



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: March 26, 2025

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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 11

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Redoubt Bay to Shoals Point and Krestof Sound. Herring schools were visible from the air in Redoubt Bay, Samsing Bay, and the Magoun Islands. Approximately 6.5 nautical miles (nmi) of herring spawn was observed along the Sitka Road System from Watson Point to Halibut Point, Battery Island, Whiting Harbor, Kasiana Island, Apple Island, near the Parker Group, and near the entrance of Sealing Cove Harbor (Figure 1). Humpback whales were observed throughout the surveyed area and were concentrated from Inner Point to Hayward Strait. Sea lions were observed between Inner Point and Hayward Strait, and among the islands south of the causeway in Sitka. Predator numbers and locations are typical for this time of year.

Department and industry vessels surveyed northern Sitka Sound from Middle Island to Krestof Sound and from Kamanoi Point to Bieli Rock. The southern portion of Sitka Sound was also surveyed from Cape Burunof to Crescent Harbor and from Redoubt Bay to West Crawfish Inlet. Scattered schools of herring were seen throughout the survey area. Large concentrations of herring were observed from Guide Island to Krestof Sound and near West Crawfish Inlet. Schools of herring were also observed within regulatory closed waters tight to the beach by Kasiana Island, Apple Island, and from Magic Island to Watson Point.

No test sets were conducted today.

An opening of the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery occurred today from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., as stated in field announcement on VHF channel 10. The open area for this fishery included the waters of Hayward Strait and Krestof Sound south of 57°11.47' N lat, north of 57°07.97' N lat, and west of 135°30.75' W long (Figure 2). The emergency order corresponding with today's opening is EO 1H0625.

The department has determined that the opening described above would not harm a reasonable opportunity for participants in the subsistence fishery to harvest the amount of roe necessary for subsistence uses. When making this determination, the department considered: 1) vessel surveys conducted by the department beginning on March 18 indicated that there is a very large biomass of herring distributed throughout Sitka Sound; 2) schools of herring were observed within regulatory closed waters during the vessel survey that occurred on March 26; 3) approximately 6.5 nmi of herring spawn was observed within commercial closed waters and core subsistence areas today; 4) while there were known subsistence sets within the open area, these were not associated with active herring spawn.

Approximately 790 tons of herring were harvested in the fishery that occurred on March 25; a total of approximately 2,740 tons of herring have been harvested through March 25. Harvest estimates for the fishery that occurred on March 26 will be included in the next advisory announcement.

The next aerial survey and fishery update are scheduled for Thursday, March 27.

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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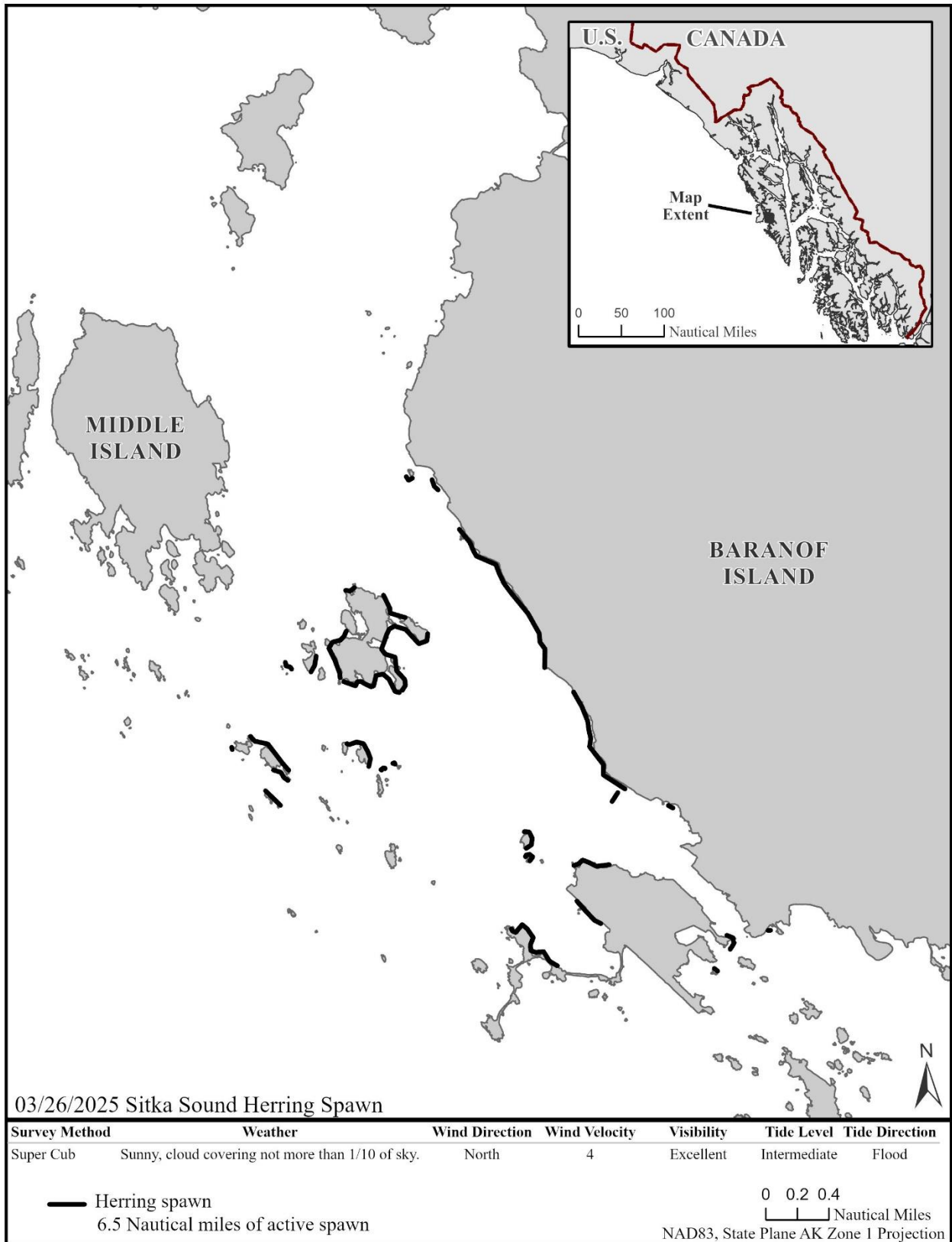


Figure 1.— Map of the active spawning areas in Sitka Sound during the aerial survey on March 26, 2025.

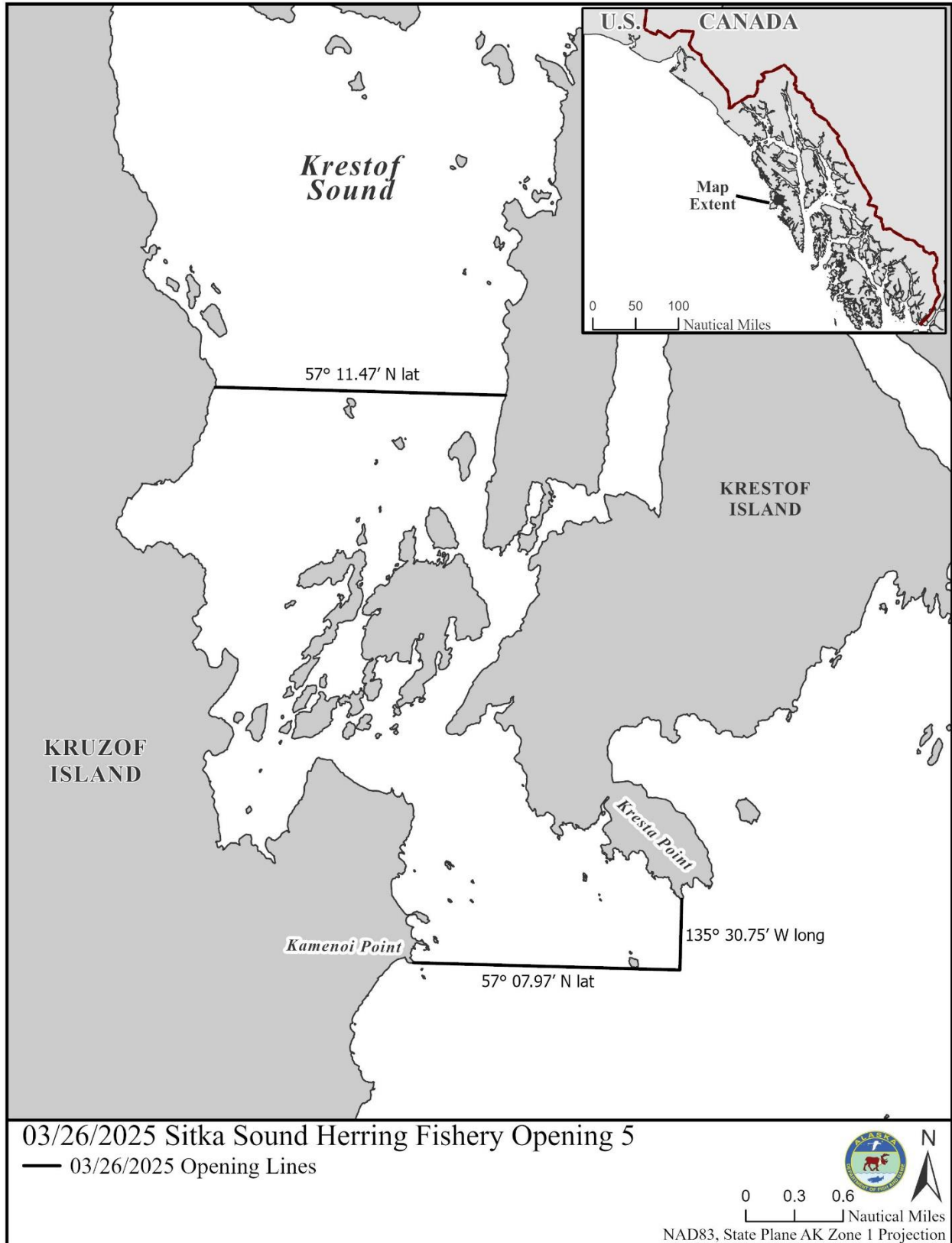


Figure 2.— Map of the area open for the March 26, 2025, Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.