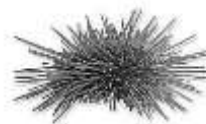

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:
Bo Meredith

Phone: (907) 225-5195
Fax: (907) 225-3756

Ketchikan Area Office
2030 Sea Level Drive #205
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Date: September 17, 2018
Time: 12:00 p.m.

2018/19 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL RED SEA URCHIN FISHERY

Ketchikan.... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced that the 2018/19 commercial red sea urchin fishery will open at 5:00 a.m., Monday, October 1, 2018. The season will be open for daily fishing periods from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., seven days per week. A total of 3,453,700 pounds of red sea urchins will be available for harvest this season.

The following areas will be open by emergency order effective 5:00 a.m., Monday, October 1, 2018:

District 1:

Dixon Entrance and Portland Canal - Subdistrict 101-11: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 383,200 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of Dixon Entrance and Portland Canal east and south of a line extending 3 nautical miles from the Foggy Point Light that intersects a line from Foggy Point Light to Duke Point, and then south to intersect a line between Barren Island Light and Lord Rock Light, then to Lord Rock Light, and then to the southern boundary of District 1, and west of a line from 54°54.23' N. latitude, 130°22.75' W. longitude, approximately 3 nautical miles south of Hidden Inlet, to 54°53.88' N. latitude, 130°21.78' W. longitude on Pearse Island, and north of the U.S./Canada border with the following restriction:

Portland Canal: will be closed east of a line from the northernmost tip of Phipp Point to 54°47.58' N. latitude, 130°38.10' W. longitude at the entrance to Willard and Fillmore Inlets.

Revillagigedo Channel and Southern Clarence Strait - Subdistrict 101-21: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 1,082,600 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of Clarence Strait south of Point White on the northwestern part of Duke Island at 54°56.00' N. latitude, 131°29.70' W. longitude, and south and west of a line from Duke Point at 54°55.08' N. latitude, 131°11.61' W. longitude, to a point 3 nautical miles off Foggy Bay Light that intersects a line between Duke Point and Foggy Bay Light, and then south to intersect a line between Barren Island Light and Lord Rock Light, then to Lord Rock Light, and then to the southern boundary of District 1. Note: Bee Rocks (Subdistrict 101-22) is not included in this area.

Bee Rocks - Subdistrict 101-22: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 290,700 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of Clarence Strait east of 131°37.00' W. longitude, south of 54°54.42' N. latitude, west of 131°30.00' W. longitude, and north of 54°50.00' N. latitude.

Revillagigedo Channel and Felice Strait - Subdistrict 101-23: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 195,000 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of Revillagigedo Channel west of a line from Quadra Point at 55°05.17' N. latitude, 130°59.05' W. longitude, to Kah Shakes Point at 55°04.22' N. latitude, 130°58.72' W. longitude, and south of a line from Mary Island Light to the northernmost tip of Black Island at 55°08.00' N. latitude, 131°04.80' W. longitude, then due east to the mainland shore and south of a line from 55°05.95' N. latitude, 131°13.00' W. longitude, on the northwestern side of Mary Island, to 55°06.78' N. latitude, 131°21.50' W. longitude, on the eastern shore of Annette Island, and north of a line from Duke Point at 54°55.08' N. latitude, 131°11.62' W. longitude, to Foggy Point Light, and east of 131°26.60' W. longitude, on the northwest side of Duke Island.

Percy Islands and southern Gravina Island - Subdistrict 101-25: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 322,500 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of Clarence Strait in District 1, south of the southernmost tip of Dall Head on the southern tip of Gravina Island, and south of a line from the southernmost tip of Dall Head to Cedar Point on Annette Island, north of the southernmost tip of Point White on the western side of Duke Island at 54°56.00' N. latitude, 131°29.30' W. longitude, and west of 131°26.60' W. longitude on the northwest side of Duke Island.

West Shore of Gravina Island - Subdistrict 101-29: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 727,700 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of Clarence Strait in District 1 south and west of a line from Caamano Point at 55°29.90' N. latitude, 131°58.13' W. longitude, to Point Higgins at 55°27.43' N. latitude, 131°50.00' W. longitude, to the northernmost tip of Vallenar Point at 55°25.60' N. latitude, 131°51.00' W. longitude, and north of the southernmost tip of Dall Head.

East Behm Canal – Subdistricts 101-41 and 53: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 57,800 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of Revillagigedo Channel and East Behm Canal south and east of a line from the northernmost tip of Cone Point at 55°14.91' N. latitude, 131°19.04' W. longitude, to the southwest point of the entrance of Moth Bay at 55°15.70' N. latitude, 131°20.47' W. longitude, to the northernmost tip of Harbor Point at 55°13.05' N. latitude, 131°25.07' W. longitude, on the eastern shore of Annette Island; north of a line from 55°06.78' N. latitude, 131°20.33' W. longitude, on the eastern side of Annette Island, to 55°05.95' N. latitude, 131°13.00' W. longitude, on the western side of Mary Island, and from Mary Island light to the northernmost tip of Black Island at 55°08.00' N. latitude, 131°04.80' W. longitude, then due east to the mainland shore at 55°08.00' N. latitude, 131°04.59' W. longitude; and all waters of East Behm Canal south of a line from the northernmost tip of Roe Point at 55°14.47' N. latitude, 131°00.26' W. longitude, to the easternmost tip of Fox Point at 55°15.65' N. latitude, 131°03.88' W. longitude.

West Behm Canal - Subdistricts 101-85 and 90: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 16,300 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of West Behm Canal from Caamano Point at 55°29.83' N. latitude, 131°58.13' W. longitude, along the southeastern shore of the Cleveland Peninsula to 55°35.47' N. latitude, 131°56.16' W. longitude, on the mainland shore at the southern end of Helm Bay, to the northernmost tip of Betton Island at 55°32.58' N. latitude, 131°47.65' W. longitude, to the southernmost tip of Betton Island at 55°29.11' N. latitude, 131°49.63' W. longitude, to 55°28.46' N. latitude, 131°49.04' W. longitude, on Revilligigedo Island, along the western shore of Revilligigedo Island to Point Higgins at 55°27.43' N. latitude, 131°49.83' W. longitude.

District 2:

Lower Clarence Strait - Subdistrict 102-20: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 34,600 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of Lower Clarence Strait adjacent to the eastern shore of Prince of Wales Island north of 54°54.27' N. latitude, at the northern entrance to Kendrick Bay and south of 55°08.25' N. latitude, including all waters of Moira Sound east of a line from 55°05.08' N. latitude, 132°02.50' W. longitude, 2 nautical miles east of Point Halliday to 55°02.05' N. latitude, 132°02.03' W. longitude, west of Menefee Anchorage.

Clarence Strait - Subdistrict 102-50: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 260,900 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters adjacent to the eastern shore of Prince of Wales Island, south of a line from 55°28.35' N. latitude, 132°08.83' W. longitude, on the northeast side of Kasaan Peninsula inside of Streets Island, to Caamano Point at 55°29.90' N. latitude, 131°58.13' W. longitude, north of 55°08.25' N. latitude, and east of a line from 55°27.93' N. latitude, 132°11.92' W. longitude, on the southwest side of Kasaan Peninsula, to 55°25.00' N. latitude, 132°15.50' W. longitude, near Skowl Point, and north and east of a line from 55°15.23' N. latitude, 132°06.82' W. longitude, at the northeastern mouth of Cholmondeley Sound to 55°14.73' N. latitude, 132°04.50' W. longitude, 3 nautical miles southwest of Chasina Point in the entrance to Cholmondeley Sound.

Clarence Strait - Subdistrict 102-70: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 82,400 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of Clarence Strait adjacent to the eastern shore of Kasaan Peninsula north of a line from 55°28.35' N. latitude, 132°08.83' W. longitude, inside Streets Island, to Caamano Point at 55°29.90' N. latitude, 131°58.13' W. longitude, and south of a line from Narrow Point at 55°47.50' N. latitude, 132°28.58' W. longitude, to the northernmost tip of Lemesurier Point at 55°46.06' N. latitude, 132°16.91' W. longitude.

Clarence Strait - Subdistrict 102-80: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 76,100 pounds of red sea urchins in those waters of Clarence Strait adjacent to the western shore of Cleveland Peninsula north of a line from the southernmost tip of Caamano Point at 55°29.83' N. latitude, 131°58.13' W. longitude, to 55°28.40' N. latitude, 132°08.75' W. longitude, inside of Streets Island, and south of a line from the northern tip of Lemesurier Point at 55°45.92' N. latitude to Narrow Point at 55°47.50' N. latitude, 132°28.58' W. longitude.

Other Restrictions and Information

All vessels used in this fishery must have a valid **2018** vessel license obtained from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) and a Miscellaneous Shellfish vessel registration form issued by ADF&G. Vessel registrations can be obtained at any ADF&G office. All crew members are required to have a valid commercial crewmembers license or a limited entry card from another fishery.

Following is a summary of red sea urchin regulations:

1. All vessels, including tenders, must be registered with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game prior to being used in the fishery.
2. All divers must be licensed to harvest red sea urchins by the CFEC (hereafter, "permit holders").
3. Permit holders participating in the urchin fishery may not use dive gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport dive fishing during a 14-day period before or after the opening of the urchin fishery.
4. No more than three permit holders may be onboard a registered vessel from 24 hours before, during, and for 24 hours after a fishing period, or when commercially harvested urchins are on board; no more than two permit holders may conduct fishing operations or land commercially harvested red sea urchins off of a registered vessel during any open fishing period.
5. There is no size limit for the harvest of red sea urchins.
6. Red sea urchins may be taken only by hand picking.
7. Only one species of miscellaneous shellfish is permitted to be on board a vessel at one time.
8. Prior to processing, urchins harvested from different subdistricts must be kept in separate containers labeled with the subdistrict and permit holder's name.
9. Floating processors must carry onboard observers. Floating processors, instead of having an onboard observer, may be issued a permit allowing onboard processing under conditions listed in 5 AAC 38.145(n).
10. Permit holders must report dive times in minutes on fish tickets.

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.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1M3018.

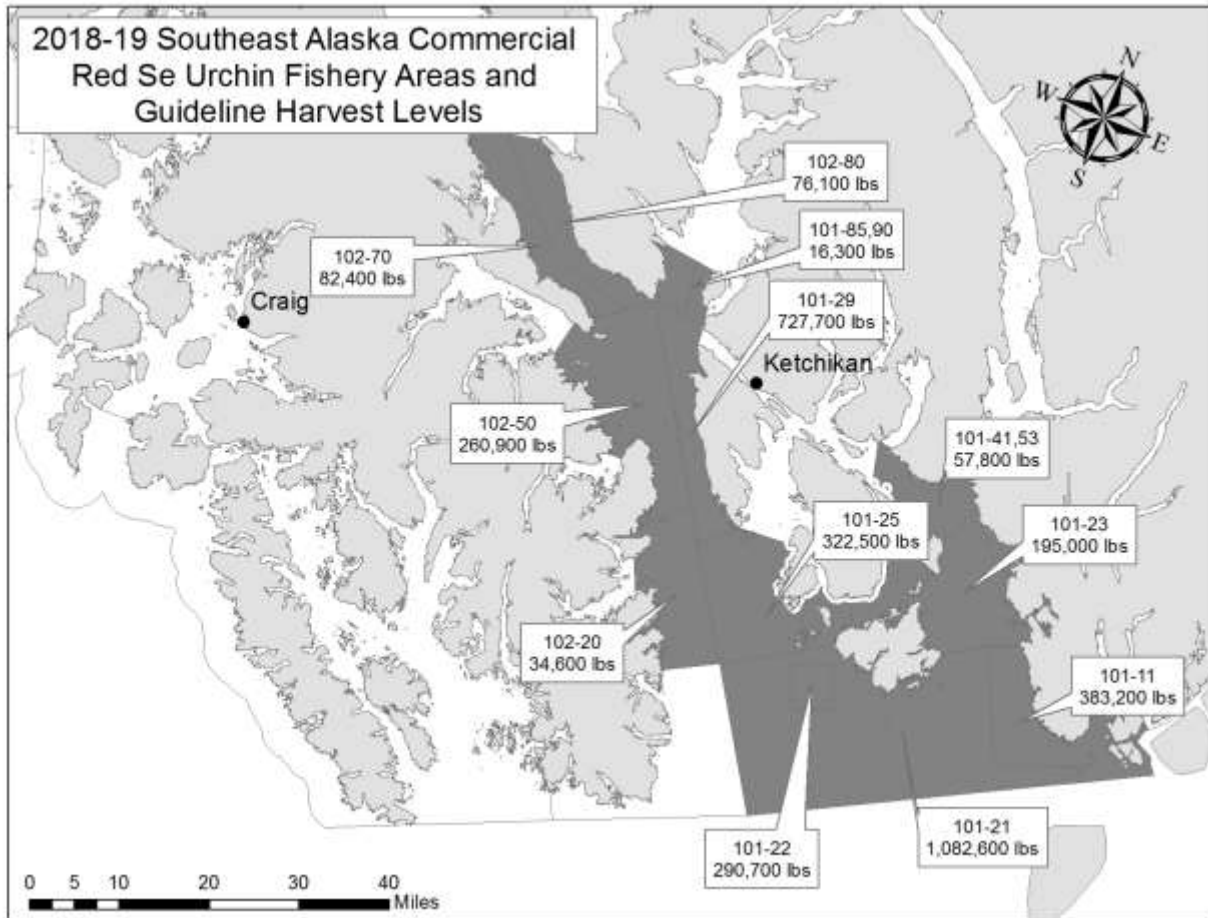


Figure 1. Commercial red sea urchin open harvest areas (shaded) and guideline harvest levels for the 2018/19 season.

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>.

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