



Advisory Announcement
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CONTACT: Jason Jones
Sitka Assistant Area Management Biologist
jason.jones@alaska.gov
(907) 747-6688

2019/20 SITKA AREA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK CLAM FISHERY

The Sitka area commercial geoduck clam fishery will not open for the remainder of the 2019/20 fishing season as both local fishermen and SARDFa indicated no plans to harvest in the area. The below guideline harvest level (GHL) is available for the remainder of the 2019/20 season.

This will be the first year of an odd and even year rotation for commercial geoduck areas in the Sitka Management Area. Biorka Channel and Legma Island Area (Subdistrict 113-31-003) will be open on even years; Taigud and Kolosh Islands Area (Subdistricts 113-31-004, 113-41-004) and Elovoi, Golf, and Gornoi islands area (Subdistrict 113-31-005) will both be open on odd years. This was done to align the management of geoduck beds in the Sitka management area to other management areas within Southeast Alaska.

Biorka Channel and Legma Island Area (Subdistrict 113-31-003): has a GHL of 13,200 pounds of whole geoduck clams available for harvest only in those waters east of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island at 56°51.95' N lat, 135°30.44' W long to a point on the southeast shore of Biorka Island at 56°50.55' N lat, 135°30.97' W long to a point 0.5 nautical miles (nmi) southeast of Jug Island at 56°47.10' N lat, 135°25.60' W long, and south and west of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island at 56°51.95' N lat, 135°30.44' W long to the westernmost tip of Middle Rock at 56°50.90' N lat, 135°27.20' W long to a point approximately midway between Torsar Island and Blackbird Island at 56°50.48' N lat, 135°25.77' W long to a point approximately 0.5 nmi southeast of Jug Island at 56°47.10' N lat, 135°25.60' W long.

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/>.

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

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