



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: April 10, 2020*

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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 17**

Sitka...Aerial surveys were conducted of the Sitka Sound area on April 9 and April 10, from Crawfish Inlet to Salisbury Sound. On April 9, weather during the flight was good with light winds and overcast skies. A total of 1.0 nautical mile (nmi) of active herring spawn was observed in Redoubt Bay and near West Crawfish Inlet between the first and second narrows (Figure 1). On April 10, weather during the flight was good with light winds and clear skies. A total of 7.4 nmi of active herring spawn was observed between Starrigavan Bay and Watson Point, in Redoubt Bay, and near West Crawfish Inlet between the first and second narrows (Figure 2). Skiff surveys were conducted in Sitka Sound on April 7 and April 10 and mapped an additional 3.4 nmi of herring spawn in the Magoun Islands, Eastern and Promisla bays, and near Watson Point (Figure 3). The cumulative miles of herring spawn through April 10 is approximately 40.1 nmi.

An aerial survey was conducted of Hoonah Sound on April 10 from Emmons Island to Moser Island. No herring, herring spawn, or herring predators were observed.

The next aerial survey will be Saturday, April 11 and the next fishery update will be issued on or before Monday, April 12.

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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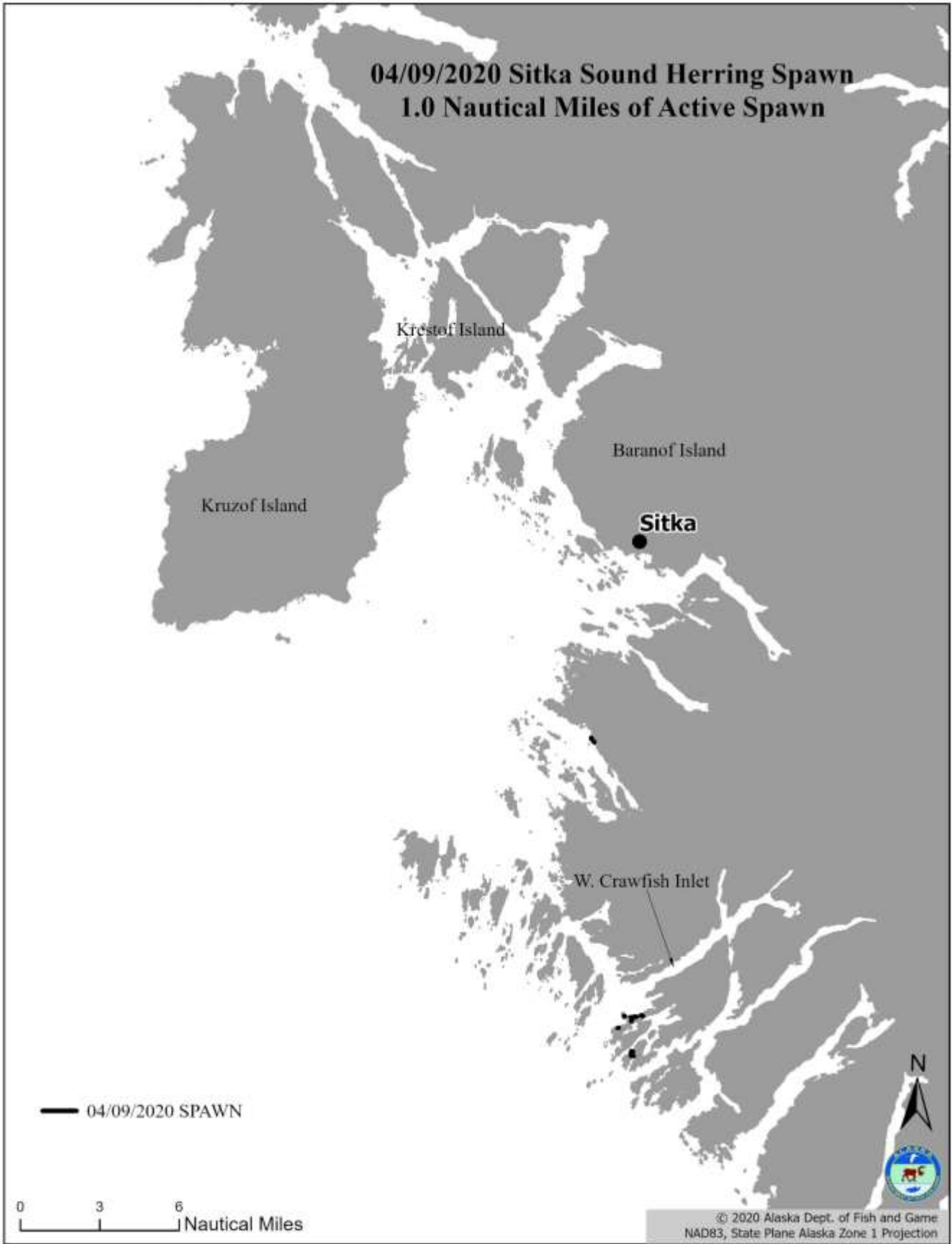


Figure 1. Active herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 9, 2020.



Figure 2. Active herring spawn observed in Sitka Sound on April 10, 2020.

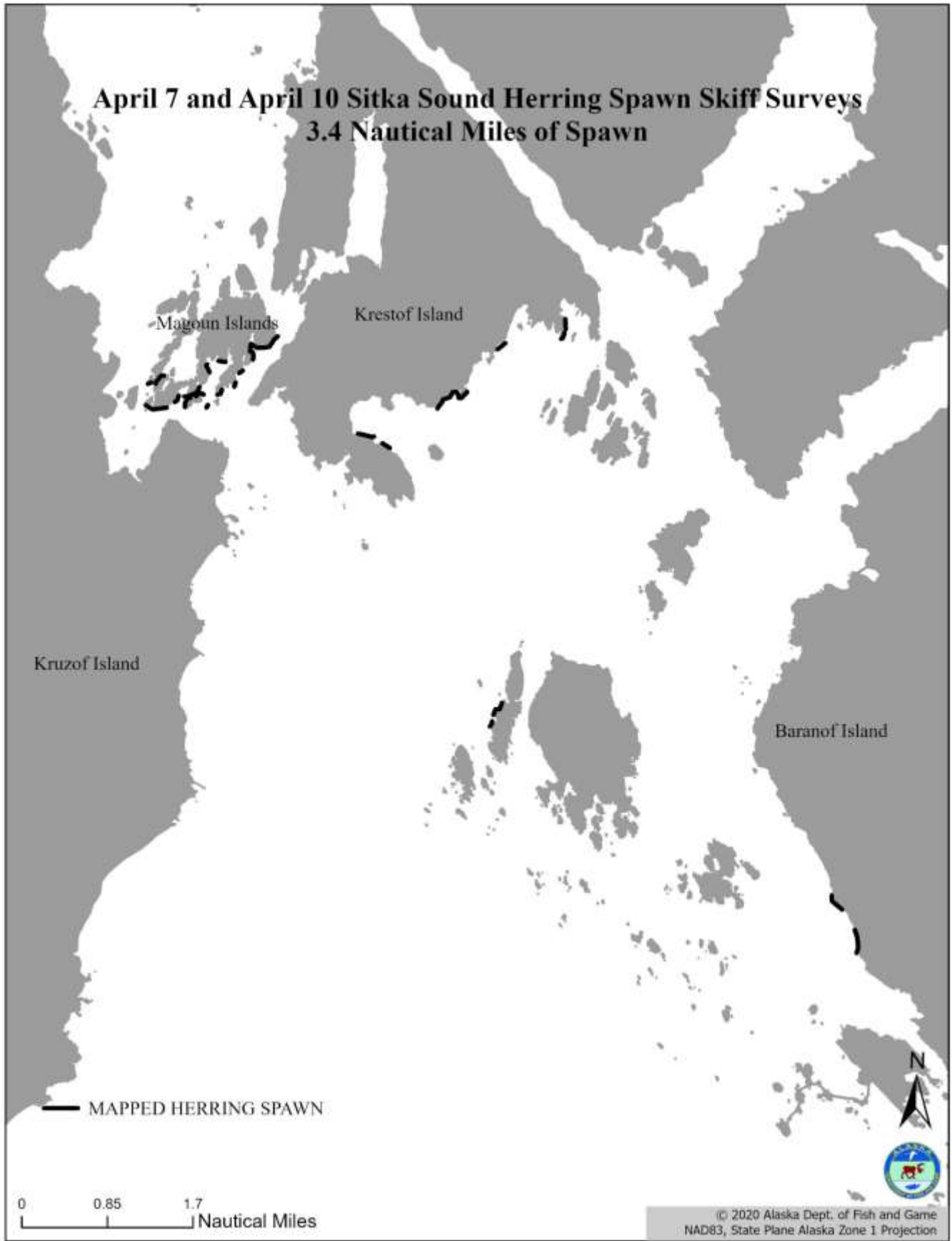


Figure 3. Herring spawn mapped during skiff surveys on April 7 and April 10, 2020.