



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: September 8, 2023

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2023/24 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK FISHERY

The 2023/24 Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck season begins by regulation on Sunday, October 1, 2023, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 467,100 pounds. The first opening is planned for October 4 or 5 depending on paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) test results.

Guideline Harvest Levels by Area:

District 1:

Nakat Bay (Subdistrict 101-11-001): will be open for a GHL of 35,300 pounds of geoduck in those waters of Nakat Bay, Sitklan Passage, Lincoln Channel, and Tongass Passage east of the longitude of Tree Point Light at 130°56.03' W long, south of a line from 54°48.29' N lat, 130°47.40' W long to the northernmost tip of Slim Island at 54°48.29' N lat, 130°46.95' W long to north of High Point at 54°47.79' N lat, 130°44.37' W long to the southwestern entrance of Fillmore Inlet at 54°47.60' N lat, 130°38.19' W long to Point Phipp at 54°46.56' N lat, 130°37.25' W long, and north of the U.S. Canadian border.

Kelp Island (Subdistrict 101-21-001): will be open for a GHL of 138,700 pounds of geoduck in those waters south of the latitude of Duke Point at 54°55.00' N lat and east of 131°22.63' W long, approximately 1.1 nautical miles (nmi) west of Cape Northumberland.

North Kirk Point to Bullhead Cove (Subdistrict 101-23-003): will be open for a GHL of 27,800 pounds of geoduck in those waters along the mainland shore north of the latitude of Kirk Point at 54°59.98' N lat and south of a line from Kah Shakes Point at 55°03.66' N lat, 130°59.43' W long to west of Bullhead Cove at 55°03.23' N lat, 131°02.80' W long.

Percy Islands (Subdistrict 101-25-002): will be open for a GHL of 63,400 pounds of geoduck in those waters west of a line from Moss Point at 55°01.21' N lat, 131°33.80' W long to Sealed Passage at 54°55.80' N lat, 131°30.45' W long, north of a line from Sealed Passage at 54°55.80' N lat, 131°30.45' W long to Clarence Strait at 54°54.71' N lat, 131°39.00' W long, and east of 131°39.00' W long, approximately 1.7 nmi east of Point Davison.

Vegas and Hotspur Islands (Subdistrict 101-25-003): will be open for a GHL of 90,100 pounds of geoduck in those waters of Felice Strait west of 131°27.59' W long and east of a line from Point White at 54°55.92' N lat, 131°29.72' W long to Sealed Passage at 54°55.80' N lat, 131°30.45' W long to Moss Point at 55°01.21' N lat, 131°33.80' W long.

Southern Gravina Island (Subdistrict 101-29-005): will be open for a GHL of 22,600 pounds of geoduck in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of 55°11.65' N lat and north of the latitude of Dall Head at 55°07.74' N lat.

District 3:

Kaigani Strait (Subdistrict 103-30-001): will be open for a GHL of 26,800 pounds of geoduck in those waters of Kaigani Strait south of a line from Luke Point at 54°55.76' N lat, 132°53.75' W long to the northwest shore of Long Island at

54°55.49' N lat, 132°48.87' W long and north of a line from the southernmost tip of Long Island at 54°45.06' N lat, 132°38.20' W long to the easternmost tip of Cape Muzon at 54°40.50' N lat, 132°40.42' W long.

Tlevak Strait (Subdistricts 103-40-009, 103-50-009): will be open for a GHF of 41,600 pounds of geoduck in those waters of Tlevak Strait north of a line from Reef Point at 55°03.66' N lat, 132°58.37' W long to north of Kellogg Point at 55°08.12' N lat, 132°52.94' W long and west of a line from Sukkwan Island at 55°09.23' N lat, 132°53.85' W long to southeast of Halibut Nose at 55°12.22' N lat, 133°0.80' W long to Natalia Point at 55°13.97' N lat, 133°02.74' W long to Prince of Wales Island at 55°16.46' N lat, 133°04.74' W long and in those waters of Meares Passage and Ulloa Channel north of a line from Eagle Point at 55°16.46' N lat, 133°04.74' W long to west of Eagle Point at 55°14.68' N lat, 133°14.47' W long and east of a line from southeast of Point San Antonio at 55°16.84' N lat, 133°13.00' W long to the easternmost tip of Suemez Island at 55°16.51' N lat, 133°13.16' W long then south along the eastern shoreline of Suemez Island to west of Eagle Point at 55°14.68' N lat, 133°14.47' W long with the following restriction:

View Cove, Baldy Bay, Coco Harbor, and Windy Cove: all waters of View Cove, Baldy Bay, Coco Harbor, and Windy Cove are closed to the harvest of geoduck.

Bucareli Bay and contiguous waters (Subdistrict 103-50-003): will be open for a GHF of 7,100 pounds of geoduck in those waters west of a line from Point Cuerdo at 55°28.50' N lat, 133°19.00' W long to Point Eugenia at 55°26.70' N lat, 133°17.80' W long to the southernmost tip of Point Miliflores at 55°24.41' N lat, 133°15.24' W long to Tranquil Point at 55°22.98' N lat, 133°13.46' W long, north of a line from Suemez Island at 55°20.66' N lat, 133°19.73' W long to the northernmost tip of Cape Flores at 55°21.20' N lat, 133°17.53' W long to the southernmost tip of Joe Island at 55°20.90' N lat, 133°17.00' W long then due east to Prince of Wales Island at 55°21.20' N lat, 133°16.70' W long, and north and east of a line from the westernmost tip of Point Arboleda at 55°19.10' N lat, 133°27.76' W long to the southernmost tip of Point San Roque at 55°20.13' N lat, 133°32.63' W long, and south and east of a line from the eastern shore of Baker Island at 55°22.83' N lat, 133°27.57' W long to the southern tip of Ignace Island at 55°22.83' N lat, 133°25.96' W long to Point Amargura at 55°27.04' N lat, 133°21.66' W long with the following restriction:

Port San Antonio: all waters of Port San Antonio are closed to the harvest of geoduck.

Little Steamboat Bay (Subdistrict 103-70-002): will be open for a GHF of 13,700 pounds of geoduck in those waters along the northern shoreline of Noyes Island east of 133°41.33' W long and west of 133°39.04' W long.

Davidson Inlet (Subdistrict 103-90-004): will be open for a GHF of 7,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Sea Otter Sound and Davidson Inlet west of 133°27.70' W long, east of 133°43.37' W long, and north of a line from Turn Point at 55°50.79' N lat, 133°21.60' W long to the southernmost tip of Whale Head Island at 55°51.09' N lat, 133°40.96' W long to Alice Rocks at 55°49.46' N lat, 133°55.63' W long with the following restrictions:

Edna Bay: will be closed north of a line from 55°55.90' N lat, 133°37.75' W long to Limestone Point at 55°56.33' N lat, 133°37.02' W long;

Token Cove: will be closed south of a line from the northwest shore of Marble Island at 55°59.75' N lat, 133°28.05' W long to 55°59.58' N lat, 133°28.90' W long;

Unnamed bay on the northwest shore of Marble Island: will be closed east of a line from 55°59.27' N lat, 130°29.36' W long to 55°58.20' N lat, 133°29.36' W long.

In-Season Management Plan

The Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck fishery will begin Sunday, October 1, 2023. Fishing areas will be opened based on PSP test results.

In the Ketchikan management area, weekly PSP results are expected on Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings. If sampling is delayed the fishing period may also be delayed up to one day. Fishing periods will be announced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) based on the recommendation of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association, are expected to be between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and to generally occur on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

ADF&G registration for the Ketchikan or Sitka management areas and a valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit is required prior to commercial harvest of geoduck. Permit holders are required to contact ADF&G at least 48 hours prior to fishing in a new management area.

The geoduck fishery will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Friday, November 17, through Wednesday, November 29, 2023, and for Christmas and New Year's holidays from Friday, December 15, 2023, through Wednesday, January 10, 2024. State agencies will be closed on the following State holidays: October 18 (Alaska Day), November 10 (Veteran's Day, observed), November 23 (Thanksgiving Day), December 25 (Christmas Day), January 1 (New Year's Day), January 15 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), February 19 (President's Day), March 25 (Seward's Day), and May 27 (Memorial Day).

The commercial geoduck fishery has an overage-underage policy to maintain an average harvest rate of 2%, consistent with 5 AAC 38.142(g). Harvest from the 2023/24 season that is over or under the specified GHL will be subtracted or added, respectively, to the GHL for the next fishery rotation for each area until the GHL is revised by a new survey of the area.

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.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1M3423.

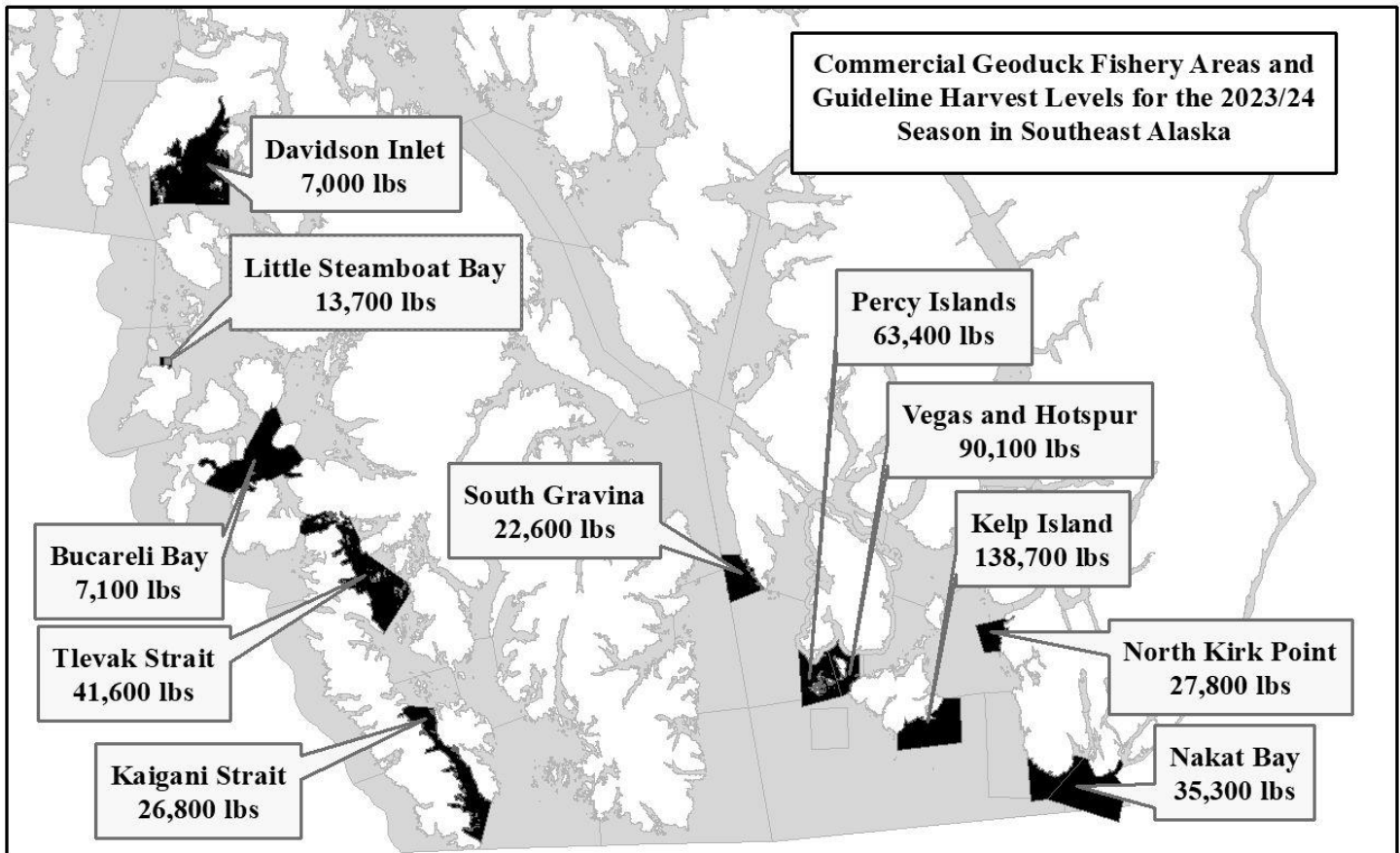


Figure 1: Commercial geoduck open harvest areas and guideline harvest levels for the 2023/24 season. *Note: This chart is for general reference purposes only, use the written definitions for a legal description of areas.*

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

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