

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
**Sam Rabung, Director**

Homer Office  
3298 Douglas Place  
Homer, AK 99603



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**  
**Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner**

PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
www.adfg.alaska.gov

## **Advisory Announcement**

*For Immediate Release: March 4, 2024*

**CONTACT: Martin Schuster and Andy Pollak**  
**Shellfish Area Management Biologists**  
**(907) 235-8191**

### **Prince William Sound Area Subsistence Shrimp Pot Fishery Number of Pots Reduced Emergency Order 2-SF-E-02-24**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is reducing the number of pots allowed to be used per person and per vessel in the 2024 Prince William Sound (PWS) noncommercial (sport and subsistence) shrimp pot fishery. This regulatory restriction is effective from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 15 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 15, 2024.

The pot limit per person and per vessel has been reduced to three pots; however, of those three pots only two pots can be set in areas of historically high effort including areas near the Port of Valdez, near the Port of Whittier, and in portions of Port Wells and Culross Passage (see map below). These areas make up the majority of the noncommercial harvest in PWS and in these areas, pots will be limited to only two pots per person and per vessel. Fishery participants that want to use three pots will have to travel further from the two roadside ports in PWS (Valdez and Whittier; see map below). A map will also be provided with each permit for reference. Additionally, spare pots may be carried onboard a vessel participating in the noncommercial fishery. The noncommercial shrimp pot fishery is allocated 60% of the total allowable harvest (TAH) while the commercial shrimp pot fishery receives 40%. In 2023, with a noncommercial guideline harvest level (GHL) of 94,700 pounds, the pot limit was reduced to two pots near the Port of Valdez and Whittier and three pots for the outer areas for the entire season and the estimated harvest was 71,492 pounds of shrimp. The noncommercial fishery harvest was 23,208 pounds below the GHL. In 2024, the noncommercial GHL is 70,214 pounds of shrimp.

**The PWS noncommercial shrimp permits will be available online after March 15<sup>th</sup>.** All fishery participants are required to have a permit with them while participating in the fishery. In addition, all permit harvest reports are due by Friday, October 15, 2024, regardless of whether you fished. Participants may report their harvest online at any time, even if you are not finished for the season. The total season's harvest, by individual set, must be reported by the due date. Please look closely at the permit for additional details about pot limits and areas where only two pots are allowed.

In March 2022, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted the Failure to Report process for the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery, recognizing the importance of harvest reporting. The Failure to Report process was implemented for the 2023 season. If shrimpers failed to report their harvest by the October 15, 2023 reporting deadline, they were ineligible for a permit in 2024. If shrimpers fail to report their harvest in 2024, they will be ineligible for a 2025 permit.

The commercial shrimp fishery rotates every year between three defined locations in PWS. This season the commercial fishery will be harvesting in Area 3 which is in the southwestern area of PWS and includes popular locations such as Icy Bay. For additional information about the commercial shrimp fishery for the PWS area, please see the commercial fisheries advisory announcements page at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

For additional information about the PWS noncommercial shrimp pot fishery, please contact Brittany Blain-Roth in Anchorage at (907) 267-2265 and for subsistence and commercial shrimp pot fisheries, please contact Martin Schuster in Homer at 907-235-8191.

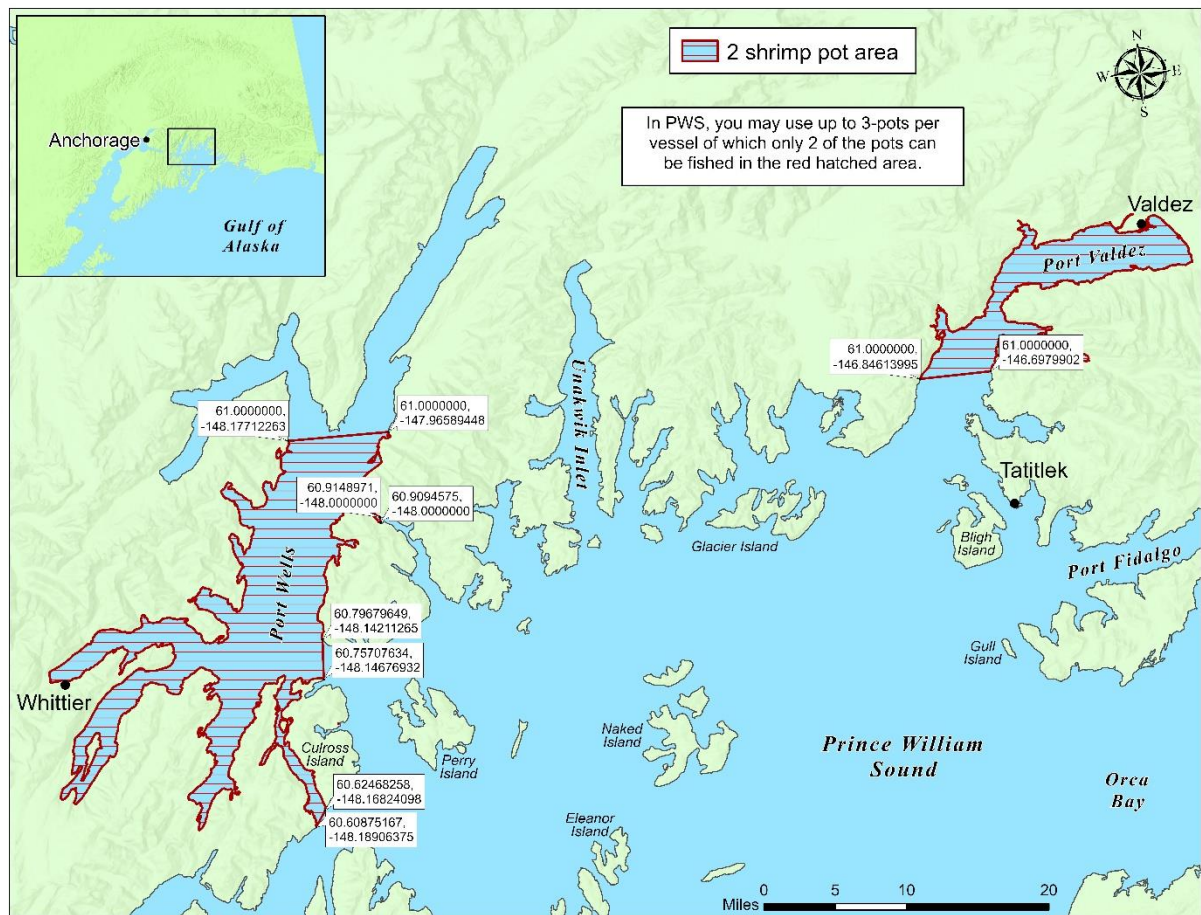


Figure 1. 2024 Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp pot fishery and pot limits.