



Advisory Announcement

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CONTACT: Justin Breese

Ketchikan Assistant Area Management Biologist

justin.breese@alaska.gov

(907) 225-5195

2024/25 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK FISHERY

This announcement adds the Kelp Island area to this season's fishing areas. The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association requested that Kelp Island (Subdistrict 101-21-001) be moved from the odd year fishery rotation to the even year fishery rotation beginning this season.

The 2024/25 Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck season begins by regulation on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 323,400 pounds. The first opening is planned for October 2 depending on paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) test results.

Guideline Harvest Levels by Area

District 1

Kelp Island (Subdistrict 101-21-001): will be open for a GHL of 72,700 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 west of Cape Northumberland.

Foggy Bay (Subdistrict 101-23-001): will open for a GHL of 17,200 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Foggy Bay along the mainland and the Delong Islands shorelines, south of the latitude of Kirk Point at 55°00.00' N lat and north of the latitude of Foggy Point Light at 54°55.44' N lat.

Slate Island (Subdistrict 101-23-004): will open for a GHL of 17,000 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 49,200 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.

District 3

Ulitka Bay (Subdistrict 103-70-001): will open for a GHL 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.

Blanquial Islands (Subdistrict 103-70-005): will open for a GHL of 13,100 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 Blanquial Point at 55°37.35' N lat, and east of a line from the southwesternmost tip of Blanquial 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 GHL of 102,900 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, 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 GHL of 14,000 pounds of whole geoduck 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 and 5

Warren Island and Kosciusko Island (Subdistricts 103-90-005, 105-41-005, 105-43-005, 105-50-005): will open for a GHL of 13,600 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 14,300 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 Suez 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.

District 13

Biorka Channel and Legma Island Area (Subdistrict 113-31-003): will be open for a GHL of 11,500 pounds of whole geoduck 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 miles (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.

Area Closures:

Cone Island North (Subdistricts 103-50-005, 104-40-005) and Cone Island South and Paloma Pass (Subdistricts 103-50-006, 104-35-006) which would normally fall on this rotation, will be closed. The department surveyed these areas in 2023, and their biomass has fallen below 30% of the original biomass estimate. Under 5 AAC 38.142(h) these areas 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 these areas.

Inseason Management Plan

In the Ketchikan management area, based on the recommendation of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association, weekly harvest periods will generally occur between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday. ADF&G fishery advisory announcements will be after weekly PSP results, which 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 2024/2025 season will be delayed until the summer of 2025. The Sitka fishery openings will be announced before that time.

A valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit and 2024/2025 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 22, through Wednesday, December 4, 2024, and for Christmas and New Year's holidays from Friday, December 20, 2024, through Wednesday, January 15, 2025. State agencies will be closed on the following State holidays: October 18 (Alaska Day), November 11 (Veteran's Day), November 28 (Thanksgiving Day), December 25 (Christmas Day), January 1 (New Year's Day), January 20 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), February 17 (President's Day), March 31 (Seward's Day), May 26 (Memorial Day), June 19 (Juneteenth Day), July 4 (Independence Day), and September 1 (Labor 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 2024/25 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.

For the 2024/25 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.

Inorganic arsenic testing continues for the Saint Nicholas Channel, North Lulu Island and Northwest Dall Island areas. All other areas passed inorganic arsenic testing and therefore may be sold to mainland China this season. Please contact the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association for more information.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1M2324.

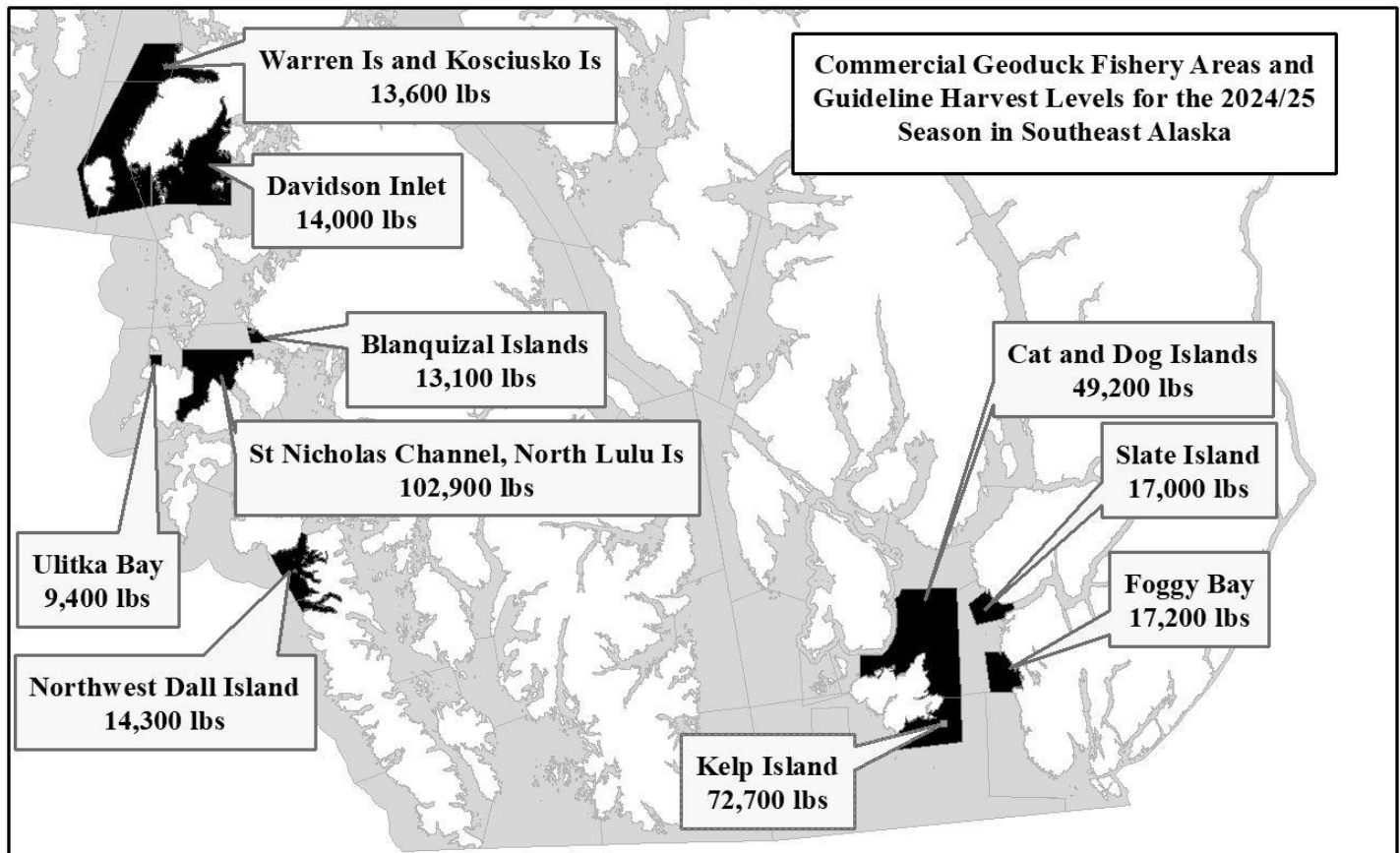


Figure 1. Commercial geoduck fishery areas for the Ketchikan Management Area with guideline harvest levels for the 2024/25 season.

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 website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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