2019/20 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK CLAM FISHERY

Ketchikan . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information concerning the 2019/20 commercial geoduck clam season in Southeast Alaska.

The Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck clam season begins by regulation on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 637,900 pounds. The first opening is planned for October 2 or 3 depending on paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) test results.

Guideline Harvest Levels by Area:

**District 1:**

Nakat Bay (Subdistrict 101-11-001): will be open for a GHL of 27,800 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Nakat Bay, Sitklan Passage, Lincoln Channel, and Tongass Passage east of the longitude of Tree Point Light at 130°56.03’ W. long., and south of a line from 54°48.29’ N. lat., 130°47.40’ W. long., on the mainland shore approximately 0.3 nautical miles (nmi) west of the northernmost tip of Slim Island, to the northernmost tip of Slim Island at 54°48.29’ N. lat., 130°46.95’ W. long., to approximately 0.3 nmi north of High Point at 54°47.79’ N. lat., 130°44.57’ W. long., to the southwestern entrance of Fillmore Inlet at 54°47.60’ N. lat., 130°38.19’ W. long., to Phipp Point at 54°46.56’ N. lat., 130°37.25’ W. long., and north of the U.S. Canadian border.

Kelp Island (Subdistrict 101-21-001): will be open for a GHL of 141,200 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters south of the latitude of Duke Point at 54°55.08’ N. lat., and east of 131°22.63’ W. long., approximately 1.1 nmi west of Cape Northumberland.

North Kirk Point to Bullhead Cove (Subdistrict 101-23-003): will be open for a GHL of 17,800 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters along the mainland shore north of the latitude of Kirk Point at 54°59.98’ N. lat., and south of a line from Kah Shakes Point at 55°03.66’ N. lat., 130°59.43’ W. long., to 55°03.23’ N. lat., 131°02.80’ W. long., west of Bullhead Cove.

Percy Islands (Subdistrict 101-25-002): will be open for a GHL of 57,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters west of a line from Moss Point at 55°01.21’ N. lat., 131°33.80’ W. long., to a point in Sealed Passage at 54°55.80’ N. lat., 131°30.45’ W. long., north of a line from a point in Sealed Passage at 54°55.80’ N. lat., 131°30.45’ W. long., to a point in Clarence Strait at 54°54.71’ N. lat., 131°39.00’ W. long., and east of 131°39.00’ W. long., approximately 1.7 nmi east of Point Davison.
Vegas and Hotspur Islands (Subdistrict 101-25-003): will be open for a GHL of 66,800 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Felice Strait west of 131°27.59′ W. long., and east of a line from a point in Sealed Passage at 54°55.80′ N. lat., 131°30.45′ W. long., to Moss Point at 55°01.21′ N. lat., 131°33.80′ W. long., and north of a line from a point in Sealed Passage at 54°55.80′ N. lat., 131°30.45′ W. long., to Point White at 54°55.92′ N. lat., 131°29.72′ W. long.

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

Southern Gravina Island (Subdistrict 101-29-005): will be open for a GHL of 18,700 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of 55°11.65′ N. lat., and north of the latitude of Dall Head at 55°07.74′ N. lat.

District 3:

Kaigani Strait (Subdistrict 103-30-001): will be open for a GHL of 23,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Kaigani Strait south of a line from Luke Point at 54°55.76′ N. lat., 132°53.75′ W. long., to the northwest shore of Long Island at 54°55.49′ N. lat., 132°48.87′ W. long., and north of a line from the southernmost tip of Long Island at 54°45.06′ N. lat., 132°38.20′ W. long., to the easternmost tip of Cape Muzon at 54°40.50′ N. lat., 132°40.42′ W. long.

Tlevak Strait (Subdistricts 103-40-009, 103-50-009): will be open for a GHL of 39,700 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Tlevak Strait north of a line from Reef Point at 55°03.66′ N. lat., 132°58.37′ W. long., to approximately 2.0 nmi north of Kellogg Point at 55°08.12′ N. lat., 132°52.94′ W. long., and west of a line from Sukkwan Island at 55°09.23′ N. lat., 132°53.85′ W. long., to approximately 1.4 nmi southeast of Halibut Nose at 55°12.22′ N. lat., 133°00.80′ W. long., to Natalia Point at 55°13.97′ N. lat., 133°02.74′ W. long., to Prince of Wales Island at 55°16.46′ N. lat., 133°04.74′ W. long., and in those waters of Meares Passage and Ulloa Channel north of a line from Eagle Point at 55°14.53′ N. lat., 133°13.28′ W. long., to approximately 0.7 nmi west of Eagle Point at 55°14.68′ N. lat., 133°14.47′ W. long., and east of a line from Prince of Wales Island at 55°16.84′ N. lat., 133°13.00′ W. long., to the easternmost tip of Susemz Island at 55°16.47′ N. lat., 133°13.09′ W. long., then south along the eastern shoreline of Susemz Island approximately 0.7 nmi west of Eagle Point to 55°14.68′ N. lat., 133°14.47′ W. long., with the following restriction:

View Cove, Baldy Bay, Coco Harbor, and Windy Cove: all waters of View Cove, Baldy Bay, Coco Harbor, and Windy Cove are closed to the harvest of geoduck clams.

Bucareli Bay and contiguous waters (Subdistrict 103-50-003): will be open for a GHL of 9,100 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters west of a line from Point Cuerbo at 55°28.50′ N. lat., 133°19.00′ W. long., to Point Eugenia at 55°26.70′ N. lat., 133°17.80′ W. long., to the southernmost tip of Point Miliflores at 55°24.41′ N. lat., 133°15.24′ W. long., to Tranquil Point at 55°22.98′ N. lat., 133°13.46′ W. long.; north of a line from the northeastern shore of Susemz Island at 55°20.66′ N. lat., 133°19.73′ W. long.; to the northernmost tip of Cape Flores at 55°21.20′ N. lat., 133°17.53′ W. long., to the southernmost tip of Joe Island at 55°20.90′ N. lat., 133°17.00′ W. long., then due east to Prince of Wales Island at 55°20.90′ N. lat., 133°16.70′ W. long.; north and east of a line from the westernmost tip of Point Arboleda at 55°19.10′ N. lat., 133°27.76′ W. long., to the southernmost tip of Point San Roque at 55°20.13′ N. lat., 133°32.63′ W. long.; and south and east of a line from the eastern shore of Baker Island at 55°22.83′ N. lat., 133°27.57′ W. long., to the southern tip of Ignace Island at 55°22.83′ N. lat., 133°25.96′ W. long., to Point Amargura at 55°27.04′ N. lat., 133°21.66′ W. long., with the following restriction:

Port San Antonio: all waters of Port San Antonio are closed to the harvest of geoduck clams.
Portillo Channel (Subdistrict 103-50-008): will be open for a GHL of 32,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters south of a line from the northeast side of Lulu Island at 55°30.60′ N. lat., 133°28.20′ W. long., to the northwest side of San Fernando Island at 55°31.48′ N. lat., 133°26.88′ W. long., east of a line from the northeast side of Lulu Island at 55°30.60′ N. lat., 133°28.20′ W. long., to Arrecife Point at 55°26.98′ N. lat., 133°25.90′ W. long., to Point Gorda at 55°25.44′ N. lat., 133°26.14′ W. long., to the southern tip of Ignace Island at 55°22.83′ N. lat., 133°25.96′ W. long., and north and west of a line from the southern tip of Ignace Island at 55°22.83′ N. lat., 133°25.96′ W. long., to Point Amargura at 55°27.04′ N. lat., 133°21.66′ W. long.

East San Fernando Island (Subdistrict 103-60-001): will be open for a GHL of 29,500 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 Ildefonso at 55°34.12′ N. lat., to Point Polocano at 55°32.35′ N. lat., 133°17.36′ W. long., to Point Cuerbo at 55°28.50′ N. lat., 133°19.00′ W. long., north of the latitude of Point Cuerbo at 55°28.50′ N. lat., and west of the longitude of Fern Reef Light at 133°15.87′ W. long.

Little Steamboat Bay (Subdistrict 103-70-002): will be open for a GHL of 12,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters along the northern shoreline of Noyes Island east of 133°41.33′ W. long., and west of 133°39.04′ W. long.

**District 3 and 4:**

Cone Island North (Subdistricts 103-50-005, 104-40-005): will be open for a GHL of 110,200 pounds of whole geoduck clams 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. lat., 133°37.25′ W. long., to Noyes Island at 55°27.24′ N. lat., 133°38.51′ W. long., east of a line from the southernmost tip of Saint Nicholas Point at 55°26.38′ N. lat., 133°40.10′ W. long., to the western most tip of Cone Island at 55°25.29′ N. lat., 133°39.85′ W. long., and north and west of a line from the easternmost tip of Cone Island at 55°26.43′ N. lat., 133°36.90′ W. long., to Lulu Island at 55°26.88′ N. lat., 133°36.42′ W. long.

**Inseason 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. 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.

In the Sitka management area (District 13), GHLs and fishery openings for the 2019/2020 season will be announced in a subsequent News Release. It is expected that the 2019/2020 season will be delayed until September 2020.

A valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit and 2019/2020 Alaska Department of Fish & Game registration for the Ketchikan and Sitka management areas are required prior to commercial harvest of geoduck clams. Harvesters are required to contact ADF&G at least 48 hours prior to fishing in a new management area.

The geoduck clam fishery will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Friday, November 22, through Wednesday, December 4, 2019, and for Christmas and New Year's holiday from Friday, December 20, 2019, through Wednesday, January 8, 2020. State agencies will be closed on the following State holidays: October 18 (Alaska Day), November 11 (Veteran’s Day), November 28 (Thanksgiving Day), December 25 (Christmas Day), January 1 (New Year’s Day), January 20 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), February 17 (President’s Day), March 30 (Seward’s Day), and May 25 (Memorial Day).

There is an overage-underage policy in place for the commercial geoduck fishery designed to maintain the geoduck harvest rate at 2% of the surveyed biomass, consistent with 5 AAC 38.142(g). Harvest from the 2019/20 season that is over or under the specified GHL 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.

For the 2019/20 season geoduck logbooks are voluntary. Logbooks are available at local ADF&G offices and can be turned in with fish tickets 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 to this announcement is EO 1M2319.

Figure 1. Commercial geoduck fishery areas and guideline harvest levels 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 description of open areas.


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