



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: August 31, 2023

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**2023/24 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL SEA CUCUMBER FISHERY
ANNOUNCEMENT**

The 2023/24 Southeast Alaska commercial sea cucumber dive fishery will open by emergency order at 8:00 a.m., Monday, October 2, 2023. Subsequent openings will be announced on a weekly basis until individual area's guideline harvest levels (GHLs) have been reached or until March 31, 2024, whichever is earlier. A total of 1,673,000 pounds of sea cucumbers will be available for harvest this season.

The following area will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 2, 2023:

District 1

West Shore of Gravina Island (Subdistrict 101-29): will be open for a GHL of **63,700 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of Clarence Strait in District 1 south and west of a line from Caamano Point at 55°29.85' N lat, 131°58.21' W long to Point Higgins at 55°27.43' N lat, 131°50.03' W long to the northernmost tip of Vallenar Point at 55°25.57' N lat, 131°51.07' W long and north of the latitude of the southernmost tip of Dall Head at 55°07.75' N lat.

The following areas will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 2, and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Tuesday, October 3, 2023:

District 1

Boca de Quadra (Subdistrict 101-30): will be open for a GHL of **75,700 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters east of a line from Quadra Point at 55°05.17' N lat, 130°59.05' W long to Kah Shakes Point at 55°04.22' N lat, 130°58.72' W long and west of a line from approximately 1.0 nautical mile (nmi) east of Porpoise Point at 55°06.09' N lat, 130°44.49' W long to the southern shore of Boca de Quadra at 55°05.61' N lat, 130°43.23' W long.

Revillagigedo Channel, Thorne Arm, and East Behm Canal (Subdistricts 101-41, 43, and 53): will be open for a GHL of **107,000 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters south and east of a line from the southwest point of the entrance of Moth Bay at 55°15.67' N lat, 131°20.57' W long to the northernmost tip of Harbor Point on the eastern shore of Annette Island at 55°13.03' N lat, 131°25.18' W long, north of a line from the eastern side of Annette Island at 55°06.78' N lat, 131°21.50' W long to the northwestern side of Mary Island at 55°05.95' N lat, 131°13.00' W long to Mary Island Light at 55°05.94' N lat, 131°10.96' W long to the northern point of Black Island at 55°08.00' N lat, 131°04.80' W long then due east to the mainland shore, and all waters of East Behm Canal south of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Point Nelson located at 55°18.03' N lat.

West Behm Canal (Subdistrict 101-85): will be open for a GHL of **47,200 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of West Behm Canal adjacent to the southeastern shore of the Cleveland Peninsula north of the latitude of Caamano Point located 55°29.85' N lat, 131°58.21' W long and south of a line from the northernmost tip of Snail Point at 55°49.47' N lat, 131°46.25' W long to Nose Point at 55°48.32' N lat, 131°42.53' W long.

District 2

Moira Sound (Subdistrict 102-30): will be open for a GHIL of **146,100 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters west of a line from a point 2.0 nmi east of Point Halliday at 55°05.15' N lat, 132°02.52' W long to a point west of Menefee Anchorage at 55°02.00' N lat, 132°01.85' W long.

Thorne Bay and Kasaan Peninsula (Subdistrict 102-70): will be open for a GHIL of **65,600 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of Clarence Strait adjacent to the eastern shore of Kasaan Peninsula north of a line from the northeast side of Kasaan Peninsula at 55°28.38' N lat, 132°08.85' W long to Caamano Point located at 55°29.85' N lat, 131°58.21' W long and south of a line from the easternmost tip of Narrow Point at 55°47.00' N lat, 132°28.23' W long to the northernmost tip of Lemesurier Point at 55°46.02' N lat, 132°16.94' W long.

District 3

Eastern shore of Dall Island and Soda Bay (Subdistrict 103-40): will be open for a GHIL of **108,000 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of Tlevak Narrows, Tlevak Strait, and Soda Bay north of a line from Rose Point at 54°58.13' N lat, 132°56.58' W long to the southern end of Sukkwan Island at 55°00.00' N lat, 132°46.03' W long and south of a line through Tlevak Narrows at the easternmost tip of Turn Point at 55°15.74' N lat, 133°07.33' W long to Prince of Wales Island at 55°15.70' N lat, 133°06.50' W long, with the following restriction:

Tlevak Strait, North Pass, South Pass, and Natzuhini Bay: will be closed in those waters east of a line from the southern tip of Halibut Nose at 55°12.50' N lat, 133°02.27' W long to Sukkwan Island at 55°09.27' N lat, 132°53.77' W long.

District 7

Southern Ernest Sound (Subdistrict 107-10): will be open for a GHIL of **79,700 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters north and east of a line from Lemesurier Point at 55°46.02' N lat, 132°16.94' W long to Ernest Point at 55°51.01' N lat, 132°22.21' W long to a point on Etolin Island at 55°54.79' N lat, 132°21.27' W long, and south of the latitude of Point Eaton at 55°56.44' N lat.

Northern Ernest Sound (Subdistrict 107-20): will be open for a GHIL of **229,400 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of Ernest Sound north of the latitude of Point Eaton at 55°56.44' N lat, south and east of a line from a point on Etolin Island at 56°06.40' N lat, 132°06.32' W long to Thoms Point at 56°06.97' N lat, 132°04.38' W long, and south of a line from a point on Wrangell Island at 56°12.24' N lat, 131°55.29' W long to a point on the mainland shore at 56°11.68' N lat, 131°53.41' W long.

Zimovia Strait and Anita Bay (Subdistricts 107-30 and 35): will be open for a GHIL of **79,300 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of Zimovia Strait and Anita Bay north of a line from Thoms Point at 56°06.97' N lat, 132°04.38' W long to a point on Etolin Island at 56°06.40' N lat, 132°06.32' W long, and south of the latitude of Nemo Point at 56°17.00' N lat.

Bradfield Canal, Blake Channel, and Eastern Passage (Subdistricts 107-40 and 45): will be open for a GHIL of **29,500 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters north of a line from a point on Wrangell Island at 56°12.24' N lat, 131°55.29' W long to a point on the mainland shore at 56°11.68' N lat, 131°53.41' W long, and east and south of a line from Babbler Point at 56°29.08' N lat, 132°17.37' W long to Hour Point at 56°27.73' N lat, 132°16.79' W long.

District 8

Stikine Strait and Chichagof Passage (Subdistricts 108-10, 20, and 40): will be open for a GHIL of **22,800 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of Stikine Strait north of the latitude of Round Point at 56°16.65' N lat, those waters of Zimovia Strait and Chichagof Passage north of the latitude of Nemo Point at 56°17.00' N lat, south of the latitude of East Point on the eastern shore of Woronkofski Island at 56°23.10' N lat, and south of a line extending from Wedge Point located on the western shore of Woronkofski Island at 56°25.23' N lat, 132°32.22' W long to a point on the northeast shore of Zarembo Island located at 56°25.09' N lat, 132°37.78' W long.

South Mitkof and North Zarembo Islands (Subdistrict 108-30): will be open for a GHL of **11,400 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of Sumner Strait east of a line from Low Point at 56°27.18' N lat, 132°57.18' W long to Point Alexander at 56°30.55' N lat, 132°57.01' W long, and west of a line from the western entrance of Blind Slough on Mitkof Island at 56°30.71' N lat, 132°43.48' W long to Craig Point Light at 56°27.40' N lat, 132°42.95' W long.

District 9

Southeast Baranof (Subdistrict 109-10): will be open for a GHL of **21,400 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of eastern Baranof Island south of the latitude of the Patterson Point Light at 56°32.39' N lat, including all waters of Patterson Bay and Deep Cove and north of the latitude of Armstrong Point at 56°19.87' N lat, including all waters of Port Lucy.

District 11

Seymour Canal (Subdistricts 111-11 and 14): will be open for a GHL of **129,200 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of Seymour Canal north of 57°36.71' N lat, south and east of a line from Staunch Point at 57°52.43' N lat, 134°14.69' W long NNE to the southeast point of Swan Island at 57°54.30' N lat, 134°13.98' W long, and south of a line from the eastern shore of Swan Island at 57°56.37' N lat, 134°12.10' W long ESE to a point on the Glass Peninsula shore at 57°55.85' N lat, 134°08.50' W long. The waters of Mole Harbor are closed west of a line from 57°40.59' N lat, 134°02.75' W long to 57°39.38' N lat, 134°00.70' W long and the waters of Pleasant Bay are closed west of a line from 57°38.83' N lat, 133°59.72' W long to 57°38.42' N lat, 133°58.61' W long.

District 12

Northern Chatham Strait (Subdistricts 112-16, 17, 63, and 65): will be open for a GHL of **72,300 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of Chatham Strait along the western shore of Admiralty Island south of 58°18.70' N lat, and north of the latitude of Danger Point Light at 57°30.92' N lat, including all waters of Funter Bay and Hawk Inlet.

District 13

Baranof Island Shoreline, Necker and Rakof Islands, West Crawfish Inlet, and Crawfish Inlet (Subdistricts 113-31, 32, and 33): will be open for a GHL of **107,400 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of the Necker Islands, the Rakof Islands, Hot Springs Bay, Windy Passage, Middle Channel, Walker Channel, and all contiguous waters south of a line from a point at 56°53.55' N lat, 135°22.78' W long (at the southern entrance to Kanga Bay), to the northernmost tip of Peisar Island at 56°53.85' N lat, 135°26.56' W long, and extending due west from the northernmost tip of Peisar Island at 56°53.85' N lat, 135°26.56' W long, and north of the latitude of North Cape at 56°35.83' N lat, with the following restrictions:

Whale Bay: will be closed;

Necker Bay: will be closed north of 56°40.50' N lat.

Sitka Sound (Subdistricts 113-38 and 41): will be open for a GHL of **49,300 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters of Sitka Sound from Deep Inlet to Kanga Bay, west of the longitude of Shoals Point at 135°37.89' W long, south of a line from Shoals Point at 57°00.82' N lat, 135°37.89' W long to the westernmost tip of Long Island at 56°59.98' N lat, 135°21.93' W long to the easternmost tip of Long Island at 56°59.95' N lat, 135°20.37' W long to a point at the northern side of the entrance to Deep Inlet at 56°59.60' N lat, 135°18.67' W long, and north of a line from a point at 56°53.55' N lat, 135°22.78' W long (at the southern entrance to Kanga Bay), to the northernmost tip of Peisar Island at 56°53.85' N lat, 135°26.56' W long, and extending due west from the northernmost tip of Peisar Island at 56°53.85' N lat, 135°26.56' W long.

Peril Strait (Subdistricts 113-51, 52, 53, 54, and 59): will be open for a GHL of **209,800 pounds** of sea cucumbers in the waters of Peril Strait, Rodman Bay, Saook Bay, Hanus Bay, and Sitkoh Bay east of a line from the easternmost tip of Nismeni Point at 57°33.78' N lat, 135°24.77' W long, to Broad Island Light at 57°35.15' N lat, 135°23.62' W long, to a point on the Chichagof Island shore at 57°35.88' N lat, 135°23.05' W long, and west of a line from Point Thatcher at 57°24.97' N lat, 134°50.00' W long to Point Hayes at 57°28.83' N lat, 134°50.33' W long.

District 14

Excursion Inlet and Homeshore (Subdistricts 114-25-002 and 114-80): will be open for a GHL of **18,200 pounds** of sea cucumbers in those waters along the eastern shoreline of Excursion Inlet south of the latitude of 58°30.00' N lat, south and east along the Homeshore shoreline to the longitude of 135°10.00' W long and including the waters around the Porpoise Islands.

Regulatory Summary

The use of dive gear 14 days prior to a commercial fishery, 14 days after participating in a commercial opening, and between weekly open periods for miscellaneous shellfish is prohibited. A person who uses dive gear to fish in a commercial red sea urchin fishery, commercial geoduck fishery, or mariculture site may fish in the sea cucumber fishery within the 14-day period (5 AAC 38.147).

Each diver participating in the sea cucumber fishery must have a current Southeast Alaska Sea Cucumber Limited Entry Permit which can be obtained from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). All vessels involved in the sea cucumber fishery need to have a current CFEC vessel license and a Miscellaneous Shellfish vessel registration form issued by ADF&G. Vessel registrations can be obtained at Southeast Alaska ADF&G offices. All crew members are required to have a valid Commercial Crewmembers License or a limited entry card from another fishery.

In order to provide a refuge for sea cucumbers in deeper waters, use of mixed gases or saturation diving is prohibited. Nitrox gas can be used for diving provided that the oxygen concentration is less than 40%. Sea cucumbers may only be handpicked and any means other than individually collecting sea cucumbers by hand and placing them in bags is prohibited. Sea cucumbers may only be harvested by diving with the aid of: SCUBA; tethered, umbilical surface supplied systems; or a snorkel.

No more than three divers licensed to fish sea cucumbers (hereafter called “permit holders”) may be on board a vessel registered to fish sea cucumbers from 24 hours before, during, and for 24 hours after a fishing period or at any time commercially harvested sea cucumbers are on board. Only two permit holders can make landings from any registered sea cucumber vessel during any fishing period.

No permit holder may land, or have on board, more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during any fishing period established by the department and only one species of miscellaneous shellfish is permitted on board a vessel at a time. Only vessels registered as tenders may possess more than 4,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during an established open fishing period.

Commercial sea cucumber fishermen are also advised that all landings to processors, catcher–processors, or tenders must be recorded on fish tickets with the number of minutes of dive time included. A permit holder who is operating their vessel as a tender for sea cucumbers must complete fish tickets as required by 5 AAC 39.130. A fish ticket must be made out for every landing and all fish tickets must be submitted to ADF&G within seven days of landing.

The corresponding Emergency Order for the area descriptions in this announcement is EO 1M3123, and the Emergency Order for the initial fishery opening is EO 1M3223.

Fishery Contacts

For information on management of the sea cucumber fisheries, contact:

Ketchikan

Districts 1–3

Phone: 225-5195

Contacts: Whitney Crittenden, Bo Meredith, or Justin Breese

Petersburg

Districts 7 & 8

Phone: 772-3801

Contacts: Katie Taylor, Paul Salomone, or Tom Kowalske

Sitka

Districts 9 & 13

Phone: 747-6688

Contacts: Aaron Dupuis

Juneau

Districts 11, 12, & 14

Phone: 465-4250

Contacts: Scott Forbes or Ray Vinzant

For information on surveys, biomass estimates, and corresponding GHLS, contact:

Juneau

Phone: 465-4250

Contacts: Quinn Smith, Max Schoenfeld, or Kyle Hebert

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&G</i>	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3255

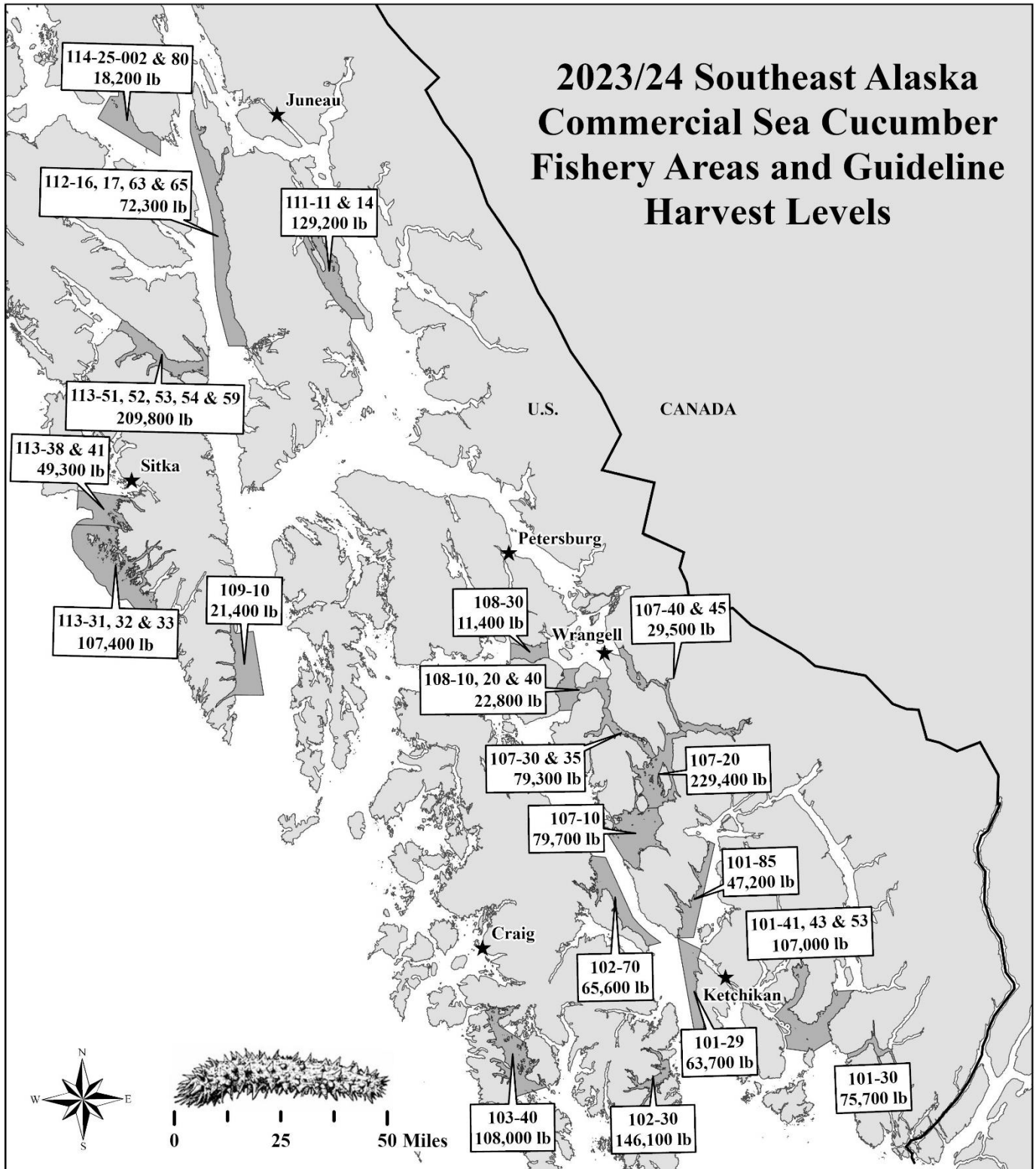


Figure 1. Commercial sea cucumber open harvest areas and GHLs for the 2023/24 season.

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.