



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 26, 2024

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2023/24 SITKA AREA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK FISHERY

The Sitka area commercial geoduck fishery will remain closed for the 2023/24 fishing season. Fishermen and industry representatives indicated they have no intention to harvest or buy geoducks in the Sitka area for the remainder of the season. The department will consider opening these areas if there is expressed interest. Interested divers should contact Sitka Area Management staff with their harvest and market plans for a potential fishery. The below guideline harvest levels (GHL) by area are available until the season closes by regulation on September 30, 2024.

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.

For the 2023/24 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.

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.

Fishermen are reminded that unless otherwise specified, regulations regarding the geoduck fishery are stated in 5 AAC 38.142: Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. A permit holder may not harvest, land, or possess more than 1,000 pounds of whole, unshucked geoducks during any weekly fishing period.

Guideline Harvest Level by Area

Taigud and Kolosh Islands Area (Subdistricts 113-31-004, 113-41-004): has a GHL of 4,500 pounds of whole geoduck clams available for harvest only in those waters along the western coast of Baranof Island and associated offshore islands south and east of a line from Cape Burunof at 56°59.04' N lat, 135°23.21' W long to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island at 56°52.16' N lat, 135°33.92' W long, and north and east of a line from a point at the southern entrance of Kliuchevoi Bay at 56°50.18' N lat, 135°22.67' W long to a point southwest of Fragrant Island at 56°50.08' N lat, 135°25.77' 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 Middle Rock at 56°50.90' N lat, 135°27.20' W long to the northernmost tip of Hanus Island at 56°51.95' N lat, 135°30.42' W long and to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island at 56°52.16' N lat, 135°33.92' W long with the following restrictions:

Kliuchevoi Bay: waters east of a line from 56°50.40' N lat, 135°22.52' W long to 56°50.20' N lat, 135°22.68' W long will be closed to the harvest of geoducks;

Frosty Reef: the waters within the unnamed bay located southeast of Frosty Reef east of a line from 56°52.82' N lat, 135°22.93' W long to 56°52.70' N lat, 135°22.98' W long to 56°52.61' N lat, 135°22.97' W long and south of 56°53.00' N lat will be closed to the harvest of geoducks.

Elovoi, Golf, and Gornoi Islands Area (Subdistrict 113-31-005): has a GHL of 4,100 pounds of whole geoduck clams only in the waters enclosed by a line from the southern entrance of Kliuchevoi Bay at 56°50.18' N lat, 135°22.67' W long to a point southwest of Fragrant Island at 56°50.08' N lat, 135°25.77' W long to a point approximately 0.45 nautical miles southeast of Jug Island at 56°47.10' N lat, 135°25.60' W long to the southern tip of Scow Island at 56°41.97' N lat, 135°17.52' W long to the southernmost tip of Beauchamp Island at 56°41.73' N lat, 135°15.50' W long with the following restrictions:

Middle Channel: the waters of Middle Channel east of a line from 56°44.10' N lat, 135°14.77' W long to 56°44.37' N lat, 135°15.02' W long will be closed to the harvest of geoducks;

West Crawfish Inlet: east of a line from 56°46.28' N lat, 135°16.39' W long to 56°46.69' N lat, 135°17.21' W long will be closed to the harvest of geoducks.

Biorka Channel and Legma Island Area (Subdistrict 113-31-003): will be closed.

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

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

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