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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### 2019/20 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL SEA CUCUMBER FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Petersburg. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the commercial harvest of sea cucumbers in Southeast Alaska during the 2019/20 season.

The 2019/20 Southeast Alaska commercial sea cucumber dive fishery will open by emergency order at 8:00 a.m., Monday, October 7, 2019. Subsequent openings will be announced on a weekly basis until individual area's guideline harvest levels (GHLs) have been reached or until March 31, 2020, whichever is earlier. A total of 1,909,000 pounds of sea cucumbers will be available for harvest this season.

The following areas will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 7, and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 8, 2019:

##### **District 1:**

Willard and Fillmore Inlets – Subdistrict 101-11-002: will be open for a GHL of 54,700 pounds of sea cucumbers, in those waters of Willard Inlet and Fillmore Inlet north of the latitude of Male Point at 54°47.57' N. lat., with the following restriction:

Edward Passage: all waters will be closed south of a line from a point at 54°51.99' N. lat., 130°31.78' W. long., to a point at 54°52.09' N. lat., 130°31.65' W. long.

Revillagigedo Channel and Southern Clarence Strait - Subdistrict 101-21: will be open for a GHL of 76,000 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Clarence Strait and Revillagigedo Channel south of the latitude of Point White on the western shore of Duke Island at 54°56.00' N. lat., and south and west of a line from Duke Point at 54°55.08' N. lat., 131°11.61' W. long., to an offshore point at 54°56.86' N. lat., 131°03.24' W. long., (approximately 3.0 nautical miles (nmi) off Foggy Point Light) and then south to a point at 54°44.02' N. lat., 131°03.24' W. long., then to Lord Rock Light at 54°43.55' N. lat., 131°03.24' W. long., and then due south a point in Dixon Entrance at 54°42.03' N. lat., 130°49.22' W. long. Bee Rocks (Subdistrict 101-22) is not included in this area.

Revillagigedo Channel and Felice Strait – Subdistrict 101-23: will be open for a GHL of 225,500 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Revillagigedo Channel west of a line from Quadra Point at 55°05.17' N. lat., 130°59.05' W. long., to Kah Shakes Point at 55°04.22' N. lat., 130°58.72' W. long., and south of a line from Mary Island Light at 55°05.94' N. lat., 131°10.96' W. long., to the northern point of Black

Island at 55°08.00' N. lat., 131°04.80' W. long., then due east to the mainland shore, and south of a line on the northwestern side of Mary Island at 55°05.95' N. lat., 131°13.00' W. long., to a point on the eastern shore of Annette Island at 55°06.78' N. lat., 131°21.50' W. long., and north of a line from Duke Point at 54°55.08' N. lat., 131°11.62' W. long., to Foggy Point at 54°55.50' N. lat., 130°58.60' W. long., and east of the longitude of 131°26.60' W. long., located on the northwest side of Duke Island.

George Inlet, Bold Island, and Carroll Inlet – Subdistricts 101-40, 44, 45, 46, and 48: will be open for a GHF of 136,200 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Revillagigedo Channel north and west of a line from a point at the southwest entrance of Moth Bay at 55°15.62' N. lat., 131°21.07' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Harbor Point on the eastern shore of Annette Island at 55°13.04' N. lat., 131°25.17' W. long., and south of a line from a point located on the southeastern shore of Gravina Island at 55°17.65' N. lat., 131°37.03' W. long., to a point on the southwest shore of Tongass Narrows at 55°18.63' N. lat., 131°35.20' W. long., and east of a line from the southernmost tip of Gravina Point at 55°17.12' N. lat., 131°37.19' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Walden Point on the northeast tip of Annette Island at 55°16.46' N. lat., 131°35.33' W. long. This area also includes all waters of Carroll Inlet and George Inlet.

Tongass Narrows – Subdistrict 101-47: will be open for a GHF of 84,400 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of the west channel north of a line from a point located on the southeastern shore of Gravina Island at 55°17.65' N. lat., 131°37.03' W. long., to a point on the southwest shore of Tongass Channel at 55°18.63' N. lat., 131°35.20' W. long., and south of a line from a point on Gravina Island just south of East Clump Light at 55°20.61' N. lat., 131°41.30' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Pennock Island at 55°20.28' N. lat., 131°39.54' W. long., and south of a line from Point Higgins at 55°27.43' N. lat., 131°49.93' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Vallenar Point at 55°25.60' N. lat., 131°51.00' W. long., and north of a line from a point on Gravina Island north of the airport at 55°21.49' N. lat., 131°42.81' W. long., to a point on Revillagigedo Island at 55°21.61' N. lat., 131°42.23' W. long., with the following restrictions:

Ward Cove: all waters will be closed east of a line from a point at 55°24.28' N. lat., 131°45.00' W. long., to a point at 55°23.26' N. lat., 131°44.32' W. long.;

East Channel: all waters will be closed north of 55°18.36' N. lat.

East Behm Canal and Smeaton Bay – Subdistricts 101-51 and 55: will be open for a GHF of 79,700 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of East Behm Canal, Smeaton Bay, Wilson Arm, and Bakewell Arm north of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Point Nelson at 55°18.05' N. lat., and south of a line from the southeasternmost tip of Cactus Point at 55°33.29' N. lat., 130°52.15' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Point Louise at 55°32.68' N. lat., 130°56.66' W. long.

Rudyard Bay, East Behm Canal, and Walker Cove – Subdistricts 101-60, 71, and 73: will be open for a GHF of 51,300 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Rudyard Bay, East Behm Canal, and Walker Cove north of a line from the southeasternmost tip of Cactus Point at 55°33.29' N. lat., 130°52.15' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Point Louise at 55°32.68' N. lat., 130°56.66' W. long., and south of a line from a point at 55°48.35' N. lat., 131°00.10' W. long., to a point at 55°47.90' N. lat., 131°02.75' W. long.

North Behm Canal - Subdistrict 101-80: will be open for a GHF of 107,200 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters north of a line from Nose Point at 55°48.32' N. lat., 131°42.53' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Snail Point at 55°49.47' N. lat., 131°46.25' W. long., and west of the longitude of 131°22.07' W. long.

## **District 2:**

Clarence Strait and Dixon Entrance - Subdistricts 102-10: will be open for a GHF of 11,700 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters south of 54°54.27' N. lat., and east of a line from Point Marsh Light at 54°

42.70' N. lat., 132°17.72' W. long., then due south to a point in Dixon Entrance at 54°40.00' N. lat., 132°17.50' W. long.

Cholmondeley Sound - Subdistrict 102-40: will be open for a GHF of 203,800 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Cholmondeley Sound south and west of a line from a point at 55°15.23' N. lat., 132°06.82' W. long., located at the northwestern entrance of Cholmondeley Sound, to a point at 55°14.73' N. lat., 132°04.50' W. long., located 2.6 nmi southwest of Chasina Point.

Clarence Strait - Subdistrict 102-50: will be open for a GHF of 79,700 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters adjacent to the eastern shore of Prince of Wales Island south of a line from a point on the northeast side of Kasaan Peninsula at 55°28.40' N. lat., 132°08.75' W. long., to Caamano Point at 55°29.85' N. lat., 131°58.21' W. long., and north of the latitude of 55°08.25' N. lat., and east of a line from a point on the southwest side of Kasaan Peninsula at 55°27.93' N. lat., 132°11.92' W. long., to a point near Skowl Point at 55°25.00' N. lat., 132°15.50' W. long., and north and east of a line from a point at 55°15.23' N. lat., 132°06.82' W. long., located at the northwestern entrance of Cholmondeley Sound, to a point at 55°14.73' N. lat., 132°04.50' W. long., located 2.6 nmi southwest of Chasina Point in the entrance to Cholmondeley Sound, with the following restriction:

Kasaan Bay: all waters will be closed north and west of a line beginning at Grindall Point at 55°27.10' N. lat., 132°09.34' W. long., then south to 55°26.47' N. lat., 132°10.03' W. long., then northwest to 55°27.48' N. lat., 132°12.46' W. long., then northwest to 55°31.48' N. lat., 132°21.96' W. long., then west to 55°31.49' N. lat., 132°33.28' W. long., then south to 55°28.94' N. lat., 132°35.99' W. long., then south to 55°27.22' N. lat., 132°40.02' W. long., located at the southern entrance to Harris Bay.

### **District 3:**

Bucareli Bay and Port Real Marina - Subdistrict 103-50: will be open for a GHF of 10,700 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Bucareli Bay and Port Real Marina south of a line from a point on the northeast side of Lulu Island at 55°30.62' N. lat., 133°28.08' W. long., to a point on the northwest side of San Fernando Island at 55°31.53' N. lat., 133°26.82' W. long., and west of a line from Point Cuerbo at 55°28.50' N. lat., 133°19.00' W. long., to Point Eugenia at 55°28.50' N. lat., 133°19.00' W. long., to Point Miliflores at 55°24.40' N. lat., 133°15.26' W. long., to Tranquil Point at 55°23.00' N. lat., 133°13.46' W. long., and those waters of Port Real Marina, Bucareli Bay, and Meares Passage south and east of a line from the westernmost tip of Point Saint Isidor at 55°27.05' N. lat., 133°37.28' W. long., to a point on Noyes Island at 55°27.27' N. lat., 133°38.45' W. long., to a point on the northwest side of Baker Island at 55°25.17' N. lat., 133°36.75' W. long., to Point San Roque at 55°20.13' N. lat., 133°32.70' W. long., to Point Arboleda at 55°19.10' N. lat., 133°27.81' W. long., to a point on the southwest side of Suemez Island at 55°14.62' N. lat., 133°14.37' W. long., to Eagle Point at 55°14.53' N. lat., 133°13.28' W. long., and north of a line through Tlevak Narrows beginning at the easternmost tip of Turn Point at 55°15.78' N. lat., 133°07.23' W. long., to a point on Prince of Wales Island at 55°15.75' N. lat., 133°06.43' W. long., with the following restriction:

Bucareli Bay and Ursua Channel: all waters will be closed north and east of a line from the southernmost tip of Point Amargura at 55°27.00' N. lat., 133°21.62' W. long., to the southernmost tip of Joe Island at 55°20.90' N. lat., 133°17.05' W. long.

### **District 6:**

Clarence Strait - Subdistricts 106-10, 20, 22, and 25: will be open for a GHF of 239,500 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters south and east of a line from Luck Point at 55°59.05' N. lat., 132°44.08' W. long., to Point Stanhope at 56°00.69' N. lat., 132°36.47' W. long., to a point on Etolin Island at 56°03.55' N. lat., 132°37.43' W. long., and north and west of a line from Narrow Point at 55°47.00' N. lat.,

132°28.23' W. long., to Ernest Point at 55°51.01' N. lat., 132°22.21' W. long., to a point on Etolin Island at 55°54.79' N. lat., 132°21.27' W. long.

**District 9:**

Eastern Baranof Island - Subdistrict 109-20: will be open for a GHL of 68,700 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of eastern Baranof Island in Section 9-A, north of the latitude of Patterson Point at 56°32.36' N. lat., with the following restriction:

Patterson Bay and Deep Cove: all waters will be closed north of 56°32.36' N. lat.

**District 11:**

Southern Lynn Canal, East Mansfield Peninsula, and Auke Bay – Subdistrict 111-50: will be open for a GHL of 45,000 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Section 11-A south of the latitude of Little Island Light at 58°32.41' N. lat., east of a line from Little Island Light at 58°32.41' N. lat., 135°02.83' W. long., to Point Retreat Light at 58°24.69' N. lat., 134°57.30' W. long., north of a line from a point on Admiralty Island at 58°16.63' N. lat., 134°45.62' W. long., to Outer Point on Douglas Island at 58°18.10' N. lat., 134°41.33' W. long., and west of a line from the southernmost tip of the Mendenhall Peninsula at 58°20.43' N. lat., 134°38.12' W. long., to Entrance Point at 58°20.01' N. lat., 134°36.40' W. long.

**District 12:**

Chatham Strait, Wilson Cove, Whitewater Bay, and Chaik Bay - Subdistricts 112-18, 19, 80, and 90: will be open for a GHL of 50,700 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters within 1.0 nmi of the Admiralty Island shoreline north of the latitude of Point Gardner at 57°00.94' N. lat., and south of the latitude of Distant Point at 57°24.05' N. lat.

Freshwater Bay and Chatham Strait - Subdistricts 112-12, 13, and 50: will be open for a GHL of 185,800 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Section 12-A within 2.0 nmi of the Chichagof Island shoreline south of the latitude of 57°58.60' N. lat., and north of the latitude of Morris Reef Light at 57°27.76' N. lat., with the following restriction:

Tenakee Inlet: all waters will be closed west of a line from East Point at 57°45.47' N. lat., 134°59.06' W. long., to South Passage Point at 57°45.85' N. lat., 134°56.32' W. long.

Howard Bay and Couverden Island area – portions of Subdistricts 112-15 and 61 and 114-25: will be open for a GHL of 34,300 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters north of the latitude of Rocky Island Light at 58°10.65' N. lat., south of 58°19.00' N. lat., east of 135°10.00' W. long., and west of 135°01.00' W. long.

**District 13:**

Sitka Sound, Krestof Sound, and Nakwasina Sound - Subdistricts 113-40, 41, 42, and 43: will be open for a GHL of 74,400 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Section 13-B north and west of a line from Dog Point at 57°10.15' N. lat., 135°25.45' W. long., to Bieli Rocks at 57°05.43' N. lat., 135°30.05' W. long., to Shoals Point at 57°00.82' N. lat., 135°37.89' W. long., and south of 57°16.00' N. lat., including all waters of Nakwasina Sound, Nakwasina Passage, Krestof Sound, and Olga Strait with the following restriction:

Neva Strait: all waters will be closed north of a line from Neva Point at 57°14.09' N. lat., 135°33.10' W. long., to Partof Point at 57°13.70' N. lat., 135°34.14' W. long.

Hoonah Sound - Subdistricts 113-55, 56, 57, and 58: will be open for a GHL of 89,700 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Section 13-C north and west of a line from Nismeni Point at 57°33.78' N. lat., 135°24.70' W. long., to Broad Island Light at 57°35.15' N. lat., 135°23.62' W. long., to a point on the Chichagof Island shoreline at 57°35.88' N. lat., 135°23.05' W. long.

### **Regulatory Summary**

The use of dive gear 14 days prior to a commercial fishery, 14 days after participating in a commercial opening, and between weekly open periods for miscellaneous shellfish is prohibited. A person who uses dive gear to fish in a commercial red sea urchin fishery, commercial geoduck fishery, or mariculture site may fish in the sea cucumber fishery within the 14-day period (5 AAC 38.147).

Each diver participating in the sea cucumber fishery must have a current Southeast Alaska Sea Cucumber Limited Entry Permit which can be obtained from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). All vessels involved in the sea cucumber fishery need to have a current CFEC vessel license 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.

In order to provide a refuge for sea cucumbers in deeper waters, use of mixed gases or saturation diving is prohibited. Nitrox gas can be used for diving providing the oxygen concentration is less than 40%. Sea cucumbers may only be handpicked and any means other than individually collecting sea cucumbers by hand and placing them in bags is prohibited. Sea cucumbers may only be harvested by diving with the aid of: SCUBA; tethered, umbilical surface supplied systems; or a snorkel.

No more than three divers licensed to fish sea cucumbers (hereafter called “permit holders”) may be on board a vessel registered to fish sea cucumbers from 24 hours before, during, and for 24 hours after a fishing period or at any time commercially harvested sea cucumbers are on board. Only two permit holders can make landings from any registered sea cucumber vessel during any fishing period.

No permit holder may land, or have on board, more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during any fishing period established by the department and only one species of miscellaneous shellfish is permitted on board a vessel at a time. Only vessels registered as tenders may possess more than 4,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during an established open fishing period.

Commercial sea cucumber fishermen are also advised that all landings to processors, catcher/processors, or tenders must be recorded on fish tickets with the number of minutes of dive time included. A permit holder who is operating their vessel as a tender for sea cucumbers must complete fish tickets as required by 5 AAC 39.130. A fish ticket must be made out for every landing and all fish tickets must be submitted to ADF&G within seven days of landing.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1M2119.

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

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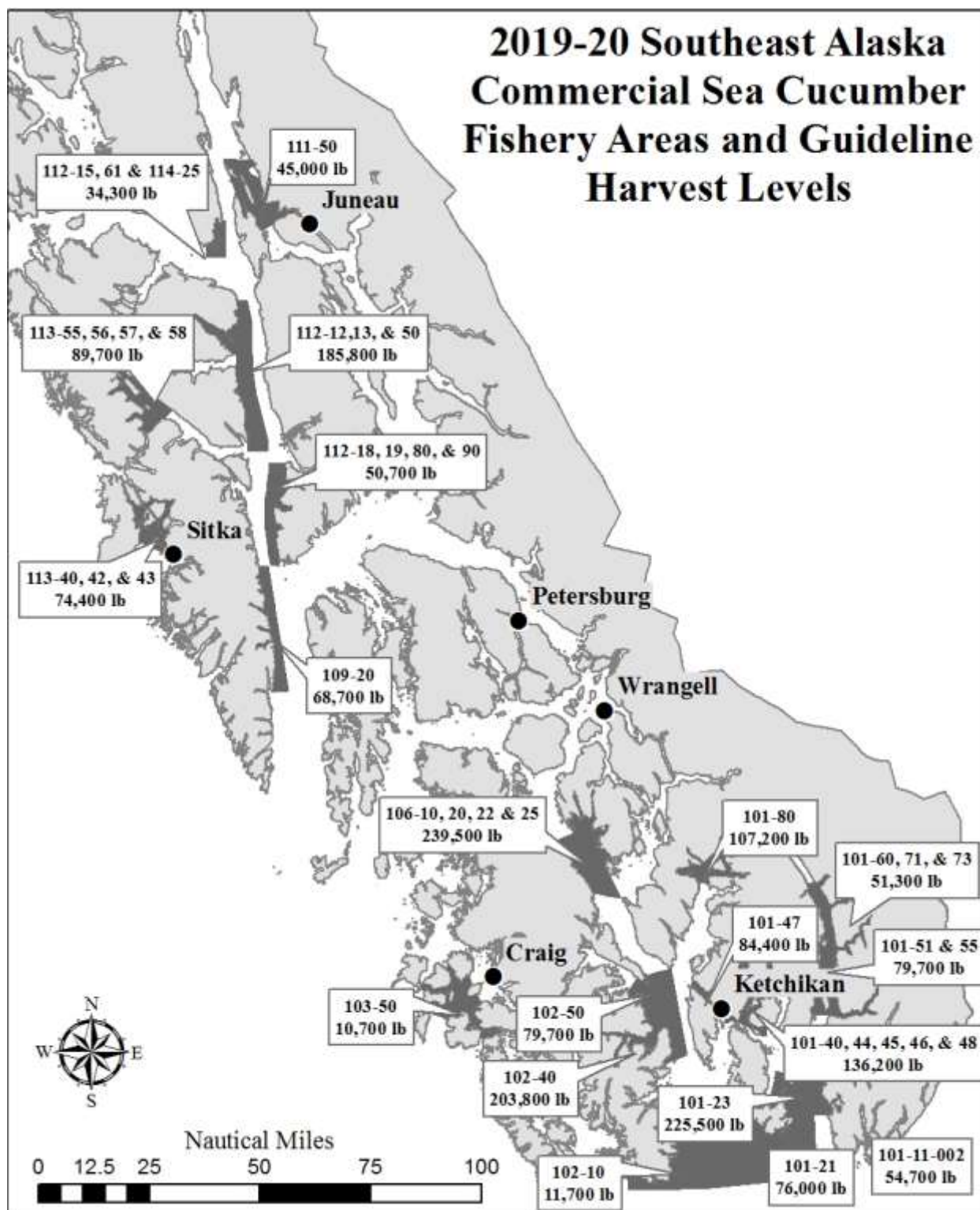


Figure 1. Commercial sea cucumber open harvest areas and GHLs for the 2019/20 season.

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.