



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 8, 2022

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 23

The aerial survey conducted on April 8 covered Sitka Sound from Windy Passage to Big Gavanski Island. Weather during the flight was poor with 10-knot winds, cloudy skies with a low ceiling, and numerous snow showers; however, viewing conditions were fair for observing herring and herring spawn. There was approximately 5.6 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn observed on April 8. Active spawning areas include Whiting Harbor, near Crescent Harbor and Sealing Cove Harbor, Redoubt Bay, and Hot Springs Bay (Figure 1). The cumulative herring spawn mileage to date is 56.5 nmi.

The Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery daily openings 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 7 was approximately 2,000-tons of herring. Harvest results from today's fishery will be included in the next fishery update. Total harvest in the fishery through April 7 is approximately 22,400-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 Saturday, April 9.

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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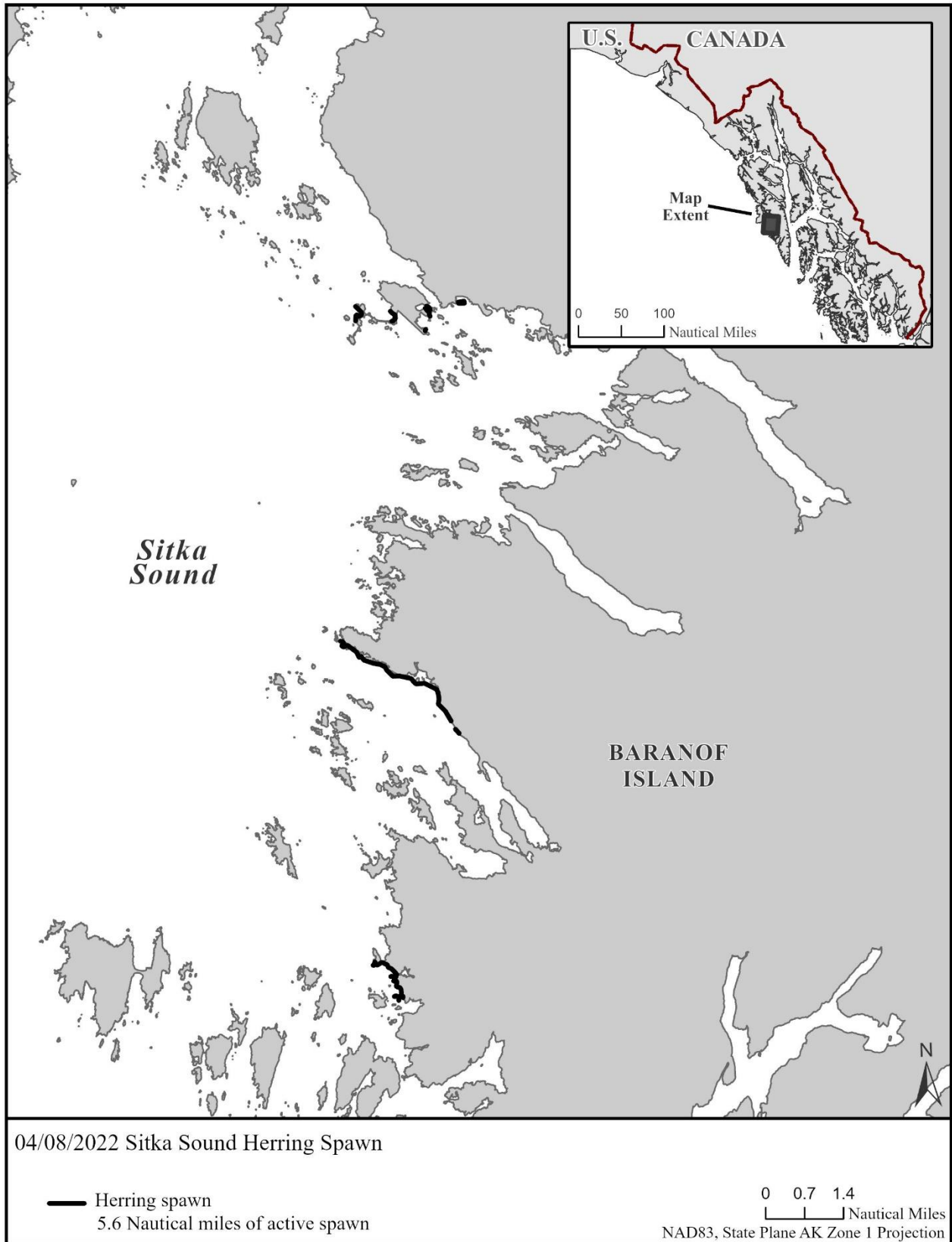


Figure 1.– Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on April 8, 2022.