



Advisory Announcement
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2021/22 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK FISHERY

The 2021/22 Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck season begins by regulation on Friday, October 1, 2021, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 521,400 pounds. The first opening is planned for October 6 or 7, depending on paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) test results and will be announced October 4 or 5.

Area Descriptions and Guideline Harvest Levels

District 1

Nakat Bay (Subdistrict 101-11-001): will be open for a GHL of 32,000 pounds of geoduck in those waters of Nakat Bay, Sitklan Passage, Lincoln Channel, and Tongass Passage east of the longitude of Tree Point Light at 130°56.03' W long, south of a line from 54°48.29' N lat, 130°47.40' W long to the northernmost tip of Slim Island at 54°48.29' N lat, 130°46.95' W long to north of High Point at 54°47.79' N lat, 130°44.37' W long to the southwestern entrance of Fillmore Inlet at 54°47.60' N lat, 130°38.19' W long to Point Phipp at 54°46.56' N lat, 130°37.25' W long, and north of the U.S.–Canada border.

Kelp Island (Subdistrict 101-21-001): will be open for a GHL of 134,100 pounds of geoduck in those waters south of the latitude of Duke Point at 54°55.00' N lat and east of 131°22.63' W long, approximately 1.1 nautical miles (nmi) west of Cape Northumberland.

North Kirk Point to Bullhead Cove (Subdistrict 101-23-003): will be open for a GHL of 12,900 pounds of geoduck in those waters along the mainland shore north of the latitude of Kirk Point at 54°59.98' N lat and south of a line from Kah Shakes Point at 55°03.66' N lat, 130°59.43' W long to a point west of Bullhead Cove at 55°03.23' N lat, 131°02.80' W long.

Percy Islands (Subdistrict 101-25-002): will be open for a GHL of 60,400 pounds of geoduck in those waters west of a line from Moss Point at 55°01.21' N lat, 131°33.80' W long to Sealed Passage at 54°55.80' N lat, 131°30.45' W long, north of a line from Sealed Passage at 54°55.80' N lat, 131°30.45' W long to a point offshore in Clarence Strait at 54°54.71' N lat, 131°39.00' W long, and east of 131°39.00' W long, approximately 1.7 nmi east of Point Davison.

Vegas and Hotspur Islands (Subdistrict 101-25-003): will be open for a GHL of 88,800 pounds of geoduck in those waters of Felice Strait west of 131°27.59' W long and east of a line from Point White at 54°55.92' N lat, 131°29.72' W long to Sealed Passage at 54°55.80' N lat, 131°30.45' W long to Moss Point at 55°01.21' N lat, 131°33.80' W long.

Nehenta Bay (Subdistrict 101-29-001): will be open for a GHL of 30,700 pounds of geoduck in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of 55°16.18' N lat and north of 55°11.65' N lat.

Middle Gravina Island (Subdistrict 101-29-002): will be open for a GHL of 40,900 pounds of geoduck in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of 55°19.12' N lat and north of 55°16.18' N lat.

Vallenar Bay (Subdistrict 101-29-004): will be open for a GHF of 23,200 pounds of geoduck in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Vallenar Point at 55°25.57' N lat, and north of the latitude of South Vallenar Point at 55°22.83' N lat.

Southern Gravina Island (Subdistrict 101-29-005): will be open for a GHF of 10,900 pounds of geoduck in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of 55°11.65' N lat and north of the latitude of Dall Head at 55°07.74' N lat.

District 3

Kaigani Strait (Subdistrict 103-30-001): will be open for a GHF of 30,300 pounds of geoduck in those waters of Kaigani Strait south of a line from Luke Point at 54°55.76' N lat, 132°53.75' W long to the northwest shore of Long Island at 54°55.49' N lat, 132°48.87' W long and north of a line from the southernmost tip of Long Island at 54°45.06' N lat, 132°38.20' W long to the easternmost tip of Cape Muzon at 54°40.50' N lat, 132°40.42' W long.

Tlevak Strait (Subdistricts 103-40-009, 103-50-009): will be open for a GHF of 34,200 pounds of geoduck in those waters of Tlevak Strait north of a line from Reef Point at 55°03.66' N lat, 132°58.37' W long to a point north of Kellogg Point at 55°08.12' N lat, 132°52.94' W long and west of a line from a point on Sukkwan Island at 55°09.23' N lat, 132°53.85' W long to a point southeast of Halibut Nose at 55°12.22' N lat, 133°00.80' W long to Natalia Point at 55°13.97' N lat, 133°02.74' W long to a point on Prince of Wales Island at 55°16.46' N lat, 133°04.74' W long and in those waters of Meares Passage and Ulloa Channel north of a line from Eagle Point at 55°16.46' N lat, 133°04.74' W long to a point west of Eagle Point at 55°14.68' N lat, 133°14.47' W long and east of a line from a point southeast of Point San Antonio at 55°16.84' N lat, 133°13.00' W long to the easternmost tip of Suemez Island at 55°16.51' N lat, 133°13.16' W long then south along the eastern shoreline of Suemez Island to a point west of Eagle Point at 55°14.68' N lat, 133°14.47' W long, with the following restriction:

View Cove: will be closed west of the longitude of Reef Point at 132°58.37' W long.

Bucareli Bay and contiguous waters (Subdistrict 103-50-003): will be open for a GHF of 7,600 pounds of geoduck in those waters west of a line from Point Cuerbo at 55°28.50' N lat, 133°19.00' W long to Point Eugenia at 55°26.70' N lat, 133°17.80' W long to the southernmost tip of Point Miliflores at 55°24.41' N lat, 133°15.24' W long to Tranquil Point at 55°22.98' N lat, 133°13.46' W long, north of a line from a point on Suemez Island at 55°20.66' N lat, 133°19.73' W long to the northernmost tip of Cape Flores at 55°21.20' N lat, 133°17.53' W long to the southernmost tip of Joe Island at 55°20.90' N lat, 133°17.00' W long then due east to a point on Prince of Wales Island at 55°21.20' N lat, 133°16.70' W long, and north and east of a line from the westernmost tip of Point Arboleda at 55°19.10' N lat, 133°27.76' W long to the southernmost tip of Point San Roque at 55°20.13' N lat, 133°32.63' W long, and south and east of a line from a point on the eastern shore of Baker Island at 55°22.83' N lat, 133°27.57' W long to the southern tip of Ignace Island at 55°22.83' N lat, 133°25.96' W long to Point Amargura at 55°27.04' N lat, 133°21.66' W long, with the following restriction:

Port San Antonio: will be closed in those waters of Port San Antonio north and west of a line from Point San Roque at 55°20.13' N lat, 133°32.70' W long to a point at 55°19.66' N lat, 133°34.33' W long.

Little Steamboat Bay (Subdistrict 103-70-002): will be open for a GHF of 15,400 pounds of geoduck in those waters along the northern shoreline of Noyes Island east of 133°41.33' W long and west of 133°39.04' W long.

Fishery Closure

Portillo Channel (Subdistrict 103-50-008), which would normally fall on this rotation, will be closed. The department surveyed this area in 2021 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

The Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck fishery begins by regulation on Friday, October 1, 2021. Fishing areas will be opened based on PSP test results. Weekly PSP results are expected Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings. If sampling is delayed, the fishing period may also be delayed up to one day. Fishing periods will be announced by ADF&G and are based on the recommendation of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association. Fishing periods are expected to be between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will generally occur on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The geoduck fishery will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Friday, November 19, through Wednesday, December 1, 2021, and for Christmas and New Year's holiday from Friday, December 17, 2021, through Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

Other Restrictions and Information

A valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit is required prior to commercial harvest of geoducks and a separate registration is required for the Ketchikan and Sitka management areas. Harvesters are required to contact ADF&G at least 48 hours prior to fishing in a new registration area.

The use of dive gear 14 days prior to a commercial fishery, 14 days after participating in a commercial opening, and between weekly open periods for miscellaneous shellfish is prohibited. A person who uses dive gear to fish in a commercial red sea urchin fishery, commercial sea cucumber fishery, or mariculture site may fish in the geoduck fishery within the 14-day period (5 AAC 38.147). Only one species of miscellaneous shellfish is permitted to be on board a vessel at one time.

For the 2021/22 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 99811-0024.

All fishermen and processors should consult a current Commercial Shellfish Fishing Regulations Book for complete regulations. These books are available at local Fish and Game offices.

There is an overage-underage policy in place for the commercial geoduck fishery designed to maintain the geoduck average harvest rate at 2% of the estimated biomass, consistent with 5 AAC 38.142(g). Harvest from the 2021/22 season that is over or under the specified GHF will be subtracted or added, respectively, to the GHF for the next fishery rotation for each area until such time as the GHF is revised based on a new survey of the area.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1M3821.

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/>.

Fishery Contacts

For information on management of the geoduck fishery contact:

Ketchikan

Districts 1–4

Phone: 225-5195

Contacts: Whitney Crittenden, Bo Meredith, or Justin Breese

For information on surveys, biomass estimates, and corresponding GHFs contact:

Juneau

Phone: 465-4250

Contacts: Quinn Smith or Kyle Hebert

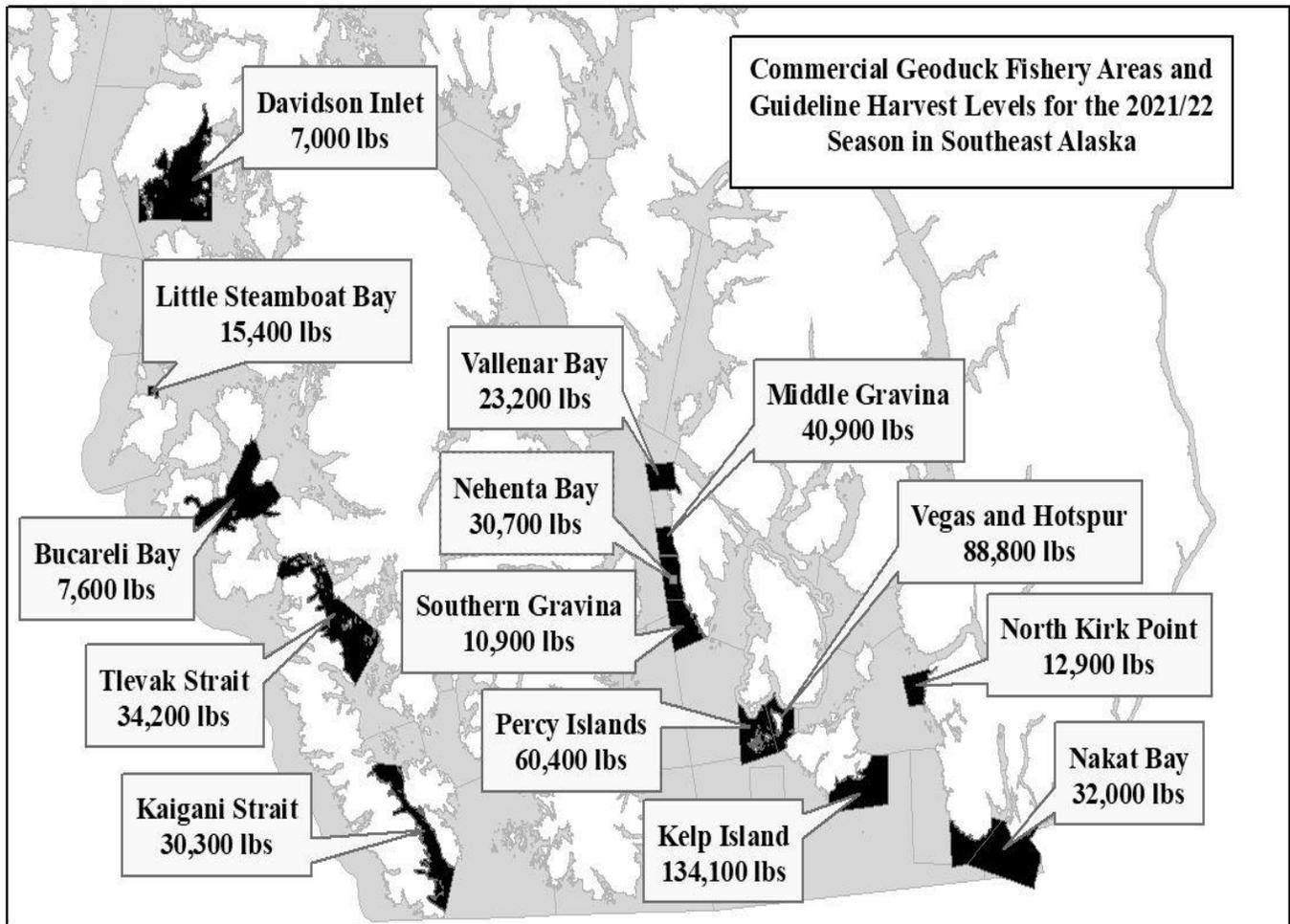


Figure 1. Commercial geoduck open harvest areas and guideline harvest levels for the 2021/22 season. *Note: This chart is for general reference purposes only and does not identify boundaries of open areas. See written descriptions above for detailed description of open areas.*

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

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