



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: April 12, 2022*

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**SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 26**

The aerial survey scheduled for April 11 was cancelled due to high winds. The aerial survey conducted on April 12 covered Sitka Sound from Windy Passage to Western Channel. Weather during the flight was good with 20-knot winds, and clear skies. Viewing conditions were excellent for observing herring and herring spawn, however high turbulence reduced the geographic extent of the survey. There was approximately 1.8 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn observed on April 12. Active spawning areas included Taigud Island, Hot Springs Bay, Big Bay, Presidents Bay, and between First and Second Narrows (Figure 1). An additional 0.8 nmi of herring spawn was observed near Jackknife Islands and between First and Second Narrows from satellite imagery captured on April 11. The cumulative herring spawn mileage to date is 74.7 nmi.

The Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery closed for the season at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 10, 2022.

The harvest estimate from the fishery that occurred on April 10 was approximately 470-tons of herring. Total harvest in the fishery through April 10 is approximately 26,350-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. More information can be found on the DEC website: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2022/01-tug-western-mariner-grounding/>

This will be the last fishery update of the 2022 season. A season summary advisory announcement will be issued following the conclusion of aerial, vessel, and dive surveys. Aerial surveys will continue, weather permitting, to monitor for any more herring spawn until it is determined that spawning activity has ended for the 2022 season. The data collected and corresponding images will continue to be posted online immediately after each flight or vessel survey.

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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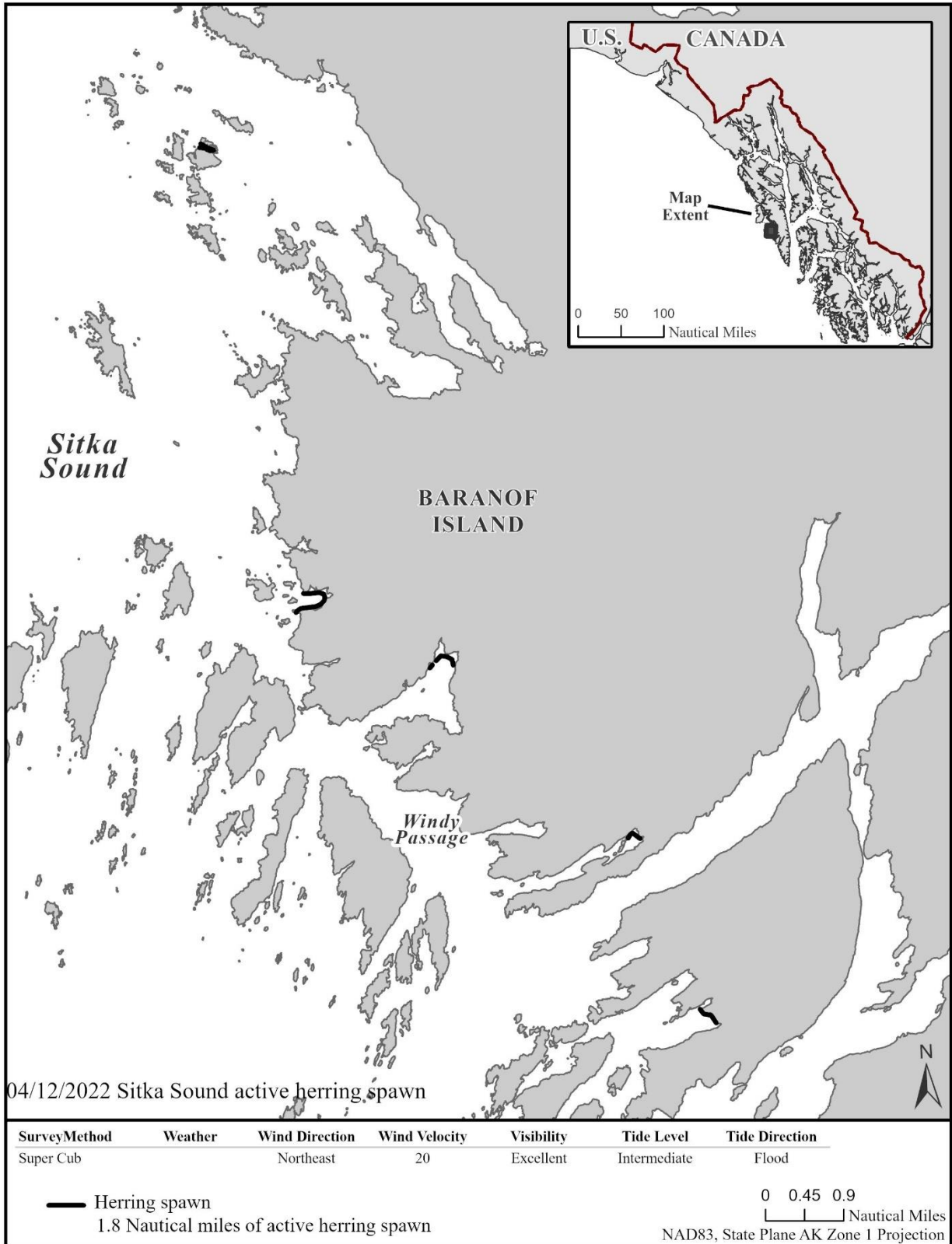


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on April 12, 2022.