



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: June 29, 2023

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2022/23 SITKA AREA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK FISHERY

The Sitka area commercial geoduck season will begin with collecting samples for paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) testing on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. Based on satisfactory PSP testing results, the first fishery may begin on Friday, July 21, 2023. Subsequent weekly fisheries may occur daily from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Friday through Tuesday. Open fishing periods will be announced by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) advisory announcement 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.

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.

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 and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, 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 Levels by Area

Biorka Channel and Legma Island Area (Subdistrict 113-31-003): will be open for a guideline harvest level of 12,400 pounds of whole geoduck clams 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.

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

Taigud and Kolosh Islands Area (Subdistricts 113-31-004, 113-41-004): will be closed.

Elovoi, Golf, and Gornoi Islands area (Subdistrict 113-31-005): will be closed.

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

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