



Advisory Announcement

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CONTACT: Justin Breese

Ketchikan Assistant Area Management Biologist

justin.breese@alaska.gov

(907) 225-5195

2022/23 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK FISHERY

The Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck season begins by regulation on Saturday, October 1, 2022, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 373,600 pounds. The first opening planned for October 5 or 6 will be announced by October 4 and is dependent on paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) test results.

Guideline Harvest Levels by Area

District 1

Foggy Bay (Subdistrict 101-23-001): will open for a GHL of 27,800 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Foggy Bay along the mainland and the Delong Islands shorelines, south of the latitude of Kirk Point at 55°00.00' N lat and north of the latitude of Foggy Point Light at 54°55.53' N lat.

Cat and Dog Islands (Subdistricts 101-23-005, 101-41-005): will open for a GHL of 50,200 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Felice Strait and Revillagigedo Channel north of the latitude of Duke Point at 54°55.15' N lat, west of 131°08.38' W long, south of 55°07.21' N lat, and east of 131°27.70' W long.

Vallenar Bay (Subdistrict 101-29-004): will open for a GHL of 23,200 pounds of geoduck in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Vallenar Point at 55°25.57' N lat, 131°51.09' W long and north of the latitude of South Vallenar Point at 55°22.83' N lat.

District 3

Saint Nicholas Channel, North Lulu Island (Subdistrict 103-70-007): will open for a GHL of 111,000 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Saint Nicholas Channel and Portillo Channel north of a line from 55°27.24' N lat, 133°38.51' W long to Point Saint Isidor at 55°27.05' N lat, 133°37.25' W long to Point Delgada at 55°30.92' N lat, 133°28.78' W long to San Fernando Island at 55°31.52' N lat, 133°26.90' W long to Point San Pasqual at 55°34.13' N lat, 133°23.30' W long and the waters of the Gulf of Esquibel east of a line from Point Incarnation at 55°33.10' N lat, 133°37.27' W long to the southernmost tip of West San Lorenzo Island at 55°35.05' N lat, 133°37.35' W long, south of 55°35.05' N lat and west of a line from 55°35.05' N lat, 133°23.60' W long to Point San Pasqual at 55°34.13' N lat, 133°23.30' W long.

Davidson Inlet (Subdistrict 103-90-004): will open for a GHL of 7,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Sea Otter Sound and Davidson Inlet west of 133°27.70' W long, east of 133°43.37' W long, and north of a line from Turn Point at 55°50.79' N lat, 133°21.60' W long to the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island at 55°51.09' N lat, 133°40.96' W long to Alice Rocks at 55°49.46' N lat, 133°55.63' W long with the following restrictions:

Edna Bay: will be closed north of a line from 55°55.90' N lat, 133°37.75' W long to Limestone Point at 55°56.33' N lat, 133°37.02' W long;

Token Cove: will be closed south of a line from the northwest shore of Marble Island at 55°59.75' N lat, 133°28.05' W long to 55°59.58' N lat, 133°28.90' W long;

Unnamed bay on the northwest shore of Marble Island: will be closed east of a line from 55°59.27' N lat, 130°29.36' W long to 55°58.20' N lat, 133°29.36' W long.

Districts 3 & 4

Cone Island North (Subdistricts 103-50-005, 104-40-005): will open for a GHF of 69,500 pounds of whole geoduck 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 the Noyes Island shore at 55°27.24' N lat, 133°38.51' W long, east of a line from Saint Nicholas Point at 55°26.38' N lat, 133°40.10' W long to the westernmost tip of Cone Island at 55°25.29' N lat, 133°39.85' W long, and north and west of a line from the western most tip of Cone Island to the easternmost tip of Cone Island at 55°26.45' N lat, 133°36.86' W long to the Lulu Island Shoreline at 55°26.87' N lat, 133°36.47' W long.

Cone Island South and Paloma Pass (Subdistricts 103-50-006, 104-35-006): will open for a GHF of 50,700 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters north and west of a line from Siketi Point at 55°25.06' N lat, 133°39.60' W long to the Baker Island shoreline at 55°24.11' N lat, 133°36.70' W long then north along the Baker Island shoreline to 55°25.83' N lat, 133°34.54' W long to the Lulu Island shoreline at 55°25.83' N lat, 133°33.02' W long, east of a line from Siketi Point to the easternmost tip of Cone Island at 55°26.45' N lat, 133°36.86' W long, to the Lulu Island shoreline at 55°26.87' N lat, 133°36.47' W long, and south of the Lulu Island shoreline.

Districts 3 & 5

Warren Island and Kosciusko Island (Subdistricts 103-90-005, 105-41,43,50-005): will open for a GHF of 13,000 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Warren Channel and Summer Strait north of a line from the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island at 55°51.09' N lat, 133°40.96' W long to Alice Rocks at 55°49.46' N lat, 133°55.63' W long, east of a line from Alice Rocks to Borlase Rocks at 55°54.97' N lat, 133°57.74' W long to 56°08.66' N lat, 133°44.58' W long, south of 56°08.66' N lat, and west of the shoreline of Kosciusko Island from 56°08.66' N lat, 133°37.30' W long to the southernmost tip of Kosciusko Island at 55°53.96' N lat, 133°43.37' W long then due south to 55°50.81' N lat, 133°43.37' W long with the following restriction:

Unnamed cove on the western shore of Kosciusko Island: will be closed east of a line from 56°03.27' N lat, 133°42.07' W long to 56°02.87' N lat, 133°42.30' W long.

District 4

Northwest Dall Island (Subdistricts 104-20-003, 104-30-003): will open for a GHF of 21,200 pounds of whole geoduck in those waters of Meares Passage, Sea Otter Harbor, Divers Bay, and Bobs Bay, south and west of a line from Eagle Point 55°14.53' N lat, 133°13.28' W long to Suemez Island at 55°14.68' N lat, 133°14.45' W long and north and east of a line from Lontana Point at 55°12.26' N lat, 133°20.13' W long to Cape Lookout at 55°06.03' N lat, 133°14.25' W long.

Area Closures:

Lower Cordova Bay (102-10, 103-11, 21) and East San Fernando (103-60-001) which would normally fall on this rotation, will be closed. The department surveyed these areas in 2021 and 2022 and their biomass has fallen below 30% of the original biomass estimate. Under 5 AAC 38.142 (h) these areas will remain closed until the estimated biomass is above the 30% threshold. Evidence of sea otter predation on geoducks has been observed and documented by the department in these areas.

Inseason Management Plan

In the Ketchikan management area, based on the recommendation of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association, weekly harvest periods will generally 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), it is expected that the 2022/2023 season will be delayed until the summer of 2023. The Sitka GHFs and fishery openings will be announced before that time.

A valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit and 2022/2023 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 18, through Wednesday, November 30, 2022, and for Christmas and New Year's holidays from Friday, December 16, 2022, through Wednesday, January 4, 2023. State agencies will be closed on the following State holidays: October 18 (Alaska Day), November 11 (Veteran's Day), November 24 (Thanksgiving Day), December 26 (Christmas Day), January 2 (New Year's Day), January 16 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), February 20 (President's Day), March 27 (Seward's Day), and May 29 (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 2022/23 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 2022/23 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 Douglas ADF&G office, C/O Max Schoenfeld at P.O. Box 110024, Juneau, AK 99811-0024.

Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association has completed inorganic arsenic testing for all open geoduck areas for the 2022/2023 season. All areas passed therefore there will be no restrictions on selling Southeast Alaska geoducks to mainland China this season due to inorganic arsenic.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1M1922.

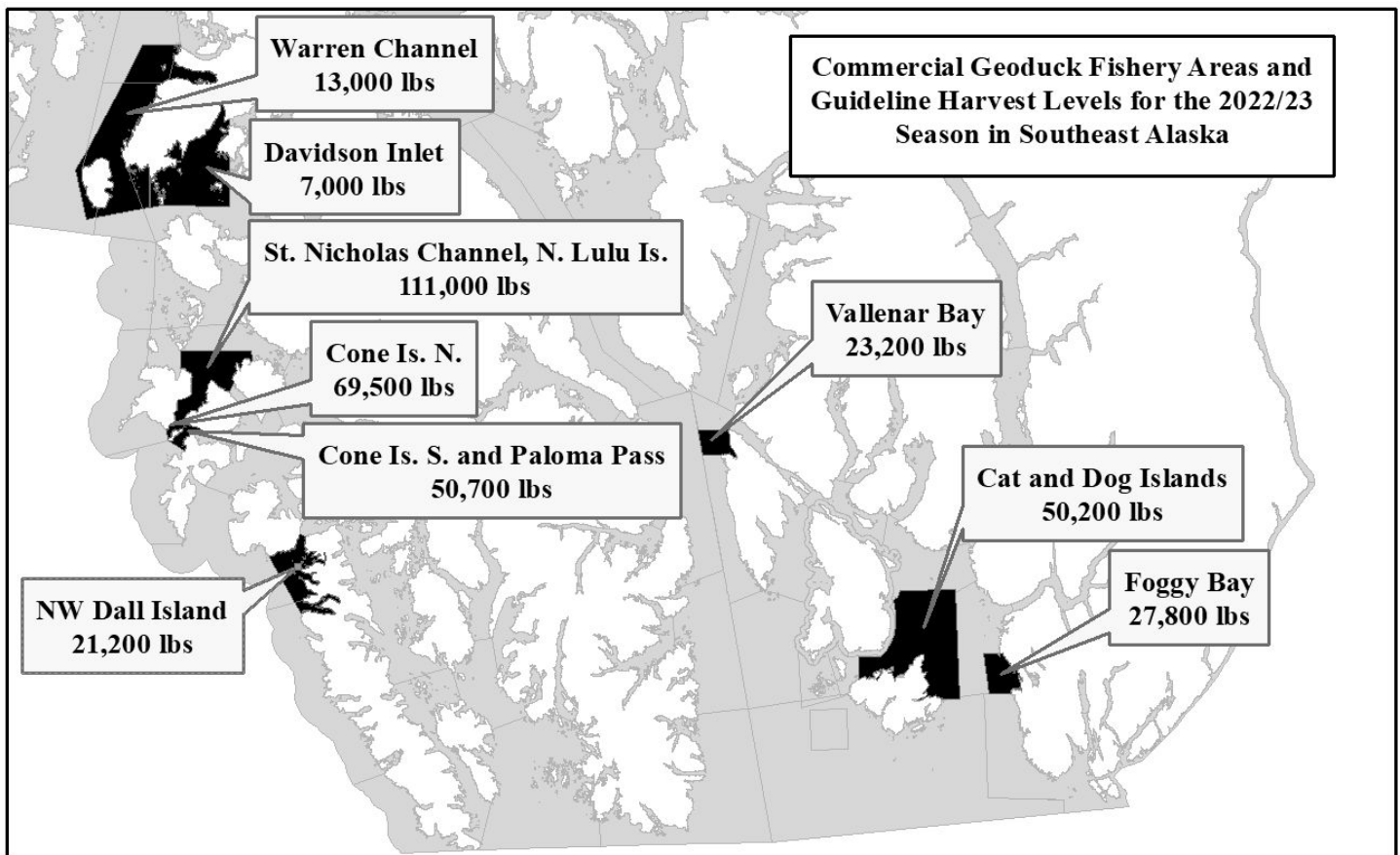


Figure 1. Commercial geoduck fishery areas and guideline harvest levels for the 2022-23 season.

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.

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

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