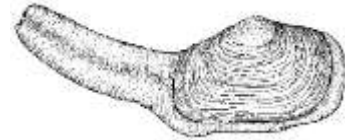

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Rm. 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Date: August 23, 2016
Time: 3:30 p.m.

2015/16 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK CLAM FISHERY

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information concerning the 2015/16 commercial geoduck clam season in District 13.

The Sitka area commercial geoduck clam season will begin with paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) testing on the weekend of September 17, 2016, and based on results of PSP testing, the first fisheries will be held on Tuesday, September 20, and Thursday, September 22, 2016. Subsequent fisheries will occur on Tuesday and Thursday of the following week. Open fishing periods and locations will be announced by ADF&G news release after the results of PSP testing have been determined.

A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit and a vessel registration are required prior to fishing in the Ketchikan or Sitka registration areas. Both the Sitka and Ketchikan areas require a separate registration. Additionally, harvesters are required to contact the department during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at least two business days before the weekly opening, prior to fishing for geoducks in a different registration management area. A "business day" is defined as a day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a state holiday.

The Department will continue the mandatory logbook program for geoduck clams (5 AAC 38.142(m)). This requires that logbooks be filled out before departing the harvest site and returned to ADF&G within 7 days of delivery. This data provides biologists with information on new and existing geoduck clam beds for the primary purpose of expanding stock assessments. Logbook pages can be picked up at ADF&G offices. All logbook information will remain confidential. Logbooks should be turned in either with fish tickets or mailed directly to the Petersburg ADF&G office, C/O Jeff Meucci, at P.O. Box 667, Petersburg, AK 99833.

In January of 2003, the Alaska Board of Fisheries gave the ADF&G authority to manage the commercial geoduck fishery based on PSP levels [5 AAC 38.142 (a)]. In cooperation with the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fishery Association (SARDFA) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), geoduck areas are tested for PSP and certified for live sale. No alternative sampling programs will be allowed concurrent with the inseason sampling protocol.

Weekly harvest limits may be imposed in areas with small initial guideline harvest levels (GHLs) or areas with small remaining GHLs.

Guideline Harvest Levels by Area:

Symonds Bay (Subdistrict 113-31-002): will be closed.

Taigud and Kolosh Islands Area (Subdistricts 113-31-004, 113-41-004): will be open for a guideline harvest level of 1,900 pounds of whole geoduck clams only in those waters along the western coast of Baranof Island and associated offshore islands south and east of a line from Cape Burunof to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island, and north and east of a line from a point at the southern entrance of Kliuchevoi Bay at 56°50.18' N. latitude, 135°22.67' W. longitude to a point southwest of Fragrant Island at 56°50.08' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude, to a point approximately midway between Torsar Island and Blackbird Island at 56°50.48' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude, to Middle Rock, to the northernmost tip of Hanus Island, and to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island.

Harvesters are reminded that waters described in 5 AAC 38.142(l)(3)(A) and (B), located within the above described area, are closed to the commercial harvest of geoduck clams.

Biorka Channel and Legma Island Area (Subdistrict 113-31-003): will be open for a guideline harvest level of 5,500 pounds of whole geoduck clams only in those waters east of a line from the northeastern most tip of Hanus Island to a point on the southeast shore of Biorka Island at 56°50.55' N. latitude, 135°30.97' W. longitude, to a point 0.5 nautical miles southeast of Jug Island at 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude and south and west of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island to the westernmost tip of Middle Rock to a point approximately midway between Torsar Island and Blackbird Island at 56°50.48' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude, to a point approximately 0.5 nautical miles southeast of Jug Island located at 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude.

Elovoi, Golf, and Gornoi Islands area (Subdistrict 113-31-005): will be open for a guideline harvest level of 1,900 pounds of whole geoduck clams in the waters enclosed by a line from the southern entrance of Kliuchevoi Bay at 56°50.18' N. latitude, 135°22.67' W. longitude, to a point located at 56°50.08' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude (southwest of Fragrant Island), to a point located at 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude (approximately 0.45 nautical miles southeast of Jug Island) to a point located at 56°41.97' N. latitude, 135°17.52' W. longitude (southern tip of Scow Island) to a point located at 56°41.73' N. latitude, 135°15.50' W. longitude (southernmost tip of Beauchamp Island).

Closed waters: the waters of Middle Channel east of a line from 56°44.10' N. latitude, 135°14.77' W. longitude to 56°44.37' N. latitude, 135°15.02' W. longitude and West Crawfish Inlet east of a line from 56°46.28' N. latitude, 135°16.39' W. longitude to 56°46.69' N. latitude, 135°17.21' W. longitude will be closed to the harvest of geoduck clams.

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

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<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220