Division of Commercial Fisheries Sam Rabung, Director

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2023/24 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL SEA CUCUMBER FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The following areas will be open with a 2,500-pound area specific trip limit from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 18, Monday, February 19, and Tuesday, February 20, 2024:

District 1:

Boca de Quadra (Subdistrict 101-30);

District 13:

Baranof Island Shoreline, Necker and Rakof Islands, West Crawfish Inlet, and Crawfish Inlet (Subdistricts 113-31, 32, and 33);

Sitka Sound (Subdistricts 113-38 and 41).

There is currently limited interest in purchasing sea cucumbers in the region. The remaining guideline harvest levels (GHLs) from South Mitkof and North Zarembo Islands (Subdistrict 108-30), Northern Chatham Strait (Subdistricts 112-16, 17, 63, and 65), and Excursion Inlet and Homeshore (Subdistricts 114-25-002 and 114-80) will be available until the season closes by regulation on March 31, 2024. The department will consider reopening these areas if there is expressed interest. Interested divers and processors should contact Area Management staff with plans prior to 12:00 noon on Thursday for a potential fishery the following week.

Fishers and processors are reminded that an accurate fish ticket is required at the time of delivery. A fish ticket must be filled out according to 5 AAC 39.130(c). Fishers must verify at the time of landing with the tender or processor that all information is accurate before signing the fish ticket, including statistical area, pounds of sea cucumbers harvested, and any overages.

For a description of the above areas, please refer to the Southeast Alaska commercial sea cucumber fishery announcement dated August 31, 2023, announcing the open areas and their GHLs. The next advisory announcement following this opening will be available on **Thursday, February 22, 2024**.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1M1224.

State offices will be closed Monday, February 19, 2024, for Presidents' Day.

Statistical Week 7									
	Statistical		Harvest to Date 59,849	Remaining					
Area Description	Area(s)	GHL		GHL CLOSED					
West Shore of Gravina Island	101-29	63,700							
Boca De Quadra	101-30	75,700	***	***					
Revilla Channel, Thorne Arm & East Behm	101-41, 43, and 53	107,000	104,820	CLOSED					
West Behm Canal	101-85	47,200	44,989	CLOSED					
Moira Sound	102-30	146,100	143,713	CLOSED					
Thorne Bay & Kasaan Peninsula	102-70	65,600	65,772	CLOSED					
East Dall Island & Soda Bay	103-40	108,000	109,141	CLOSED					
Southern Ernest Sound	107-10	79,700	84,356	CLOSED					
Northern Ernest Sound	107-20	229,400	229,085	CLOSED					
Zimovia Strait & Anita Bay	107-30 and 35	79,300	78,868	CLOSED					
Bradfield, Blake & Eastern Passage	107-40 and 45	29,500	28,524	CLOSED					
Stikine Strait & Chichagof Passage	108-10, 20, and 40	22,800	21,432	CLOSED					
South Mitkof & North Zarembo	108-30	11,400	***	***					
Southeast Baranof	109-10	21,400	19,363	CLOSED					
Seymour Canal	111-11 and 14	129,200	118,103	CLOSED					
Northern Chatham Strait	112-16, 17, 63, and 65	72,300	***	***					
Baranof, Necker, Crawfish & W Crawfish	113-31, 32, and 33	107,400	***	***					
Sitka Sound	113-38 and 41	49,300	***	***					
Peril Strait	113-51, 52, 53, 54, and 59	209,800	208,127	CLOSED					
Excursion Inlet & Homeshore	114-25-002 and 114-80	18,200	***	***					
Totals		1,673,000	1,576,399	74,043					

2023/24 Southeast Alaska Sea Cucumber Fishery Statistical Week 7

*** Confidential data

Advisory announcement web site: <u>http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main</u>.

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