

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release:

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2020/21 Alaska Weathervane Scallop Guideline Harvest Levels

The 2020/21 weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bristol Bay–Bering Sea areas will open on July 1, 2020. The Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound areas will be closed for the 2020/21 season. Guideline harvest levels (GHLs) and crab bycatch limits for the 2020/21 scallop season are listed below.

Registration Area/District	Guideline Harvest Level (pounds of shucked meat)	Crab bycatch limit (number of crab)	
		Tanner crab	King crab
Yakutat	145,000	NA	NA
Prince William Sound	Closed	NA	NA
Cook Inlet	Closed	NA	NA
Kodiak			
Northeast District	15,000	9,000	25
Shelikof District	40,000	20,000	25
Southwest District	35,000	17,500	25
Southeast District	15,000	9,000	25
Semidi District	<i>Exploratory area</i>	NA	NA
Alaska Peninsula			
long 160° W to 161° W	7,500	3,750	25
Unimak Bight ^a	7,500	3,750	25
Dutch Harbor			
Bering Sea Waters	5,000	5,000	10
Pacific Ocean Waters	Closed	NA	NA
Bristol Bay-Bering Sea	7,500	65,000	500
		<i>C. opilio and hybrids</i>	
		300,000	

^a Commissioner permit required to harvest scallops in Unimak Bight.

NA = Not applicable

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Vessel operators must obtain separate scallop interim-use dredge gear permit cards for state and federal waters from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) and a vessel registration from ADF&G prior to participating in the scallop fishery. Vessels are required to have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS) approved by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and vessels operating outside of the Cook Inlet Area are required to carry an onboard observer during all fishing activity. Vessels may not operate more than two dredges at one time and dredges may not be more than 15 feet wide, except in the Cook Inlet Area where legal gear is restricted to a single 6-foot wide dredge.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will assess inseason fishery performance as measured by catch per unit effort (CPUE) and monitor crab bycatch. Poor fishery performance or excessive crab bycatch may result in area, or partial area, closures prior to achieving the full GHL.

Area specific scallop fishery, survey, and stock status information is presented in the *Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the Scallop Fishery of the Coast of Alaska (April 2020)* published by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) which may be found here:

<https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/resources/SAFE/ScallopSAFE/ScallopSAFE2020.pdf>

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak (907-486-1840), Douglas (907-465-4259), Dutch Harbor (907-581-1239), or Homer (907-235-8191).

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here:

<https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

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