of 135°21.93' W long and the waters south of the latitude of Povorotni Point at 56°57.13' N lat and north of the latitude of Aspid Cape at 56°41.75' N lat, except for the waters of Whale and Necker Bays (Figure 1). Fishing boundaries and times may be modified by subsequent announcement.

The harvest estimate from the fishery that occurred on April 5 was approximately 2,980 tons of herring. Harvest results from today's fishery will be included in the next fishery update. Total harvest in the fishery through April 5 is approximately 19,400-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 Thursday, April 7.

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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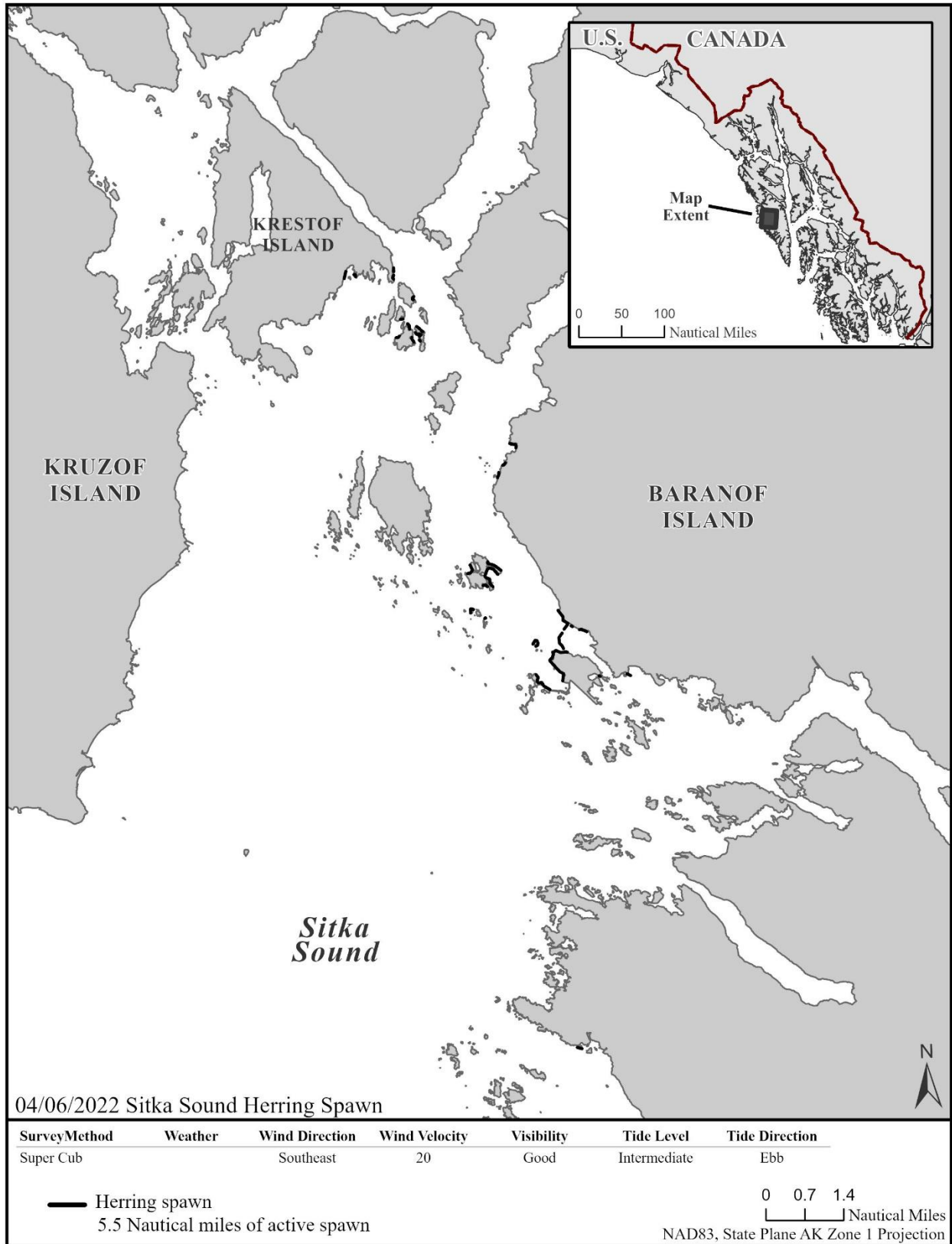


Figure 1.– Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on April 6, 2022.