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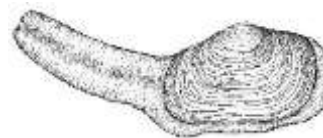
# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
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#### **2014/15 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK CLAM FISHERY**

Juneau . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information concerning the 2014/15 commercial geoduck clam season in Southeast Alaska:

The Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck clam fishery will begin Thursday, October 2, 2014 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 750,600 pounds. Fishing areas will be opened based on paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) test results. 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. Fishing periods will be announced by ADF&G news release and are expected to be between 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each fishing day.

In the Ketchikan management area, based on the recommendation of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fishery Association, weekly harvest periods will be restricted to a total of six hours, with the exception of the Palisades fishery area which will be restricted to three hours. ADF&G has the authority to change the weekly fishing hours to more effectively manage the fishery based on the remaining GHL for an area. On Friday, October 17, the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association will meet to make fishery recommendations for the remainder of the season.

In the Sitka management area, fishing for the 2014/2015 season will begin in September 2015 and is expected to be two days a week until the GHL is reached. The fishing schedule and GHLs for the Sitka fishery areas (District 13) will be announced prior to the fishery with underage and overage policy adjustments.

A valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit is required prior to commercial harvest of geoduck clams 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 geoduck clam fishery will be closed for the week of the Thanksgiving holiday from Friday, November 21, through Wednesday, December 3, 2014, and the Christmas and New Year's Day holiday from Friday, December 19, through Wednesday, January 7, 2015. State agencies will be closed on the following State holidays so PSP results will not be available until the following day: November 11 (Veteran's Day), January 19 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), February 16 (President's Day), March 30 (Seward's Day), and May 25 (Memorial Day).

The department will continue to implement the overage-underage policy designed to maintain the geoduck average harvest rate at 2% of the estimated biomass, as required by 5 AAC 38.142(g). Harvest from the 2014/15 season that is over or under the specified GHl for each fishery area will be rounded to the nearest 100 pounds. The resulting overage or underage 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.

The mandatory logbook program for geoduck clams (5 AAC 38.142(m)) will continue for the 2014/15 season. This requires that logbooks be filled out before departing the harvest site and returned to ADF&G within 7 days of delivery. This data provides biologists with information on new and existing geoduck clam beds. Logbooks are available at local ADF&G offices. All logbook information will remain confidential. Logbooks should be turned in with fish tickets or mailed directly to the Petersburg ADF&G office C/O Jeff Meucci at P.O. 667, Petersburg, AK 99833.

Harvesters are reminded that there are areas closed to the commercial harvest of geoduck clams described in 5 AAC 38.142(l) for Districts 1, 3, and 13.

#### Guideline Harvest Levels by Area:

Foggy Bay (Subdistrict 101-23-001): will be open for a GHl of 45,700 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Foggy Bay along the mainland shore and the Delong Islands shore, south of the latitude of Kirk Point located at 55°00.00' N. latitude and north of the latitude of Foggy Point light at 54°55.53' N. latitude.

Cat and Dog Islands (Subdistricts 101-23-005, 101-41-005): will be open for a GHl of 47,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Felice Strait and Revillagigedo Channel north of the latitude of Duke Point on Duke Island at 54°55.15' N. latitude, west of the longitude in Revillagigedo Channel at 131°08.38' W. longitude, south of 55°07.21' N. latitude, and east of 131°27.70' W. longitude (located on the northwest side of Duke Island).

Vegas and Hotspur Islands (Subdistrict 101-25-003): will be open for a GHl of 76,400 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters west of a line from a point on the northwest side of Duke Island at 54°57.72' N. latitude, 131°27.42' W. longitude, to a point on the northeast tip of a Vegas Island at 54°58.18' N. latitude, 131°27.64' W. longitude, to a point approximately 0.2 nautical mile southeast of the Ajax Reef Light at 54°59.98' N. latitude, 131°27.53' W. longitude and east of a line from Point White to a point in Sealed Passage at 54°55.80' N. latitude, 131°30.45' W. longitude to Moss Point on Annette Island.

#### Districts 2 & 3:

Lower Cordova Bay (Subdistricts 102-10, 103-11, 103-21): will be open for a GHl of 22,200 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Districts 2 and 3 west of 132°01.00' W. longitude and south of a line from easternmost tip of Cape Muzon at 54°40.20' N. latitude, 132°40.28' W. longitude, to the southernmost tip of Long Island at 54°45.06' N. latitude, 132°38.15' W. longitude, then north along the eastern shoreline of Long Island to 54°53.66' N. latitude, 132°37.91' W. longitude to a point on the western shore of Prince of Wales Island at 54°55.43' N. latitude, 132°31.58' W. longitude, then south along the shoreline of Prince of Wales Island to 54°54.40' N. latitude, 132°24.77' W. longitude to the southernmost tip of Klakas Island at 54°53.15' N. latitude, 132°24.54' W. longitude, to a point on the Prince of Wales shoreline at 54°49.68' N. latitude, 132°20.50' W. longitude then south along the shoreline of Prince of Wales Island to Cape Chacon.

#### District 3:

East San Fernando Island (Subdistrict 103-60-001): will be open for a GHl of 35,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of San Alberto Bay along the eastern shore of San Fernando Island,

south and east of a line from Point Polocano to Point Ildefonso, north of the latitude of Point Cuerdo, and west of the longitude of Fern Reef Light at 133°15.87' W. longitude.

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

Steamboat Bay (Subdistrict 103-70-003): will be open for a GHL of 11,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters in Steamboat Bay along the northern shore of Noyes Island south of a line from Steamboat Point at 55°33.10' N. latitude, 133°39.04' W. longitude, to a point approximately 0.3 nautical mile north of Point Incarnation in Arriaga Passage at 55°33.54' N. latitude, 133°37.30' W. longitude, to a point on the Noyes Island shore near Point Incarnation at 55°33.11' N. latitude, 133°37.29' W. longitude.

Blanquizar Islands (Subdistrict 103-70-005): will be open for a GHL of 45,200 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of San Christoval Channel north of 55°35.80' N. latitude, south of the westernmost tip of Blanquizar Point located at 55°37.35' N. latitude, and east of a line from the southwesternmost tip of Blanquizar Island at 55°38.00' N. latitude, 133°25.00' W. longitude to the northernmost tip of Point San Pasqual.

Palisades Islands (Subdistrict 103-70-006): will be open for a GHL of 122,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of San Christoval Channel south of 55°35.80' N. latitude, north of a line from a point on Prince of Wales Island at 55°34.69' N. latitude, 133°15.39' W. longitude to Point Polocano on San Fernando Island at 55°32.33' N. latitude, 133°17.33' W. longitude, and east of a line from the southwesternmost tip of Blanquizar Island at 55°38.00' N. latitude, 133°25.00' W. longitude to the northernmost tip of Point San Pasqual.

St. Nicholas Channel, North Lulu Island (Subdistrict 103-70-007): will be open for a GHL of 107,800 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of St. Nicholas Channel and Portillo Channel north of a line from the westernmost tip of Point St. Isidor on western Lulu Island to a point on Noyes Island at 55°27.27' N. latitude, 133°38.68' W. longitude, east of a line from a point on Noyes Island at 55°33.10' N. latitude, 133°37.27' W. longitude, to the southernmost tip of western San Lorenzo Island south of the latitude 55°35.00' N. latitude, west of a line from a point in the Gulf of Esquibel located at 55°37.35' N. latitude, 133°24.70' W. longitude to Point San Pasqual, and north of a line from a point on Lulu Island at 55°30.80' N. latitude, 133°29.00' W. longitude, to a point on San Fernando Island at 55°31.52' N. latitude, 133°26.90' W. longitude in Portillo Channel.

Port Alice/Cone Bay (Subdistrict 103-90-002): will be open for a GHL of 9,100 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Sea Otter Sound east and south of a line from the Cape Lynch Light, to the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island, south of a line from the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island, to the northernmost tip of Turn Point, and east of 133°27.73' W. longitude.

#### Districts 3 & 4:

Cone Island North (Subdistricts 103-50-005, 104-40-005): will be open for a GHL of 68,200 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of St. Nicholas Channel, Cone Island, and the eastern shore of Baker Island south of a line from the westernmost tip of Point St. Isidor on western Lulu Island to a point on Noyes Island at 55°27.27' N. latitude, 133°38.68' W. longitude, east of a line extending from the southernmost tip of St. Nicholas Point to the western most tip of Cone Island, and north and west of a line from the eastern most shore of Cone Island to a point on Lulu Island at 55°26.93' N. latitude, 133°36.42' W. longitude.

Cone Island South and Paloma Pass (Subdistricts 103-50-006, 104-35-006): will be open for a GHL of 55,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters north and east of a line extending from Siketi Point to a point on Baker Island located at 55°24.11' N. latitude, 133°36.70' W. longitude, north and

west of a line through Paloma Passage at the latitude of the southernmost tip of Pigeon Island located at 55°25.83' N. latitude, and south of a line from the easternmost shore of Cone Island to a point on Lulu Island at 55°26.93' N. latitude, 133°36.42' W. longitude.

Districts 3 & 5:

Warren Island and Kosciusko Island (Subdistricts 103-90-005, 105-41,43,50-005): will be open for a GHL of 15,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Warren Channel and Sumner Strait north of a line from the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island to Alice Rocks at 55°49.46' N. latitude, 133°55.63' W. longitude, east of a line from Alice Rocks to Berluse Rocks at 55°54.97' N. latitude, 133°57.74' W. longitude to 56°08.66' N. latitude, 133°44.58' W. longitude, south of 56°13.26' N. latitude and east a line from 55°08.66' N. latitude, 133°37.30' W. longitude, then south along the western shore of Kosciusko Island to the southernmost tip of Kosciusko Island at 55°53.96' N. latitude, 133°43.37' W. longitude then due south to 55°49.00' N. latitude, 133°43.37' W. longitude, 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. latitude, 133°42.07' W. longitude to 56°02.87' N. latitude, 133°42.30' W. longitude.

District 4:

Port Santa Cruz (Subdistrict 104-30-002): will be open for a GHL of 61,800 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters north of a line from Cape Felix on Suemez Island to Cape Bartolome Light on Baker Island, and south of a line from Point San Roque on Baker Island to Point Arboleda on Suemez Island.

Northwest Dall Island (Subdistricts 104-20-003, 104-30-003): will be open for a GHL of 18,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Meares Passage, Sea Otter Harbor, Divers Bay, and Bobs Bay, south and west of a line from Eagle Point on Dall Island to a point on Suemez Island at 55°14.68' N. latitude, 133°14.45' W. longitude, and north and east of a line from Lontana Point on Suemez Island to Cape Lookout on Dall Island.

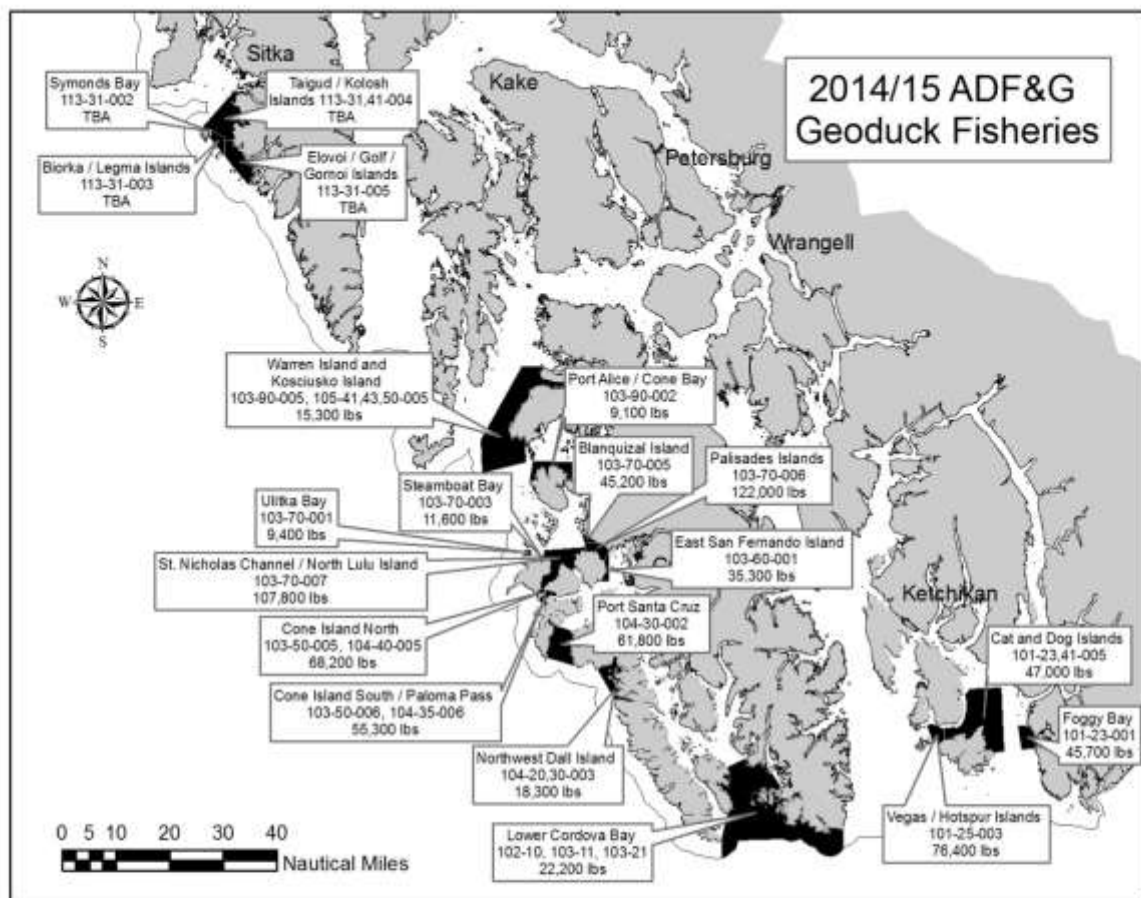


Figure 1. Commercial geoduck open fishery areas and guideline harvest levels for the 2014-15 season.

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.

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

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