

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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2013/14 ALASKA WEATHERVANE SCALLOP GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bristol Bay-Bering Sea Registration areas will open on July 1, 2013. Guideline harvest levels (GHL) for the 2013/14 scallop season, and the king and Tanner crab bycatch limits are listed below.

Registration Area	Guideline Harvest Level (Pounds of Shucked Meat)	Crab Bycatch Limits (Number of Crab)	
		Tanner Crab	King Crab
Yakutat			
Area D	120,000	N/A	N/A
District 16	25,000	N/A	N/A
Prince William Sound	Closed for the 2013/14 Season		
Cook Inlet	<i>To be announced</i>		
Kodiak			
Northeast District	55,000	49,124	25
Shelikof District	105,000	27,450	50
Southwest District ¹	25,000	12,000	50
Semidi District ¹	<i>Exploratory Area (by Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
Alaska Peninsula			
Unimak Bight ¹	15,000	12,000	50
Dutch Harbor	5,000	5,000	10
Bering Sea	50,000	260,000 (<i>C. bairdi</i>)	500
		300,000 (<i>C. opilio</i> and hybrids)	

¹ Commissioner's permit required to harvest scallops in the Southwest and Semidi districts and Unimak Bight.

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The commercial weathervane scallop fishery in Exclusive Economic Zone (3-200 nmi) of Alaska is jointly managed by the State of Alaska and the federal government under the Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The FMP was developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Most aspects of scallop fishery management in federal waters are delegated to the State of Alaska. However, amendments to the MSA in 2007 mandated all FMP fisheries be managed under annual catch limits (ACL) that account for all sources of mortality to ensure overfishing does not occur. The 2013/14 season scallop GHGs established by ADF&G comply with these federal ACL requirements.

Registration Area D GHGs will remain 120,000 pounds of shucked meat in Yakutat, and 25,000 pounds of shucked meat in District 16. The Registration area D GHG was reduced 40,000 pounds between the 2011/12 and 2012/13 fishing seasons due to continued declines in fishery catch per unit effort (CPUE), bed specific CPUE declines, historic fishery performance, and compressed shell height distribution. This GHG reduction halted some of the negative trends in fishery performance observed prior to the 2012/13 fishing season, however weathervane scallop catch rates in Registration Area D remain at near record low levels. During the 2013/14 weathervane scallop fishery in Registration Area D the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will assess distribution of effort and fishery performance. Continued poor fishery performance may result in management action before the GHG is reached.

The Kodiak Area Northeast District scallop GHG will be 55,000 pounds of shucked meat, compared to 60,000 pounds in 2012/13. The reduction in GHG is the result of eliminating a 5,000 pound exploratory GHG previously established for the portion of Northeast District north of Cape Izhut. The 2013/14 Northeast District scallop GHG will not be apportioned or capped based on individual scallop beds. However, if inseason cumulative CPUE is less than or equal to established minimum performance standards for individual scallop beds, staff will consider closing the season in the Northeast District, or a portion of the district prior to achieving the GHG.

The Kodiak Area Shelikof District scallop GHG will be 105,000 pounds of shucked scallop meat. Harvest will be capped at 100,000 pounds of shucked meat east of 154° W long. Harvest in the remainder of the Shelikof District west of 154° W long will be capped at 5,000 pounds of shucked meat.

The Kodiak Area Southwest District will open to exploratory scallop fishing under the provisions of a commissioner's permit (5 AAC 38.076 (e)) with a harvest limit of 25,000 pounds of shucked meat. Participating vessels are encouraged to distribute effort to delineate scallop beds.

Unimak Bight in the Alaska Peninsula Area (west of a line extending south from Cape Pankof at 163° 03.70' W. long. and east of line extending south from Scotch Cap Light at 164° 44.72' W. long.) will open to exploratory scallop fishing under the authority of a commissioner's permit. Harvest in the Unimak Bight will be capped at 15,000 pounds of shucked meat for the 2013/14

season. Participating vessels are encouraged to distribute effort to delineate scallop beds.

The Bering Sea side of the Dutch Harbor Area will open with a GHL of 5,000 pounds of shucked meat. The Pacific Ocean side of the Dutch Harbor Area will be closed for the 2013/14 season.

The Bristol Bay-Bering Sea Registration Area will open with a GHL of 50,000 pounds of shucked scallop meat.

During the 2013/14 weathervane scallop season in the Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bristol Bay-Bering Sea areas, ADF&G will assess fishery performance as measured by catch per unit effort (CPUE) and monitor crab bycatch. Poor fishery performance or excessive crab bycatch may result in area, or partial area closures prior to achieving the full GHL.

For additional information contact ADF&G in Kodiak (907-486-1840), Douglas (907-465-6393), Dutch Harbor (907-581-1239), Homer (907-235-8191) or Cordova (907-424-3212).

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