



**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: August 12, 2021***

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**2020/21 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK CLAM FISHERY**

The Sitka area commercial geoduck clam season will begin with collecting samples for paralytic shellfish toxin (PST) testing on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. Based on satisfactory PST testing results, the first fishery may begin on Friday, August 20, 2021. Subsequent weekly fisheries may occur daily from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Friday through Tuesday. Open fishing periods will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement after the results of PST testing have been determined.

A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit and a vessel registration are required prior to fishing in the Ketchikan or Sitka registration areas. Both the Sitka and Ketchikan areas require a separate registration. Additionally, harvesters are required to contact the department during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at least two business days before the weekly opening, prior to fishing for geoducks in a different registration management area. A “business day” is defined as a day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a state holiday.

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 Max Schoenfeld at P.O. Box 110024, Juneau, AK 99811.

In January of 2003, the Alaska Board of Fisheries gave the ADF&G authority to manage the commercial geoduck fishery based on PST levels [5 AAC 38.142 (a)]. In cooperation with the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fishery Association (SARDFA) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), geoduck areas are tested for PST and certified for live sale. No alternative sampling programs will be allowed concurrent with the inseason sampling protocol.

Fishermen are reminded that a permit holder may not harvest, land, or possess more than 1,000 pounds of whole, unshucked geoducks during any weekly fishing period.

**Guideline Harvest Levels by Area**

Biorka Channel and Legma Island Area (Subdistrict 113-31-003): will be open for a guideline harvest level of 18,900 pounds of whole geoduck clams only in those waters east of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island at 56°51.95' N lat, 135°30.44' W long to a point on the southeast shore of Biorka Island at 56°50.55' N lat, 135°30.97' W long to a point 0.5 nautical mile (nmi) southeast of Jug Island at 56°47.10' N lat, 135°25.60' W long, and south and west of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island at 56°51.95' N lat, 135°30.44' W long to the westernmost tip of Middle Rock at 56°50.90' N lat, 135°27.20' W long to a point approximately midway between Torsar Island and Blackbird Island at 56°50.48' N lat, 135°25.77' W long to a point approximately 0.5 nmi southeast of Jug Island at 56°47.10' N lat, 135°25.60' W long.

Symonds Bay (Subdistrict 113-31-002): will be closed.

Taigud and Kolosh Islands Area (Subdistricts 113-31-004, 113-41-004): will be closed.

Elovoi, Golf, and Gornoi Islands area (Subdistrict 113-31-005): will be closed.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&amp;G</i>	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220