



Advisory Announcement
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2020/21 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK FISHERY

The Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck season begins by regulation on Thursday, October 1, 2020, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 523,500 pounds. The first opening planned for October 7 or 8 will be announced by October 7 and is dependent on paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) test results.

Guideline Harvest Levels by Area

District 1

Foggy Bay (Subdistrict 101-23-001): will open for a GHL of 25,800 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Foggy Bay along the mainland and the Delong Islands shoreline, south of the latitude of Kirk Point at 55°00.00' N lat and north of the latitude of Foggy Point Light at 54°55.53' N lat.

Slate Island (Subdistrict 101-23-004): will open for a GHL of 14,100 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Revillagigedo Channel and Boca de Quadra along the mainland, White Reef, and Slate Islands shorelines north of a line from 55°03.67' N lat, 130°59.25' W long to 55°03.23' N lat, 131°02.80' W long, east of a line from 55°04.50' N lat, 130°57.55' W long to 55°05.38' N lat, 130°57.80' W long, and south of a line from 55°06.72' N lat, 131°02.87' W long to 55°05.32' N lat, 131°06.23' W long.

Cat and Dog Islands (Subdistricts 101-23-005, 101-41-005): will open for a GHL of 40,300 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Felice Strait and Revillagigedo Channel north of the latitude of Duke Point at 54°55.15' N lat, west of 131°08.38' W long, south of 55°07.21' N lat, and east of 131°27.70' W long.

Districts 2 & 3

Lower Cordova Bay (Subdistricts 102-10-001, 103-11-001, 103-21-001): will open for a GHL of 21,600 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Districts 2 and 3 west of 132°01.00' W long and south of a line from the easternmost tip of Cape Muzon at 54°40.20' N lat, 132°40.28' W long to the southernmost tip of Long Island at 54°45.06' N lat, 132°38.15' W long then north along the eastern shoreline of Long Island to 54°53.66' N lat, 132°37.91' W long to the western shore of Prince of Wales Island at 54°55.43' N lat, 132°31.58' W long then south along the shoreline of Prince of Wales Island to 54°54.40' N lat, 132°24.77' W long to the southernmost tip of Klakas Island at 54°53.15' N lat, 132°24.54' W long to the Prince of Wales Island shore at 54°49.68' N lat, 132°20.50' W long then south along the shoreline of Prince of Wales Island to Cape Chacon at 55°12.26' N lat, 133°20.13' W long.

District 3

East San Fernando Island (Subdistrict 103-60-001): will open for a GHL of 39,600 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of San Alberto Bay along the eastern shore of San Fernando Island, south and east of a line from Point Polocano at 55°32.35' N lat, 133°17.36' W long to Point Ildefonso at 55°34.12' N lat, 133°15.90' W long, north of the latitude of Point Cuerdo at 55°28.50' N lat, and west of the longitude of Fern Reef Light at 133°15.87' W long.

Ulitka Bay (Subdistrict 103-70-001): will open for a GHF of 9,400 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters along the northern shoreline of Noyes Island east of Cape Ulitka at 133°43.52' W long and west of 133°41.33' W long.

Blanquizal Islands (Subdistrict 103-70-005): will open for a GHF of 8,400 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of San Christoval Channel north of 55°35.80' N lat, south of the latitude of the westernmost tip of Blanquizal Point at 55°37.35' N lat, and east of a line from the southwesternmost tip of Blanquizal Island at 55°38.00' N lat, 133°25.00' W long to the northernmost tip of Point San Pasqual at 55°34.13' N lat, 133°23.30' W long.

Saint Nicholas Channel, North Lulu Island (Subdistrict 103-70-007): will open for a GHF of 95,000 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Saint Nicholas Channel and Portillo Channel north of a line from 55°27.24' N lat, 133°38.51' W long to Point Saint Isidor at 55°27.05' N lat, 133°37.25' W long to Point Delgada at 55°30.92' N lat, 133°28.78' W long to San Fernando Island at 55°31.52' N lat, 133°26.90' W long to Point San Pasqual at 55°34.13' N lat, 133°23.30' W long and the waters of the Gulf of Esquibel east of a line from Point Incarnation at 55°33.10' N lat, 133°37.27' W long to the southernmost tip of West San Lorenzo Island at 55°35.05' N lat, 133°37.35' W long, south of 55°35.05' N lat and west of a line from 55°35.05' N lat, 133°23.60' W long to Point San Pasqual at 55°34.13' N lat, 133°23.30' W long.

Davidson Inlet (Subdistrict 103-90-004): will open for a GHF of 7,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Sea Otter Sound and Davidson Inlet west of 133°27.70' W long, east of 133°43.37' W long, and north of a line from Turn Point at 55°50.79' N lat, 133°21.60' W long to the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island at 55°51.09' N lat, 133°40.96' W long to Alice Rocks at 55°49.46' N lat, 133°55.63' W long with the following restrictions:

Edna Bay: will be closed north of a line from 55°55.90' N lat, 133°37.75' W long to Limestone Point at 55°56.33' N lat, 133°37.02' W long;

Token Cove: will be closed south of a line from the northwest shore of Marble Island at 55°59.75' N lat, 133°28.05' W long to 55°59.58' N lat, 133°28.90' W long;

Unnamed bay on the northwest shore of Marble Island: will be closed east of a line from 55°59.27' N lat, 130°29.36' W long to 55°58.20' N lat, 133°29.36' W long.

Districts 3 & 4

Cone Island North (Subdistricts 103-50-005, 104-40-005): will open for a GHF of 171,500 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Saint Nicholas Channel, Cone Island, and the eastern shore of Baker Island south of a line from Point Saint Isidor at 55°27.05' N lat, 133°37.25' W long to the Noyes Island shore at 55°27.24' N lat, 133°38.51' W long, east of a line from Saint Nicholas Point at 55°26.38' N lat, 133°40.10' W long to the westernmost tip of Cone Island at 55°25.29' N lat, 133°39.85' W long, and north and west of a line from the westernmost tip of Cone Island to the easternmost tip of Cone Island at 55°26.45' N lat, 133°36.86' W long to the Lulu Island Shoreline at 55°26.87' N lat, 133°36.47' W long.

Cone Island South and Paloma Pass (Subdistricts 103-50-006, 104-35-006): will open for a GHF of 53,700 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters north and west of a line from Siketi Point at 55°25.06' N lat, 133°39.60' W long to the Baker Island shoreline at 55°24.11' N lat, 133°36.70' W long then north along the Baker Island shoreline to 55°25.83' N lat, 133°34.54' W long to the Lulu Island shoreline at 55°25.83' N lat, 133°33.02' W long, east of a line from Siketi Point to the easternmost tip of Cone Island at 55°26.45' N lat, 133°36.86' W lon, to the Lulu Island shoreline at 55°26.87' N lat, 133°36.47' W long, and south of the Lulu Island shoreline.

Districts 3 & 5

Warren Island and Kosciusko Island (Subdistricts 103-90-005, 105-41,43,50-005): will open for a GHF of 13,300 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Warren Channel and Sumner Strait north of a line from the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island at 55°51.09' N lat, 133°40.96' W long to Alice Rocks at 55°49.46' N lat, 133°55.63' W long, east of a line from Alice Rocks to Borlase Rocks at 55°54.97' N lat, 133°57.74' W long to 56°08.66' N lat, 133°44.58' W long, south of 56°08.66' N lat, and west of the shoreline of Kosciusko Island from

56°08.66' N lat, 133°37.30' W long to the southernmost tip of Kosciusko Island at 55°53.96' N lat, 133°43.37' W long then due south to 55°50.81' N lat, 133°43.37' W long with the following restriction:

Unnamed cove on the western shore of Kosciusko Island: will be closed east of a line from 56°03.27' N lat, 133°42.07' W long to 56°02.87' N lat, 133°42.30' W long.

District 4

Northwest Dall Island (Subdistricts 104-20-003, 104-30-003): will open for a GHL of 23,800 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Meares Passage, Sea Otter Harbor, Divers Bay, and Bobs Bay, south and west of a line from Eagle Point 55°14.53' N lat, 133°13.28' W long to Sumez Island at 55°14.68' N lat, 133°14.45' W long and north and east of a line from Lontana Point at 55°12.26' N lat, 133°20.13' W long to Cape Lookout at 55°06.03' N lat, 133°14.25' W long.

Area Closures

Palisades Islands (Subdistrict 103-70-006), which would normally fall on this rotation, will be closed. The department surveyed this area in 2019 and the biomass has fallen below 30% of the original biomass estimate. Under 5 AAC 38.142 (h) this area will remain closed until the estimated biomass is above the 30% threshold. Evidence of sea otter predation on geoducks has been observed and documented by the department in this area.

Inseason Management Plan

In the Ketchikan management area, based on the recommendation of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA), weekly harvest periods will generally occur between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday. Weekly PSP results are expected on Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings. However, if sampling is delayed, the fishing period may also be delayed up to one day.

In the Sitka management area (District 13), it is expected that the 2020/2021 season will be delayed until September. The Sitka GHLS and fishery openings will be announced before that time.

A valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit and 2020/2021 Alaska Department of Fish & Game registration for the Ketchikan and Sitka management areas are required prior to commercial harvest of geoduck clams. Harvesters are required to contact ADF&G at least 48 hours prior to fishing in a new management area.

The geoduck clam fishery will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Friday, November 20, through Wednesday, December 2, 2020, and for Christmas and New Year's holidays from Friday, December 18, 2020, through Wednesday, January 6, 2021. State agencies will be closed on the following State holidays: October 19 (Alaska Day), November 11 (Veteran's Day), November 26 (Thanksgiving Day), December 25 (Christmas Day), January 1 (New Year's Day), January 18 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), February 15 (President's Day), March 29 (Seward's Day), and May 31 (Memorial Day).

There is an overage-underage policy in place for the commercial geoduck fishery designed to maintain the geoduck harvest rate at 2% of the surveyed biomass, consistent with 5 AAC 38.142(g). Harvest from the 2020/21 season that is over or under the specified GHL will be subtracted or added, respectively, to the GHL for the next fishery rotation for each area until such time as the GHL is revised based on a new survey of the area.

For the 2020/21 season geoduck logbooks are voluntary. Logbooks are available at local ADF&G offices and can be turned in with fish tickets or mailed directly to the Douglas ADF&G office, C/O Jake Metzger at P.O. Box 110024, Juneau, AK 99811.

SARDFA has completed inorganic arsenic testing for all open geoduck areas for the 2020/2021 season. All areas passed therefore there will be no restrictions on selling Southeast Alaska geoducks to mainland China this season due to inorganic arsenic.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1M2420.

Under Alaska’s Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, 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/>.

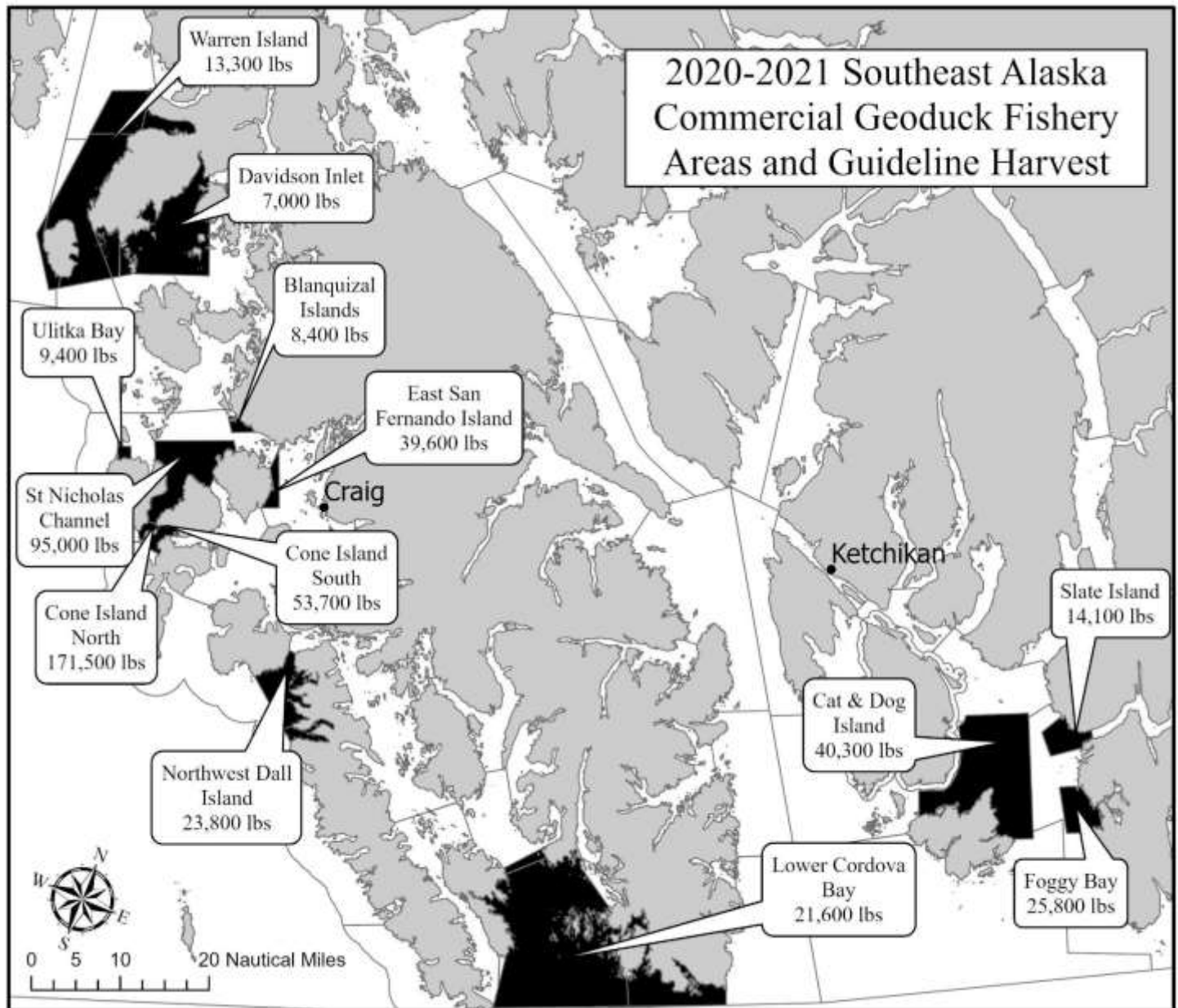


Figure 1. Commercial geoduck fishery areas and guideline harvest levels for the 2020-21 season.

Note: This chart is for general reference purposes only and does not identify boundaries of open areas. See written descriptions above for detailed descriptions of open areas.

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

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