

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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2019/20 Alaska Weathervane Scallop Guideline Harvest Levels

The commercial weathervane scallop fishery in the Exclusive Economic Zone (3–200 nmi) of Alaska is jointly managed by the State of Alaska and the federal government under the *Fishery Management Plan for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska* (FMP). The FMP was developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under provisions of the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act* (MSA). Most aspects of scallop fishery management in federal waters are delegated to the State of Alaska. However, the MSA mandates all FMP fisheries be managed under annual catch limits (ACLs) that account for all sources of mortality to ensure overfishing does not occur. The 2019/20 season scallop guideline harvest levels (GHLs) established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) comply with federal ACL requirements.

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bristol Bay–Bering Sea areas will open on July 1, 2019. The Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound areas will be closed for the 2019/20 season.

During the 2019/20 season, ADF&G will assess inseason fishery performance as measured by catch per unit effort (CPUE) and/or monitor crab bycatch. Poor fishery performance or excessive crab bycatch may result in area, or partial area, closures prior to achieving the full GHL. GHLs for the 2019/20 scallop season and crab bycatch limits are listed below.

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Registration Area	Guideline Harvest Level (pounds of shucked meat)	Crab bycatch limit (number of crab)	
		Tanner crab	King crab
Yakutat	145,000	NA	NA
Prince William Sound	Closed	NA	NA
Cook Inlet	Closed	NA	NA
Kodiak			
Northeast District	15,000	9,000	25
Shelikof District	20,000	10,000	25
Southwest District	35,000	17,500	25
Southeast District	15,000	9,000	25
Semidi District		<i>Exploratory area</i>	
Alaska Peninsula			
long 160° W to 161° W	7,500	3,750	25
Unimak Bight ^a	7,500	3,750	25
Dutch Harbor			
Bering Sea Waters	5,000	5,000	10
Pacific Ocean Waters	Closed	NA	NA
Bristol Bay-Bering Sea	7,500	65,000	500
		<i>C. opilio and hybrids</i>	
		300,000	

^a Commissioner permit required to harvest scallops in Unimak Bight.

NA = Not applicable

Yakutat

The Yakutat District GHL will be 145,000 pounds of shucked meat. In January 2018, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) modified regulation to combine District 16 and Area D under a single GHL for the Yakutat District.

Prince William Sound

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) commercial weathervane scallop season will be closed for the 2019/20 season. East Kayak Subsection (EKS) has been closed since 2012. West Kayak Subsection (WKS) was open for the 2018/19 season; however, fishery performance was poor with a significant decline in CPUE. ADF&G surveys were conducted in EKS in 2018 and WKS in 2019. Abundance in EKS was at its lowest level in the history of the survey and abundance in WKS declined significantly since the last survey in 2016.

Cook Inlet

The Cook Inlet Area season will remain closed for the 2019 season. ADF&G survey results from 2018 indicate estimated scallop abundance in the Kamishak District declined sharply in both the north and south beds and is at the lowest levels in the history of the survey.

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Kodiak

The Northeast District GHL will be 15,000 pounds of shucked meat. The Shelikof District GHL will be 20,000 pounds of shucked meat; harvest will not be apportioned east and west of long 154° W for the 2019/20 season. The Southwest District GHL will be 35,000 pounds of shucked meat; statistical areas 545733 and 545701 in Shelikof District will be managed as part of the Southwest District for the 2019/20 season (see figure below). Scallop harvest and crab bycatch in those statistical areas will accrue against the Southwest District scallop GHL and crab bycatch limits. The Southeast District GHL will be 15,000 pounds of shucked meat. Vessel operators in the Southwest and Southeast districts are encouraged to distribute effort to further delineate scallop beds within the areas opened by the BOF in March 2018.

Alaska Peninsula

Two areas in the Alaska Peninsula Area will open for the 2019/20 season. Pacific Ocean waters from 3–200 nautical miles off shore between long 160° W and 161° W will open with a GHL of 7,500 pounds of shucked meat. Pacific Ocean waters from 3–200 nautical miles off shore of Unimak Bight (west of a line extending south from Cape Pankof at long 163° 03.70' W and east of line extending south from Scotch Cap Light at long 164° 44.72' W) will open under the authority of a commissioner permit (5 AAC 38.420(c)(1)). The Unimak Bight GHL will be 7,500 pounds of shucked meat.

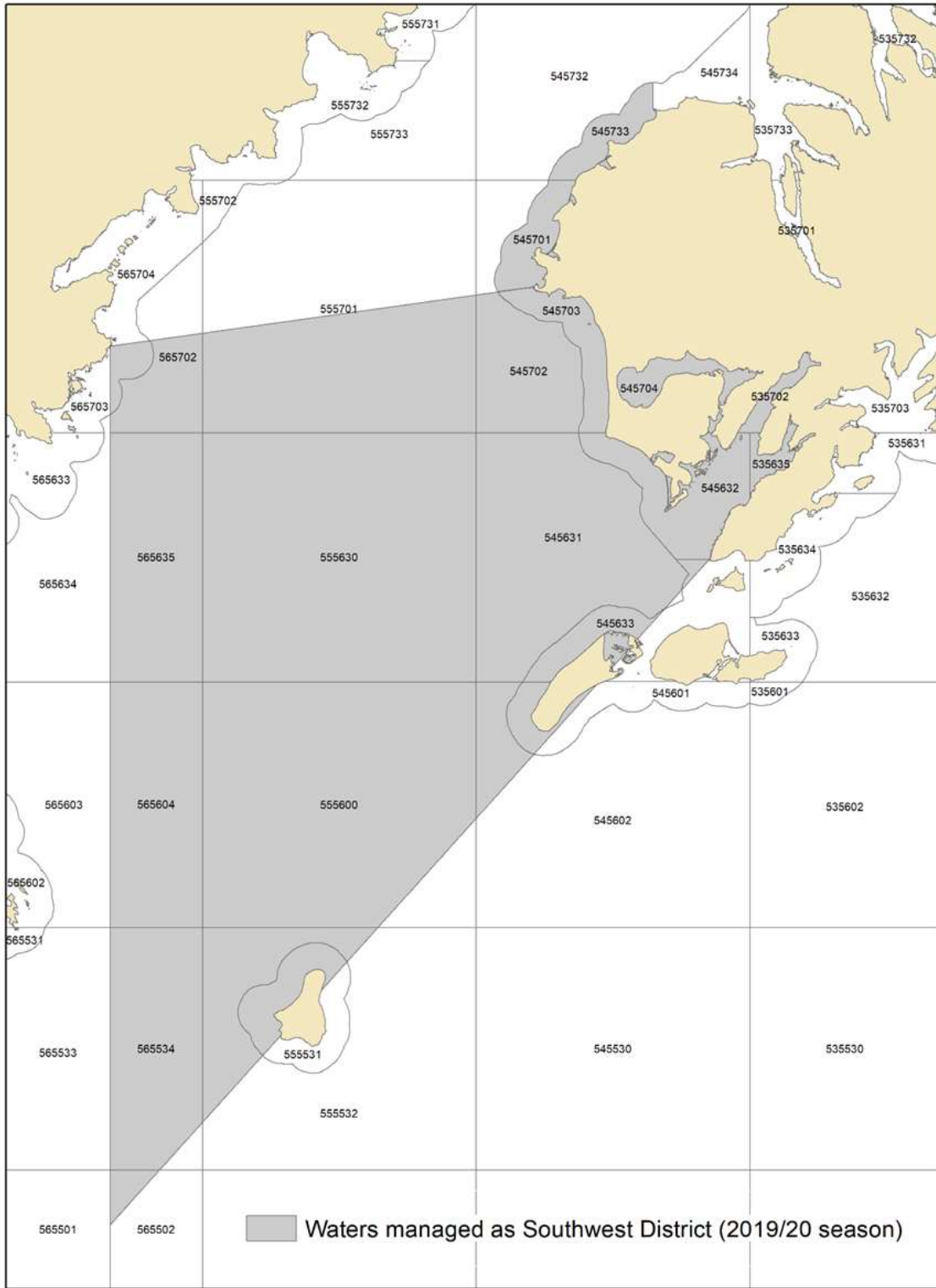
Dutch Harbor

The Dutch Harbor Area GHL will be 5,000 pounds of shucked meat in Bering Sea waters. Pacific Ocean waters of the Dutch Harbor Area will be closed for the 2019/20 season and will remain closed through the 2020/21 season.

Bristol Bay-Bering Sea

The Bristol Bay-Bering Sea Area GHL will be 7,500 pounds of shucked meat.

For additional information contact ADF&G in Kodiak (907-486-1840), Douglas (907-465-6393), Dutch Harbor (907-581-1239), or Homer (907-235-8191).



Kodiak Area waters managed as the Southwest District for the 2019/20 commercial weathervane scallop season.

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