



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 8, 2020

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 16

Sitka...Aerial surveys were conducted of the Sitka Sound area on April 7 from Crawfish inlet to Salisbury Sound and April 8 from Jamestown Bay to Krestof Sound. On April 7, weather during the flight was good with light winds and overcast skies. A total of 2.5 nautical miles (nmi) of active herring spawn was observed in the Magoun Islands, near Crow Island, Halibut Point, Whiting Harbor, and near West Crawfish Inlet between the first and second narrows (Figure 1). On April 8, weather during the flight was moderate with 25-knot winds and overcast skies. No herring spawn was observed. The cumulative miles of herring spawn through April 8 is approximately 32.1 nmi.

The next aerial survey will be Thursday, April 9 and the next fishery update will be issued by Friday, April 10.

The department is experimenting with a mobile data collection app used during herring surveys to provide interactive maps for displaying survey spawning information. The "Sitka Sound daily herring spawn" map displays spawn location data for the most recent survey and the "Sitka Sound herring surveys" map allows users to view all of the data collected for each survey throughout the 2020 season. Survey data have not been edited and are for reference purposes only. Because these maps are still under development, feedback is appreciated. The interactive maps are located on the department website at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.herring#maps>.

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, and 12, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

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

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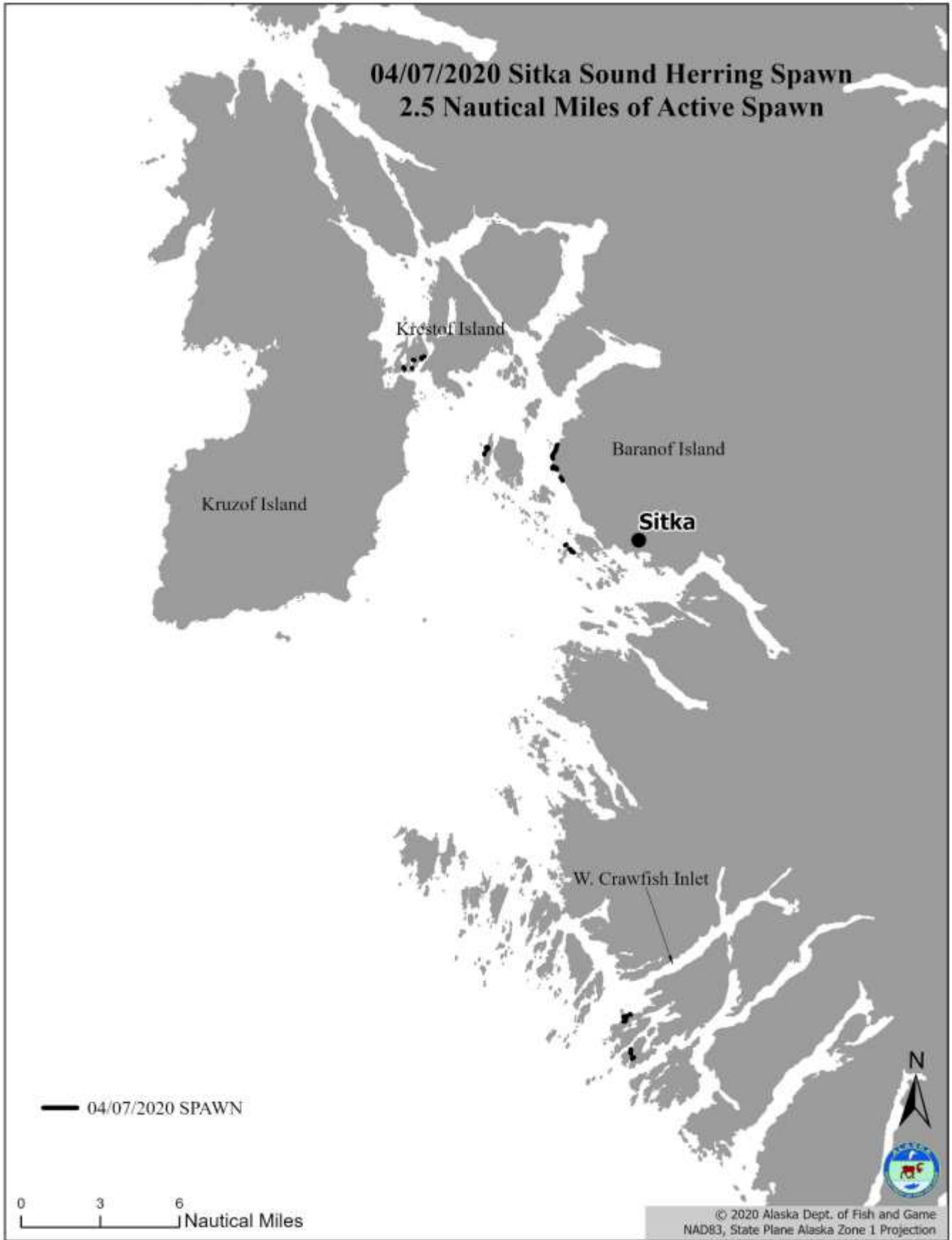


Figure 1. Active herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 7, 2020.