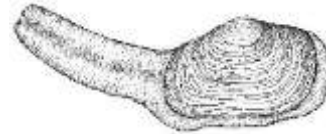

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Ketchikan Area Office
2030 Sea Level Drive #205
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Date: September 13, 2018
Time: 4:00 p.m.

2018/19 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK FISHERY

Ketchikan . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information concerning the 2018/19 commercial geoduck season in Southeast Alaska.

The Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck season begins by regulation on Monday, October 1, 2018, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 702,100 pounds. The first opening is planned for October 3 or 4 depending on paralytic shellfish poison test results.

Guideline Harvest Levels by Area:

District 1:

Foggy Bay (Subdistrict 101-23-001): will be open for a GHL of 41,100 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Foggy Bay along the mainland shore and the DeLong Islands shore, south of Kirk Point located at 55°00.00' N. latitude and north 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 45,900 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Felice Strait and Revillagigedo Channel north of Duke Point on Duke Island at 54°55.15' N. latitude, west of 131°08.38' W. longitude in Revillagigedo Channel, south of 55°07.21' N. latitude, and east of 131°27.70' W. longitude (located on the northwest side of Duke Island).

Middle Gravina Island (Subdistrict 101-29-002): will be open for a GHL of 51,900 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of 55°19.12' N. latitude and north of 55°16.18' N. latitude.

Districts 2 & 3:

Lower Cordova Bay (Subdistricts 102-10, 103-11, 103-21): will be open for a GHL of 18,800 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Districts 2 and 3 west of 132°01.00' W. longitude and south of a line from the 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 Island 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 GHF of 29,500 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 to Point Ildefonso, north of Point Cuerdo, and west of Fern Reef Light at 133°15.87' W. longitude.

Ulitka Bay (Subdistrict 103-70-001): will be open for a GHF of 11,500 pounds of whole geoduck 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.

Blanquial Islands (Subdistrict 103-70-005): will be open for a GHF of 47,600 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of San Christoval Channel north of 55°35.80' N. latitude, south of the westernmost tip of Blanquial Point located at 55°37.35' N. latitude, and east of a line from the southwesternmost tip of Blanquial 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 GHF of 129,200 pounds of whole geoduck 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 Blanquial Island at 55°38.00' N. latitude, 133°25.00' W. longitude to Point San Pasqual at 55°34.13' N. latitude, 133°23.30' W. longitude.

Saint Nicholas Channel, North Lulu Island (Subdistrict 103-70-007): will be open for a GHF of 103,300 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Saint Nicholas Channel and Portillo Channel north of a line from a point on Noyes Island at 55°27.24' N. latitude, 133°38.51' W. longitude, to Point Saint Isidor at 55°27.05' N. latitude, 133°37.25' W. longitude, to Point Delgada at 55°30.92' N. latitude, 133°28.78' W. longitude, to a point on San Fernando Island at 55°31.52' N. latitude, 133°26.90' W. longitude to Point San Pasqual at 55°34.13' N. latitude, 133°23.30' W. longitude, and the waters of the Gulf of Esquibel east of a line from Point Incarnation at 55°33.10' N. latitude, 133°37.27' W. longitude, to the southernmost tip of West San Lorenzo Island at 55°35.05' N. latitude, 133°37.35' W. longitude, south of 55°35.05' N. latitude, and west of a line from 55°35.05' N. latitude, 133°23.60' W. longitude to Point San Pasqual at 55°34.13' N. latitude, 133°23.30' W. longitude.

Port Alice/Cone Bay (Subdistrict 103-90-002): will be open for a GHF of 10,000 pounds of whole geoduck 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 GHF of 110,200 pounds (67,300 pounds from the 2018/19 season and 42,900 pounds from the 2017/18 season) 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. latitude, 133°37.25' W. longitude to a point on Noyes Island at 55°27.24' N. latitude, 133°38.51' W. longitude, east of a line from the southernmost tip of Saint Nicholas Point to the western most tip of Cone Island, and north and west 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.

Cone Island South and Paloma Pass (Subdistricts 103-50-006, 104-35-006): will be open for a GHL of 53,200 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters north and east of a line extending from Siket 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 29,700 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 to Alice Rocks at 55°49.46' N. latitude, 133°55.63' W. longitude, east of a line from Alice Rocks to Borlase 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°08.66' N. latitude and west of the shoreline of Kosciusko Island from 56°08.66' N. latitude, 133°37.30' W. longitude 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:

Northwest Dall Island (Subdistricts 104-20-003, 104-30-003): will be open for a GHL of 20,200 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 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.

New Regulations

At the February 2018 Board of Fisheries meeting in Sitka, a 1,000-pound weekly harvest limit was established for the commercial geoduck fishery. A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) geoduck permit holder may not harvest, possess, or land more than 1,000 pounds of whole geoduck each week during the 2018/19 season.

The Board of Fisheries also established a limitation on divers landing from a vessel. No more than two CFEC geoduck permit holders may conduct fishing operations from, or deliver geoducks from, a vessel that is licensed and registered to commercially fish for geoducks. Also, from 24 hours before, during, and for 24 hours after a fishing period, or when commercially harvested geoducks are on board the vessel, no more than three CFEC geoduck permit holders may be on board a vessel that is registered to commercially fish for geoducks.

In-Season Management Plan

In the Ketchikan management area, based on the recommendation of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association, weekly harvest periods will occur between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday for most areas.

In the Sitka management area (District 13), GHLS and fishery openings for the 2018/2019 season will be announced in a subsequent news release. It is expected that the 2018/2019 season will be delayed until September 2019.

A valid CFEC geoduck permit and a separate registration for the Ketchikan or Sitka management areas are required prior to commercial harvest of geoduck. Harvesters are required to contact ADF&G at least

48 hours prior to fishing in a new management area. All crew members are required to have a valid Commercial Crewmembers License or a limited entry card from another fishery.

The geoduck fishery will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Friday, November 16, through Tuesday, November 27, 2018, and for the Christmas and New Year's holiday from Friday, December 14, 2018, through Tuesday, January 8, 2019. A decision regarding whether to fish during the Chinese New Year (the week of February 5) will be made by ADF&G and the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association after January 1, 2019. State agencies will be closed on the following State holidays: November 12 (Veteran's Day), January 1 (New Year's Day), January 21 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), February 18 (President's Day), March 25 (Seward's Day), and May 27 (Memorial Day).

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, as required by 5 AAC 38.142(g). Harvest from the 2018/19 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 (5 AAC 38.142(m)) will continue for the 2018/19 season. This requires that logbooks be filled out before departing the harvest site and returned to ADF&G within 7 days of landing. Logbooks are available at local ADF&G offices and can be turned in with fish tickets, turned in at a local ADF&G office, or mailed directly to the Petersburg ADF&G office, C/O Jeff Meucci at P.O. Box 667, Petersburg, AK 99833.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1M2818.

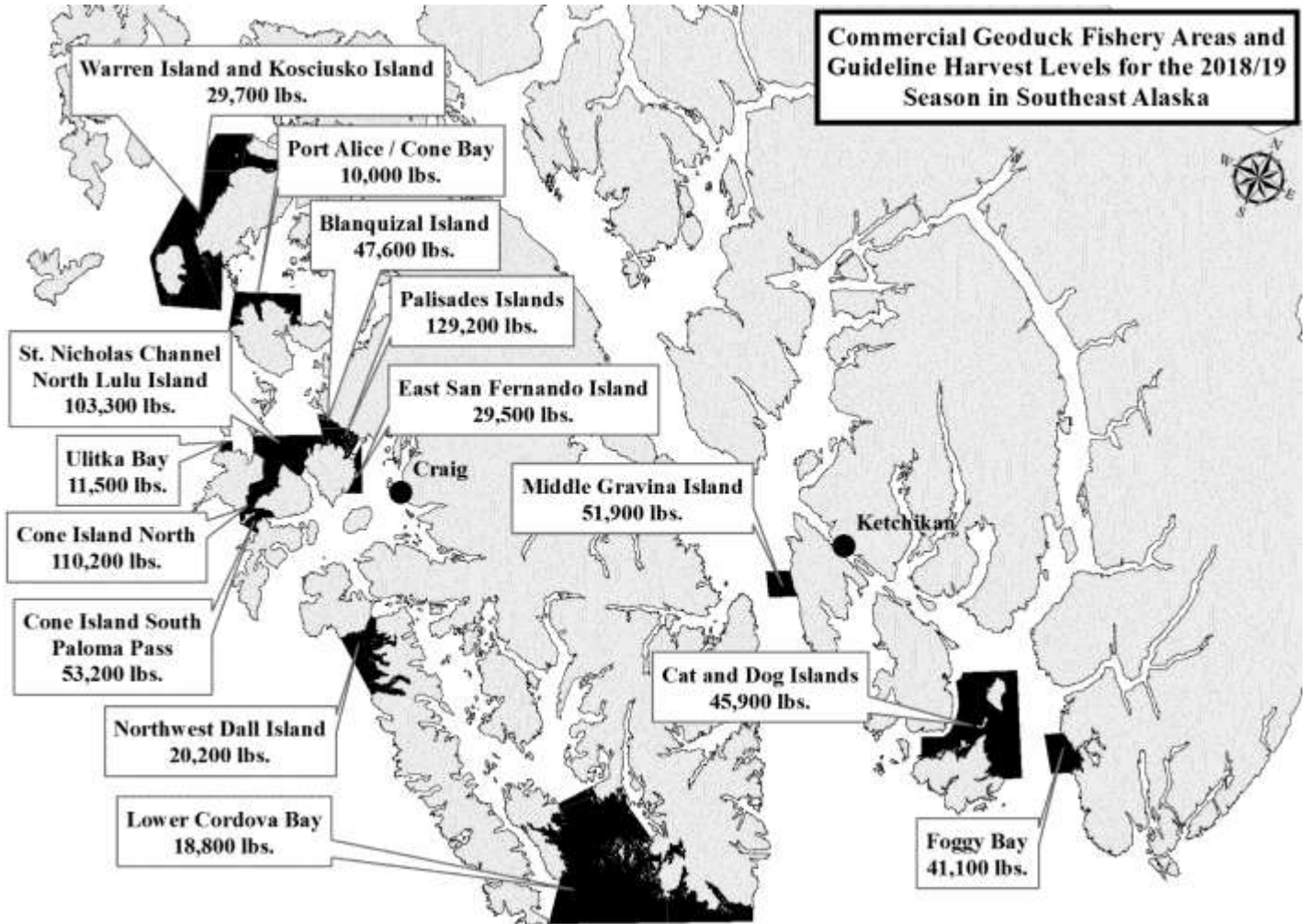


Figure 1. Commercial geoduck open fishery areas and guideline harvest levels for the 2018/19 season.

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>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220