

Regional Information Report No. 1J08-19

**2008–2009 Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery
Management Plan**

by

Bill Davidson

and

Southeast Alaska Area Management Staff

September 2008

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)		General		Measures (fisheries)	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	fork length	FL
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	mid-eye-to-fork	MEF
gram	g	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	mid-eye-to-tail-fork	METF
hectare	ha	at	@	standard length	SL
kilogram	kg	compass directions:		total length	TL
kilometer	km	east	E		
liter	L	north	N	Mathematics, statistics	
meter	m	south	S	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
milliliter	mL	west	W	alternate hypothesis	H _A
millimeter	mm	copyright	©	base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
		corporate suffixes:		catch per unit effort	CPUE
Weights and measures (English)		Company	Co.	coefficient of variation	CV
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	Corporation	Corp.	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
foot	ft	Incorporated	Inc.	confidence interval	CI
gallon	gal	Limited	Ltd.	correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
inch	in	District of Columbia	D.C.	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
mile	mi	et alii (and others)	et al.	covariance	cov
nautical mile	nmi	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	degree (angular)	°
ounce	oz	exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.	degrees of freedom	df
pound	lb	Federal Information Code	FIC	expected value	<i>E</i>
quart	qt	id est (that is)	i.e.	greater than	>
yard	yd	latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	greater than or equal to	≥
		monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
Time and temperature		months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	less than	<
day	d	registered trademark	®	less than or equal to	≤
degrees Celsius	°C	trademark	™	logarithm (natural)	ln
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	United States (adjective)	U.S.	logarithm (base 10)	log
degrees kelvin	K	United States of America (noun)	USA	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
hour	h	U.S.C.	United States Code	minute (angular)	'
minute	min	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	not significant	NS
second	s			null hypothesis	H ₀
Physics and chemistry				percent	%
all atomic symbols				probability	P
alternating current	AC			probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
ampere	A			probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
calorie	cal			second (angular)	"
direct current	DC			standard deviation	SD
hertz	Hz			standard error	SE
horsepower	hp			variance	
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH			population	Var
parts per million	ppm			sample	var
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT 1J08-19

**2008-2009 SOUTHEAST ALASKA POT SHRIMP FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

by

Bill Davidson and Southeast Alaska Area Management Staff
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Sitka, Alaska

September 2008 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Publications Section
802 3rd Street, Douglas, Alaska, 99811-0024

9/tember 2008

The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 and was redefined in 2007 to meet the Division of Commercial Fisheries regional need for publishing and archiving information such as project operational plans, area management plans, budgetary information, staff comments and opinions to Board of Fisheries proposals, interim or preliminary data and grant agency reports, special meeting or minor workshop results and other regional information not generally reported elsewhere. Reports in this series may contain raw data and preliminary results. Reports in this series receive varying degrees of regional, biometric and editorial review; information in this series may be subsequently finalized and published in a different department reporting series or in the formal literature. Please contact the author or the Division of Commercial Fisheries if in doubt of the level of review or preliminary nature of the data reported. Regional Information Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet at: <http://www.sf.ADF&G.ak.us/statewide/divreprots/html/intersearch.cfm>.

Bill Davidson and Southeast Alaska Area Management Staff
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
301 Lake Street, Room 103, Sitka, Alaska 99835-7563

This document should be cited as:

Davidson, B, Southeast and Alaska Area Management Staff. 2008. 2008-2009 Southeast Alaska pot shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Regional Information Report No.1J08-19, Douglas.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write:

ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau AK 99811-5526

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington VA 22203

Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240

The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers:

(VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648, (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078

For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact:

ADF&G, Sport Fish Division, Research and Technical Services, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage AK 99518 (907)267-2375.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES.....	ii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	ii
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	ii
ABSTRACT.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
CHANGES FOR 2008/2009 POT SHRIMP FISHERY.....	2
Regulations.....	2
Fish Tickets.....	2
Changes of Guideline Harvest Levels.....	2
Voluntary Catcher-Processor Logbook Program.....	3
MANAGEMENT APPROACH.....	4
POT SHRIMP TASK FORCE.....	7
OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE FISHERY.....	7
octopus Bycatch.....	7
Pot Shrimp Fishing Offshore.....	8
Exploratory Test Fisheries.....	8
KETCHIKAN AREA FISHERIES.....	9
Introduction.....	9
District 1.....	9
District 2.....	10
District 3.....	10
Section 3-A.....	10
Sections 3-B and 3-C.....	11
District 4.....	11
PETERSBURG-WRANGELL AREA FISHERIES.....	11
Introduction.....	11
District 5.....	12
District 6.....	12
District 7.....	13
District 8.....	14
District 9.....	15
District 10.....	16
SITKA AREA FISHERIES.....	16
Introduction.....	16
Section 13-C.....	17
Sections 13-A and 13-B.....	18
JUNEAU/HAINES AREA FISHERIES.....	19

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	19
District 11	19
District 12	19
District 12-Tenakee Inlet	20
District 12-Remainder.....	20
District 14	20
District 15	21
District 16	22
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME CONTACTS	23
TABLES AND FIGURES	24
APPENDICES	34

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Historical harvest of spot shrimp (whole weight) in the Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery by District/Section, 1971–2007.	25
2. Historical harvest of coonstripe shrimp (whole weight) in the Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery by District/Section, 1975–2007.	27
3. Historical seasonal closure dates and days fished by District/Section for the Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery, 1995/96 through 2007/2008.....	29
4. Guideline harvest levels for the Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery by Area, showing GHs for the 2008/2009 season, GHs over the previous five seasons, noting years when GH changes were implemented, and showing combined harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp during the 2007/2008 season.	31

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Southeast Alaska commercial fishing regulatory sections.	32
2. Closed waters for pot shrimp fishing in Registration Area A.....	33

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A. Pot Shrimp catcher-processor weekly call-in reporting form for Southeast Alaska.....	35
B. September 1, 2008 letter to Region Pot Shrimp Catcher-Processors and Direct Marketers, notifying of changes to shrimp fish tickets, and size categories.....	36
C. ADF&G Voluntary Pot Shrimp Logbook Registration Form (Blank).	37
D. Sample ADF&G Voluntary Pot Shrimp Logbook Registration Form (Completed).	38
E. Sample ADF&G Shrimp Ticket filled out with Boxes.....	39
F. Sample ADF&G Shrimp Ticket filled out with Pounds.....	40

ABSTRACT

The Southeast Alaska pot gear, shrimp fishery will open on October 1, 2008 to harvest spot prawns *Pandalus platyceros* and Coonstripe shrimp *Pandalus hypsinotus*. For this limited entry fishery during the 2007–08 season there were 283 fishermen with active permits of which 109 fished and made landings. The 2008 fishery will be managed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff to limit harvest amounts to Guideline Harvest Levels (GHL) in pounds of whole shrimp for each of 18 management areas. The total poundage of shrimp targeted in this fishery during the 2008–09 season will be 752,100 lbs. Historical fishery information and information regarding the status of shrimp populations in the various districts is reviewed. Changes in GHLs from previous seasons are discussed. In 2008–09 GHLs will be decreased from 2007–08 levels for seven areas and one area is being reopened following a three-year closure for population rebuilding. Details describing management of the fishery are presented. The voluntary program to obtain shrimp population size distribution data from catcher-processor size categories on fish tickets will be continued and encouraged. This information will add to other data sets available to the department upon which management decisions can be made.

Key words: Shrimp, spot prawns, coonstripe shrimp, pot gear, *Pandalus platyceros*, *Pandalus hypsinotus*, octopus dofleini, octopus rubescens, Guideline Harvest Level (GHL), commercial fishery, Fishery Management Plan.

INTRODUCTION

The spot prawn *Pandalus platyceros* is the target species for most Southeast Alaska shrimp pot fisheries, with smaller quantities of coonstripe shrimp *Pandalus hypsinotus* also harvested. Both species are harvested from rocky habitat at depths of 30–60 fathoms. Seventy percent of the harvest occurs in Districts 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 10, but shrimp are distributed throughout the region. Regulatory Districts of Southeast Alaska are shown in Figure 1.

Harvest records dating from 1962 indicate the pot shrimp fishery began with sporadic effort and low harvest through the mid-1970s when the pot shrimp fishery served as a supplemental source of income for salmon fishermen. Total Southeast harvest levels in the 1970s averaged 22,000 lbs per year. Through the mid-1980s most of the product was sold over the dock to private individuals, restaurants, or other markets without passing through the traditional system of processors established for other fisheries. Harvest levels in the 1980s increased to an average of 250,000 pounds per year. From the 1990/91 through 1994/95 seasons the character of the fishery underwent further changes. During these years the number of pot shrimp fishermen increased to 248, and the average annual harvest increased to 711,000 pounds. In October 1994, the first floating processor entered the fishery. Pot fishing efficiency and the pace of the fishery greatly increased during this time. From 1998/99 through the 2007/2008 seasons, with guideline harvest ranges (GHRs) implemented, the average annual harvest of spot shrimp has been 911,518 lbs with a peak harvest of 1,073,202 lbs during the 2003/2004 season (Table 1). Harvests of coonstripe shrimp are much lower than spot shrimp, with the recent 10-year average harvest of 54,903 lbs of shrimp. Districts 1, 7, 11, 15, and 16 account for the majority of the coonstripe shrimp harvest (Table 2). The recent 10-year average harvest of coonstripe shrimp comprises 6% of the average total shrimp harvest of 966,420 lbs region-wide.

In 1995, the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission received petitions from more than 70 people from Wrangell, Ketchikan, Craig, and the Tenakee Springs Fish and Game Advisory Committee requesting limitation of the number of participants in the Southeast pot shrimp fishery. The commission obtained and analyzed data concerning the fishery and held numerous public hearings throughout Southeast Alaska and announced in November 1995 that they had adopted a limited entry program. In October 1996, the commission adopted a point system to

determine eligibility for the fishery. By February of 1998, the commission began the process of issuing limited entry permits for the fishery.

There were a total of 283 active P91A permits issued in 2007. Of that total, 109 participated in the 2007-2008 fishery .

The commercial pot shrimp fishery opens by regulation on October 1 each year. Management, since the 1995/96 season, has been, and continues to be, focused on harvesting within GHLS that are established for each separate fishing area (Tables 3, 4). There are nineteen distinct pot shrimp fishing areas in Southeast Alaska: Districts 1 and 2, Section 3-A, Section 3-B/C, Districts 4, 5, 6 ,7 ,8, 9, 10 and 11, Tenakee Inlet in District 12, the remainder of District 12, Sections 13-C and 13-A/B, and Districts 14, 15, and 16. Each of these pot shrimp area fisheries are discussed separately in this 2008 Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

CHANGES FOR 2008/2009 POT SHRIMP FISHERY

REGULATIONS

The Alaska Board of Fisheries met in February, 2006 in Ketchikan and adopted several changes to Chapter 31, the Commercial Shrimp Fishery Regulations which will affect the Southeastern Alaska Commercial Shrimp Pot Fishery. Regulations are available in the 2006-2009 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness crab and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations pamphlet at ADF&G offices.

Please note that Regulation 5AAC 31.126 SHRIMP POT MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AREA A (c) contains an error in the pamphlet and should read as follows:

(c) Shrimp pots deployed on a longline, including *more than five* pots, must have at least one buoy attached to each end of the longline. The buoys must be properly marked as specified in 5AAC 31.051 and the pots must be marked as required under (a) of this section.

This winter the Alaska Board of Fisheries will be meeting in Petersburg, Alaska January 21–27 to review regulations for the Southeast Alaska shellfish fisheries, including the pot shrimp fishery.

FISH TICKETS

Beginning with the 2006-2007 season, a new statewide shrimp fish ticket was issued with a space provided in the heading to record the number of pot lifts. ADF&G is again requiring that catcher-processors and direct marketers record the “Number of Pot Lifts” in the new heading box and also the number of “Days Fished (Gear in Water),” and not record this information in the effort column in the body of the ticket. This change was necessary for an accurate calculation of catch per unit effort (CPUE) by ADF&G. The department is requesting that only these new fish tickets be used for the 2008-2009 fishing season.

CHANGES OF GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS

For the 2008-2009 season the department is implementing GHL reductions in seven areas, and is re-opening one area following a 3-year conservation closure. Comparing regionwide harvest levels with the 2007-2008 season, overall harvest is being reduced by 10% to 752,100 pounds. The specific areas being reduced include District 1, Section 3-A, District 6, Tenakee Inlet in District 12, the Remainder of District 12, Section 13-C, and District 14. District 16 is being re-opened. A summary of the changes in relation to the 2007-2008 harvests and to past years GHLs

is presented in Table 4. A description of each shrimp management area, a review of the shrimp population stock status for each area, and plans for fishery management in the 2008-2009 season is presented by Management Area in later sections of this report.

Each shrimp management area is reviewed annually by the department to consider if changes to GHLS are needed to provide for the long-term sustainability of the shrimp resource. GHL changes are considered following a thorough review and analysis of data available from multiple sources. These sources include: shrimp surveys in selected areas, harvest rate information provided by logbooks, fishery and dockside biological sampling, analysis of catch per unit effort (CPUE) from fish tickets, review of fishery trends, and anecdotal information. Data types available from these sources include fishery catch rates, harvest rates of selected shrimp sizes, trends of average carapace lengths, and trends in LC50, the size at which 50% of shrimp in a population are female. Fisheries Data Series reports are in preparation that will review data, methodology and 2008 stock status related to the Southeast Alaska shrimp pot fishery.

Through pot shrimp task force meetings with industry the rationale for considering GHL changes can be summarized as follows:

In order to create meaningful, but not excessive changes, modifications to harvest levels will continue to be limited to a range of 20%-40% of the current level, for both increases and decreases. We continue to recommend that the modified GHLS remain in place for a minimum of three seasons so that fishery and stock trends in response to these changes can be better understood before additional changes occur. Managers, however, will take emergency action or close areas when necessary.

Based on a regional pattern of downward trends in many shrimp populations, and observations of sharp declines in some closely monitored areas, ADF&G management and research staff both recognize that the need for timely action should be an integral part of any GHL-setting policy. Such was the case for management of the Tenakee Inlet area during this past season, when survey results, and later initial fishery performance results, indicated the population had dramatically declined. For this season GHLS are being changed in three areas before the full three-year review period. These areas include District 1, Section 13-C, and District 14. The department concluded that timely action was appropriate to conserve shrimp populations.

Some shrimp management areas with relatively smaller shrimp populations were indicated for GHL reductions to below 15,000 pounds. Management staff made determinations that in District 12-Remainder and in District 14, the areas could successfully be managed for GHLS of 10,000 pounds based on past fishery characteristics. In another area, District 16, the fishery may move into a rotational type of fishery, depending on population recovery and how initial harvests proceed in that area following the closure period.

VOLUNTARY CATCHER-PROCESSOR LOGBOOK PROGRAM

Working cooperatively with the Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Task Force, in the 2005/2006 season ADF&G implemented a voluntary logbook pilot program with catcher-processors. The purpose of the program is to determine if size specific information on catch rates by fishing area can be collected that would enhance the Department's ability to use commercial fishery data for monitoring stock status. All catcher-processors who are interested in participating in this program are encouraged to participate. ADF&G is asking participants to specify the gram-weight categories and numbers of shrimp per pound for each size category for their specific market at

the time of registration. When filling out fish tickets, either the daily tally of the number of boxes by size category, or the daily poundage by size category, should be recorded in addition to other information required on fish tickets. This additional fish ticket information can then be converted to shrimp size distribution specific to areas and times harvested. This information may be useful to ADF&G when evaluating stock status trends and in setting appropriate GHs to better manage the shrimp fishery. Such information may be especially important for areas where there is inadequate sampling data currently available. Although this program is now voluntary, the department is strongly considering making shrimp logbooks mandatory. The department will continue discussions with the Pot Shrimp Task Force on this topic. If logbook data continues to be of value for fishery management then the department could implement mandatory logbooks either by Emergency Order authority or through the Alaska Board of Fisheries process.

Letters explaining this program are being mailed out to all licensed catcher-processors and direct marketers early in September. Included with the letters were registration forms, and examples of how fish tickets should be filled out with shrimp size information. These materials are included as Appendices B–F of this plan, and will also be available in ADF&G offices at the time of registration.

During the 2005–2006 season, the first year of this new program, 25% of all pot shrimp catcher-processors (18 of 73 permits) participated. 508 logbooks were correctly filled out and entered, providing information for 12 districts. This good response gave the ADF&G the opportunity to begin collecting this new data and to experiment with initial data analysis. Reviewing the data made it clear that data from many areas cannot be used due to insufficient numbers of responses, or to the short duration of some fisheries. Confidentiality of logbook information also posed a problem regarding sharing and summarizing of results. During the 2006-2007 season 28% of catcher-processors (23 of 81 permits) participated. 412 logbooks were filled out correctly and entered, providing information for 11 districts. Evaluation of this data indicated that in cases it would be possible to estimate harvest rates on size categories of shrimp targeted by the fishery. However, due to changing markets very few responses were made during the 2007-2008 season. Three out of 71 catcher-processors, 4%, provided 85 logbooks which provided some information for 3 districts. ADF&G is again soliciting participation from as many catcher-processors as possible. As of August 29, a total of 47 shrimp fishermen are licensed as catcher-processors for the 2008-2009 season fishery.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

This section is intended to provide a review and some explanation of key aspects of pot shrimp fishery management in Southeast Alaska. This section is not intended as a comprehensive review of regulations. Fishermen and processors are expected abide by all regulations and for a reference to refer to the 2006–2009 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations pamphlet. The pamphlet is available at all ADF&G offices free of charge. Management staff are available at ADF&G offices to discuss and review regulations and to answer questions concerning regulations.

As explained in the *Introduction*, Southeast Alaska commercial shrimp harvests expanded rapidly in the early 1990's requiring a shift from passive to active management. Although there were some Guideline Harvest Ranges (GHRs) in place, in 1994 and 1995 harvest limits were imposed on management districts regionwide in order to limit total harvest from any district. The new GHRs were established based on baseline harvests during a 5-year period from 1990 through 1994. Management is now based on limiting harvests to Guideline Harvest Levels

(GHLs) which are reviewed annually and adjusted when needed based on status within 19 management areas.

Also explained in the *Introduction*, the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission adopted a system of limited entry in late 1995. After a point system was put in place, transferable and non-transferable permits were issued beginning in 1998. 283 permits were eligible to participate in the fishery during the 2007–2008 season, although only 109 permits actually made landings.

Another important aspect of management includes closed seasons. The fishery is open in the fall from October 1 through February 28, unless specific areas are closed earlier by Emergency Order. If GHLs have not been reached by February 28, the department may open a summer season from May 15 through July 31 by emergency order. The purpose of seasonal management of the fishery is to prevent fishing on major stocks during the egg hatch period in the spring, and to prevent fishing during a growth and recruitment period in the summer months.

Fishery regulations include a restriction on the minimum mesh size. At least two sides of a pot or 50% of the vertical or near vertical sides must allow free passage of a seven-eighths inch diameter by 12 inch long wooden dowel as specified in regulation. This requirement is intended to capture and retain the targeted, larger size segment of the stock, while allowing smaller shrimp to exit the pot through the mesh. This regulation works in combination with restriction of daily pot deployment and retrieval hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The practice of hauling gear multiple times daily most likely does not allow sufficient time for juvenile shrimp to escape pots through pot mesh, and therefore causes excessive mortality.

Pot sizes are standardized to two sizes. Small pots are defined as having a bottom perimeter of no more than 124 inches. Large pots are defined as having a bottom perimeter of more than 124 inches, but not more than 153 inches. The total number of that may be operated is up to 140 small pots or 100 large pots. All pots onboard or operated from a vessel must be of the same type and size, meaning either all in the large category or all in the small category. The intent of this regulation is to ensure that catch per unit effort information can be standardized for either pot size. As mentioned under *Regulations* shrimp pots deployed on a longline, including more than five pots must have at least one buoy attached to each end of the longline and properly marked according to regulation.

Areas closed to commercial shrimp fishing including pot gear are described in 5AAC 31.136 and shown in Figure 2.

ADF&G will issue weekly news releases, usually on Thursday afternoons, which will update shrimp fishermen on the progression of the fishery, by specific areas managed. A news release will list the GHL for districts and the harvest to date for the individual district. In addition to the weekly summary news releases, ADF&G will issue other news releases as required to announce fishery closures or other important information regarding the fishery.

A number of shrimp permit holders make deliveries to licensed processors at either shore-based processing locations or to tenders. When fish are offloaded and delivered to shore-based processors, the department receives fish tickets within seven days of landing, and in most cases fewer than seven days. The department is therefore able to monitor progress toward harvesting of GHLs in a timely fashion. However, since not all fishermen operate in this manner, significant catch information may not reach the department in a timely way. During the 2007-2008 season, along with changing shrimp markets, it became apparent that there can be major gaps in harvest

information needed to close shrimp areas as GHLs are being reached. When the department does not have timely information, then GHLs can be exceeded, which can lead to stock declines and reduced fishing opportunities in the future, or when areas are closed early fishing opportunities are either lost for that season, or fisheries may be re-opened later in the season, which is disruptive to prosecuting an orderly fishery and costly to fishermen.

Catcher-sellers can land significant amounts of shrimp which is important for shrimp fishery management. Catcher-sellers are defined as vessels from which shrimp are caught if there is any attempt to sell unprocessed shrimp taken by the vessel to a person not licensed to process shrimp. Catcher-sellers are reminded that regulations require that an ADF&G shrimp fish ticket indicating the weight of the shrimp on board by species must be filled out before any shrimp are removed from the vessel. Once a catcher-seller makes a landing, then a fish ticket must be issued to the department within seven days, however the department prefers sooner than seven days when possible.

A major problem ADF&G has faced in the last several years is the inability to accurately track catches from catcher-processors. Since catch-processors can retain processed shrimp and daily fish tickets on board the vessel for prolonged periods of time, it has become essential for the department to closely monitor their harvest. During the early to mid-1990s, catcher-processors made up less than 20% of the fishing fleet. In more recent years, 50 to 70% of the fishing vessels in some districts are catcher-processors. With the approval of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the Department has established reporting requirements for catcher-processors. Those requirements can be found in 5 AAC 31.143: *Reporting Requirements For Shrimp Catcher-Processor Vessels in Registration Area A*.

A catcher-processor vessel is a vessel that catches and processes product on board [5 AAC 31.143.(d)]. Observers are not required on catcher-processors. A catcher processor cannot buy or process shrimp from another fishing vessel or tender. The catcher-processor owner or operator shall complete separate fish tickets every day that shrimp are caught and processed on board the vessel for each district or portion of a district with a unique GHL. The statewide requirement that all fish tickets be turned in seven days after landing will be waived for this fishery since these new regulations are in place specific to the Southeastern Alaska pot shrimp fishery. However, fish tickets must be submitted to an ADF&G office within seven days of the closure of a district or portion of a district with a unique GHL for any shrimp catcher-processors who fished in the area. If a catcher-processor stops fishing in an area with a unique GHL then ADF&G must be contacted by telephone prior to fishing in another area with a unique GHL.

Catcher-processors must call and report specified information to the ADF&G area office managing the fishery between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday or Tuesday or by 12:00 noon Wednesday each week of every week fishing operations are conducted. For the 2008/2009 season, reporting requirements will start the week of October 1 in each District, or portion of a District with a unique GHR. Catcher-processors are advised that they should contact the office responsible for each area:

- Ketchikan for Districts 1–4;
- Petersburg or Wrangell for Districts 5–10;
- Sitka for District and 13;
- Juneau for District 11, 12, 14, and 16; and
- Haines for District 15 (closed for the 2008–2009 season).

Due to the rapid pace of the fishery, call-in requirements are being waived for the Tenakee Inlet portion of District 12 and in Section 13-C.

The once per week reporting requirements allow shrimp fishermen 2 ½ days at the start of each week to contact the local area office. For example, operators of catcher-processors fishing in District 10 will initially have to phone in the information listed below sometime between Monday, October 1 and noon, Wednesday, October 3 and each subsequent week thereafter.

Reporting requirements for catcher-processors are now in accordance with 5 AAC 31.143 (b) and (c) and include the following:

1. Caller's name or permit holder's name;
2. Vessel name and ADF&G number;
3. Fish ticket number of all fish tickets used since last call in;
4. Date of landing on each fish ticket;
5. District and subdistrict on each daily fish ticket;
6. Numbers of pot lifts on each fish ticket;
7. Number of days pots were in the water to harvest shrimp on each ticket;
8. Weight of spot shrimp and coon shrimp on each ticket – specify whole or tail weight; and
9. Date of last delivery.

ADF&G will furnish catcher-processors with pre-printed reporting forms to help facilitate the reporting requirements. Forms may be picked up at any ADF&G office in Southeast Alaska. A copy of the reporting form is also provided in Appendix A.

POT SHRIMP TASK FORCE

In January 2003, the Alaska Board of Fisheries approved a plan that formalized the Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Task Force, with designated seats similar to the king and tanner crab task forces. Previous task force meetings have been held on a relatively informal basis in communities where significant numbers of pot shrimp fishermen live and where jet service occurs. The task force concept is designed to obtain input from the industry and improve communications between the fleet and the ADF&G.

The fourth formal Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Task Force meeting was held in by teleconference on February 9, 2007. Most likely the next task force meeting will be held in association with the Southeast Alaska shellfish meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries in Petersburg, from January 21–27, 2009.

OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE FISHERY

OCTOPUS BYCATCH

Marine invertebrates, including octopus, may be taken only under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee [5 AAC 38.062]. Shrimp fishermen are advised that this applies to octopus they wish to retain for their own use [5 AAC 02.021].

ADF&G will issue permits under authority of 5 AAC 38.062 to allow retention of octopus captured as bycatch in commercial pot shrimp fisheries. Permits are available at any ADF&G

office in Southeast Alaska. Permit stipulations include a maximum octopus bycatch limit of 5% whole weight of total shrimp onboard a vessel, dates for which the permits are valid and other stipulations.

Shrimp fishermen are advised that by issuing these permits ADF&G is not committing to doing so in the future. Should the level of interest and subsequent harvests exceed levels considered potentially detrimental to the resource, ADF&G may consider invoking the High Impact Emerging Fisheries regulation [5 AAC 39.210] and close the fishery until an interim management plan can be developed and presented to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

ADF&G is interested in obtaining as much biological information as possible from octopus retained in the commercial pot shrimp fishery. In addition to weight and numbers of individual octopus harvested in the fishery ADF&G would like to obtain species composition, sex, and harvest distribution data. There are two species of octopus in Southeast Alaska, the giant Pacific octopus (*octopus dofleini*) and the red octopus (*octopus rubescens*). Male octopus have a modified third arm which is called the hectocotylus. The hectocotylus has a deep groove between the two rows of suckers. Shrimp fishermen are advised that ADF&G staff may ask to sample octopus on an opportunistic basis during on-the-grounds sampling trips.

POT SHRIMP FISHING OFFSHORE

ADF&G has received several requests to initiate pot shrimp fisheries offshore (outside State waters, three miles or greater from shore). Offshore commercial pot shrimp fisheries can be accommodated under existing regulations and guideline harvest levels. Given the absence of a Federal Fishery Management Plan for commercial pot shrimp fisheries in Federal waters the State of Alaska has management jurisdiction for this fishery [Magnusen Stevens Act SEC 306.104–297 (3)]. As these offshore waters are part of Registration Area A, Southeast Alaska, they are subject to limited entry. Shrimp fishermen who wish to fish in these areas must have a Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery card.

Offshore waters are included in Districts 4, 13, and 16, the boundary lines of which are described in 5 AAC 31.105 (d), (m), and (p). The offshore area includes the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United States. The EEZ extends to a distance of 200 nautical miles offshore of the defined fish districts (President Proclamation 5030). Shrimp fishermen who wish to fish in outside waters may do so only if those districts are open. Shrimp harvested in these areas will be part of existing guideline harvest levels for those districts.

EXPLORATORY TEST FISHERIES

With inclement fall weather and shortened seasons, the commercial pot shrimp fishery has been focused in more protected waters that have been traditionally productive. This has resulted in some areas of Southeast Alaska receiving little or no commercial fishing pressure. In the winter of 2006, the Pot Shrimp Task Force requested that ADF&G allow exploratory test fisheries to evaluate shrimp stocks in areas with little or no history of exploitation. The task force identified two areas for exploratory fisheries including the offshore areas of District 13, and areas west of Kuiu Island and north of Coronation Island District 9.

On March 13, 2006 ADF&G announced two separate Requests for Quotation (RFQ); one for District 9 and one for District 13. One bid was received for each area. Ultimately, 32 sets were made in District 9 in the areas of Tebenkof Bay and Port Malmesbury. In District 13, 11 sets of 8 pots each were made in the area west of West Crawfish Inlet. Essentially no shrimp were caught

in either test fishing effort. During the 2007 Pot Shrimp Task Force Meeting, the Task Force again expressed interest in a test fishery in these areas. As a result, a RFQ was solicited for the same area in District 13. There were no interested bidders. ADF&G will consult with the Pot Shrimp Task Force in determining whether to continue exploratory test fisheries in the future.

KETCHIKAN AREA FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

The Ketchikan fishery management area encompasses Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4. Pot shrimp fishery management is based on spot shrimp with a small bycatch of coonstripe shrimp. District 3 is divided into two management areas, Section 3-A, and Sections 3-B and 3-C which are managed together. Section 3-A is the largest producer of spot prawns in the region, followed by District 1. District 2 is the fourth largest producer in Southeast Alaska, while harvests in District 4 are very limited.

Prior to the 1983/84 season, the season length for the pot shrimp fishery in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 was restricted by Alaska Board of Fisheries action to September 1 through April 30. This was an allocation for shrimp fishers who traditionally used these districts as a supplemental income source during the fall and winter months. The closure during the summer also provided an important biological benefit of allowing stock recruitment to occur through the molting and growing process. For the 1986/87 through the 1994/95 seasons, the spot shrimp fishery opening date in these districts was changed to October 1 through February 28. This change was made for a combination of an egg hatch closure, to allow for summer growth and as an allocation for a fall/winter fishery.

Beginning in the late 1980s and continuing into the early 1990s, the character of the pot shrimp fishery underwent radical changes. Effort levels greatly increased, and harvests changed from less than 50,000 lbs of whole shrimp per season to harvests exceeding 150,000 lbs in District 1, 30,000 lbs to 80,000 lbs in District 2, and 40,000 lbs to well over 200,000 lbs in District 3. The introduction of floating processors and catcher-processors in the pot shrimp fishery also greatly accelerated the growth of the fishery.

DISTRICT 1

District 1 includes those waters east and north of a line from the southernmost tip of Caamano Point to 54°40' N. latitude, 131°45' W. longitude, and waters north of a line running from 54°40' N. latitude, 131°45' W. longitude to 54°42.48' N. latitude, 130°36.92' W. longitude (5 AAC 31.100).

In 2000 the Alaska Board of Fisheries closed commercial shrimp fishing in the waters of Clover Passage east of Indian Point (Figure 2, 5 AAC 31.136).

The GHR system established for District 1 during the 1995/96 season set a GHR range of 0 to 145,000, which in 2000 was modified to 0 to 164,000 lbs of whole spot shrimp. With the implementation of this GHR the length of the District 1 season has been reduced from approximately 150 days prior to the 1995/96 season to as few as 37 days in the 1996/97 season. The average seasonal harvest since the 1995/96 season has been 152,000 lbs of whole spot shrimp with an average of 43 vessels participating in the fishery.

For the 2008/2009 season the District 1 GHL will be reduced 20% to 78,700 pounds of whole spot shrimp. West Behm Canal will also be closed after three weeks of fishing. This

District 1 GHL reduction is to prevent West Behm Canal harvest pressure from being shifted to other District 1 areas. After the closure the department will closely monitor harvest rates in the remaining open areas.. Additional closures may be warranted if decreasing harvest rates are observed. The primary basis for these changes is a decrease in harvest rate. A pre-season survey, which may have provided an early warning of this decline, does not exist for this area. No recent sampling data has been collected, but sampling from earlier years and logbook information indicate a decline in the L50—the size at which male shrimp transition to females.

For 2007/08 the season length increased due to the collapse of the frozen head-on shrimp market and only 89% of GHL was harvested. **It is expected that the pace of the fishery will remain slow for the 2008/2009 season and will last through the winter season.**

DISTRICT 2

District 2 includes those waters south of a line running from the easternmost tip of Narrow Point to the northernmost tip of Lemesurier Point, waters west of a line running from Caamano Point to 54°40' N. latitude, 131°45' W. longitude, and waters east of a line running from Point Marsh Light to 54°40' N. latitude, 132°17.50' W. longitude (5 AAC 31.105).

In 2000 the Alaska Board of Fisheries closed commercial shrimp fishing in portions of Twelve-mile Arm (Figure 2, 5 AAC 31.136).

The GHR system imposed on District 2 during the 1995/96 season set a GHR range of 0 to 65,000, which in 2000 was modified to be 0 to 86,000 lbs of whole spot shrimp. With the implementation of this GHR the length of the District 2 season has been reduced from approximately 150 days prior to the 1995/96 season to as few as 14 days in the 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 seasons. The average seasonal harvest since the 1995/96 season has been 91,000 lbs of whole spot shrimp with an average of 22 vessels participating in the fishery.

For the 2008/2009 season District 2 will be managed for a GHL of 86,000 pounds of whole spot shrimp. ADF&G anticipates the pace of the pot shrimp fishery will be similar to the 2007/2008 season when the fishery was open for 107 days harvesting 90,000 pounds of whole spot shrimp. **It is expected that this fishery will last approximately 100 days.**

DISTRICT 3

District 3 is divided into three Sections by regulation. In the 1995/96 season a GHR was set for District 3 of 0 to 200,000 lbs of whole shrimp. In 2000, the Board of Fisheries adopted a separate GHR for Section 3-A of 0 to 264,000 lbs of whole shrimp. The remainder of District 3, Sections 3-B and 3-C were made into one shrimp management area with a combined GHR of 0 to 70,000 lbs of whole shrimp.

SECTION 3-A

Section 3-A includes those waters District 3 south of 55°15' N. latitude, excluding the waters of Meares Passage.

Since the GHR was implemented the length of the District 3 season has been reduced from approximately 150 days prior to the GHR to as few as 9 days in the 1997/98. Average seasonal harvest and effort levels for Section 3-A have been approximately 255,000 lbs of whole shrimp and 37 vessels since the 2000/2001 season.

For the 2008/2009 season Section 3-A will be reduced 20% to 158,400 pounds of whole spot shrimp. In the 2004/2005 season this GHL was reduced by 25% over previous years due to a consistent decrease in the average shrimp survey size and the fishery harvest rate. Department surveys do not indicate significant trends in the size data. The department is making this change in GHL as an effort to increase the health and productivity of the area in an attempt to build this stock to previous levels. The average carapace length and L50 in this district appears to have stabilized well below the 10-year average.

The pace of the Section 3-A pot shrimp fishery slowed dramatically for the 2007/2008 season primarily due to a change in market conditions. Section 3-A remained open for both the winter and summer seasons and only 92% of GHL was harvested. **It is expected that the pace of the fishery will remain slow for the 2008/2009 season and will last through the winter season.**

SECTIONS 3-B AND 3-C

Sections 3-B and 3-C include those waters of District 3 north of 55°15' N. latitude and south of Aneskett Point and east of a line from Point Arboleda to the northeastern most tip of Point San Roque to the southwestern most tip of Cape Ulitka to the northeastern most tip of Cape Lynch to the southwest entrance point of Halibut Harbor located on Kosciusko Island.

For the 2008/2009 season Sections 3-B and 3-C will be managed to harvest a total GHL of 40,000 pounds of spot shrimp. This GHL is for both sections combined. ADF&G will manage the sections as one area and not attempt to split GHL evenly between the two areas. The GHL was reduced by 20% for the 2007/2008 season due to a consistent decline in CPUE and shrimp size.

Sections 3-B and 3-C have had an average season length of 28 days since the 2000/2001 season. The average harvest has been 52,000 pounds of whole spot shrimp, with an average of 13 vessels participating in the fishery. **It is expected that this fishery will last approximately 40 days.**

DISTRICT 4

District 4 includes those waters north of Cape Muzon, west of District 3, and south of a line from Helm Point on Coronation Island to Cape Lynch, including offshore waters. The offshore area of District 4 includes the waters of the EEZ.

The District 4 fishery has only harvested the GHL of 20,000 lbs in 5 of the past 13 years. The average annual harvest in the district since the 1995/96 season has been 17,000 whole pounds.

For the 2008/2009 season District 4 will continue to be managed to harvest a total GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp. It is expected that the pace of the fishery will remain slow and will last through the winter season.

PETERSBURG-WRANGELL AREA FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

The Petersburg-Wrangell fishery management area encompasses Districts 5, 6, 7, 8, 9-B, and 10. District 9 is managed with a single GHR and encompasses waters within both the Petersburg (Section 9-B) and the Sitka (Section 9-A) management areas. With significant harvests occurring in both management areas, responsibility for managing the District 9 fishery has been shared

between the Petersburg and Sitka area offices. Historically, Districts 7, 6, and 10 have been the fourth, fifth, and seventh largest producers of spot shrimp in the region, respectively. Districts 5, 8, and 9 produce smaller amounts of spot shrimp. District 8 has small but at times significant landings of coonstripe shrimp. District 7 is usually the largest producer of coonstripe shrimp in the region with a historical range from 8% to 35% of the District 7 harvest being comprised of coonstripe shrimp.

DISTRICT 5

District 5 includes the waters of Sumner Strait west of Point Baker. Fishing primarily takes place in the bays along the Kuiu Island shoreline and southern Rocky Pass. Prior to statehood and through the 1981/82 season there were no season or quota restrictions in District 5. During the 1982/83 season the fishery had the first egg hatch closure occurring in May and June. An egg hatch closure occurred in March and April during the 1984/85 season. Closures occurred on March 13 during the 1995/96 season and on December 27 in the 1996/97 season. During the 1997/98 season the fishery was open for 12 months with no egg hatch closure. For the 1998/99 season the fishery was opened from October 1 through February 28 with a summer season from May 1 through August 31. Starting with the 1999/2000 season the fishery has had a winter season from October 1 through February 28 and the summer season was shortened to May 15 through July 31.

The first GHR was established in District 5 starting with the 1995/96 season. Districts such as District 5, where no strong fishery had developed, were assigned a GHR of 0 to 20,000 pounds.

The District 5 fishery has had consistent but usually fairly low effort since the GHR was established. The upper end of the GHR has only been taken during the 1995/96, 1996/97, 2002/2003, 2004/2005, and 2005/2006 seasons. The average harvest of spot shrimp since the GHR was established is 14,641 pounds and the effort level has varied between 0 and 13 boats. Harvests are usually dominated by catcher-processors. In the 2006/2007 season, catcher-processors landed 100% of the catch and 96% of the harvest was landed as whole shrimp. The average coonstripe harvest in the fishery since establishment of the GHR is approximately 202 pounds.

The 2007/2008 season closed by regulation on February 28, 2008. The fishery reopened again on May 15 and closed by regulation on July 31. There was no reported harvest during either the winter or summer season.

The GHL for the 2008-2009 season will remain unchanged at 20,000 lbs of spot shrimp.

There is no survey in this district, nor has any sampling been conducted. The subdistrict composition of the harvest is highly variable and meaningful trends are not evident. In addition, fishery performance data (spot shrimp harvest/pot) does not give a clear indication of stock health. District 5 typically has no effort until most of the major districts in southern Southeast are closed. Much of the harvest can take place in the summer fishery between May 15 and July 31.

The season is expected to close on February 28, 2008.

DISTRICT 6

District 6 includes the waters of Sumner Strait east of Point Baker and west of Low Point and the waters of Clarence Strait north of Narrow Point to Lemesurier Point and Stikine Strait south of Round Point. Fishing primarily occurs in the northern waters of Clarence Strait. Prior to statehood, season restrictions occasionally corresponded to the beam trawl fishery season with

the pot fishery opening in mid-April or early-May and closing between late-January and late-February. The first two decades following statehood there were no season or quota restrictions in District 6. During the 1982/83 season the fishery had the first egg hatch closure, which occurred in May and June. During the 1984/85 season the egg hatch closure occurred during March and April and it remained that way until it was expanded through May 14 starting in the 1999/2000 season. The first closure to reduce harvest occurred on June 13 during the 1994/95 season. Since then closures have occurred prior to March 1 each season.

The first GHR was established for the 1984/85 season when District 6 together with Districts 4, 5, and 8 had a combined GHR of 0 to 55,000 pounds. From the 1985/86 season through the 1996/97 season it was changed to a combined GHR of 75,000–100,000 pounds for District 6 and District 8. Beginning with the 1997/98 season, two separate GHRs were established for Districts 6 and 8 using the baseline historic harvests from the 1990/91 through 1994/95 seasons. The District 6 GHR was set at 0 to 65,000 pounds of shrimp. This was modified to 0 to 68,000 pounds of spot shrimp when ADF&G revised the tail weight to whole weight ratio of 1.67 to 2.0 for the 2000/2001 season. The harvest of coonstripe shrimp was no longer included in the GHR starting in the 2000/2001 season. The effect of removing that catch was to raise the GHR by about another 2,000 pounds. The GHL was increased by 20% to 82,000 lbs of spot shrimp for the 2005-2006 season. The average harvest of spot shrimp since the start of the 1995/96 season is 69,508 pounds. The average harvest of coonstripe shrimp during that same period is 1,151 pounds. Effort in the district has been between 9 and 23 boats fishing since the 1995/96 season. The season length has varied between 21 and 151 days during that period. Harvests have been dominated by catcher-processors the past seven seasons. In the 2007/2008 season, catcher-processors landed 96% of the harvest, and 49% of the harvest was landed as whole shrimp. The 2007–2008 season closed on February 28, 2008 with a harvest of 36,763 lbs of spot shrimp. It was not reopened for the summer season.

The GHL will be reduced back to 68,000 pounds for the 2008/2009 season. The 2007-2008 season was the third season of the increased GHL. No survey is conducted in this district, but there are a good time series of dockside and on the grounds sampling data. The on the grounds data shows no trend in average CL and an increasing trend of L50 over the past 3 seasons. Fishery performance data indicates a declining trend in all three of the major fishing areas since the GHL was increased. The spot prawn catch-per-pot in the major fishing area, Snow Pass/Kasheverof, was the lowest it has been since 1999. Although the two biological parameters do not show declining trends in recent years, the declining trend in CPUE is a concern. The fishery performance will be closely monitored during this upcoming season. If inseason data indicates a continuing decline in fishery performance, the season could be closed before the GHL is reached. **The season is expected to close around December 15, 2008.**

DISTRICT 7

District 7 includes the waters of Ernest Sound, Bradfield Canal, southern Zimovia Strait, Eastern Passage, and Blake Channel. Fishing is concentrated in Ernest Sound. Prior to statehood and through the 1981/82 season there were no season or quota restrictions in District 7. During the 1982/83 season the fishery had the first egg hatch closure, which occurred in May and June. During the 1984/85 season the egg hatch closure occurred during March and April and it remained that way until it was expanded through May 14 for the 1999/2000 season. The first closure to reduce harvest occurred on June 30 during the 1984/85 season. For the next 10

seasons, District 7 was closed from March through September. Since then closures have occurred prior to March 1 each season.

The first GHR was established for the 1984/85 season when District 7 together with Districts 1, 2 and 3 had a combined GHR of 0 to 125,000 pounds. The first separate GHR for District 7 of 0 to 100,000 pounds of shrimp was set starting with the 1995/96 season using the baseline harvest from the 1990/91 season through the 1994/95 season. This was modified to 0 to 104,000 pounds of spot shrimp when the ADF&G revised the tail weight to whole weight ratio of 1.67 to 2.0 for the 2000/2001 season. The harvest of coonstripe shrimp was no longer included in the GHR starting in the 2000/2001 season. The effect of removing that harvest was to raise the GHR by between 11,000 and 25,000 lbs. The GHL was decreased to 78,000 lbs beginning with the 2004-2005 season. The average harvest of spot shrimp since the start of the 1995/96 season is 89,589 lbs. The average harvest of coonstripe shrimp during that same period is 18,477 lbs. Effort in the district has varied between 13 and 44 boats fishing during that same period. The season length has varied between 20 and 113 days. Harvest during the past six seasons were dominated by catcher-processors. In the 2007/2008 season, catcher-processors landed 82% of the spot shrimp harvest and 75% of the harvest was landed as whole shrimp. During the 2007/2008 season, the closure occurred on November 28. A total of 76,485 lbs of spot shrimp and 8,155 lbs of coonstripe shrimp were harvested.

The GHL for the 2008-2009 season will remain at 78,000 lbs of spot shrimp. A survey is conducted in this district and there is substantial dockside and on the grounds sampling data. The decrease in the GHL was based upon declines in survey and on the grounds average CL and L50 as well as declining fishery performance. The mean carapace lengths from both the survey and on the grounds sampling has generally been stable in recent years. The L50 obtained from dockside sampling and on the grounds sampling has been stable, whereas the L50 from the survey has shown a decline over the past 3 seasons. The fishery performance data has shown a positive trend in 3 out of the 4 major fishing areas in 3 out of the 4 past seasons. During this past season, the spot catch-per-pot dropped in the major fishing area, upper Ernest Sound, and in one of the other minor fishing areas. However, the catch per pot in upper Ernest sound was still higher than 7 out of the past 8 seasons. **The season is expected to close around November 15.**

DISTRICT 8

District 8 includes the waters of the eastern portion of Frederick Sound on the north side of the Stikine Flats and Chichagof Pass and the northern portions of Stikine and Zimovia Straits on the south side of the Stikine Flats. Fishing primarily occurs in those waters within about 10 miles of Wrangell. Prior to statehood, season restrictions occasionally corresponded to the beam trawl fishery season with the fishery opening in mid-April or early-May and closing between late-January and late-February. The first two decades following statehood there were no season or quota restrictions in District 8. During the 1982/83 season the fishery had the first egg hatch closure, which occurred in May and June. During the 1984/85 season the egg hatch closure occurred during March and April and it remained that way until it was expanded through May 14 for the 1999/2000 season.

The first closure to reduce harvest occurred on November 13 during the 1995/96 season. Since then closures have occurred prior to March 1 each season. The first GHR was established for the 1984/85 season when District 8 together with Districts 4, 5, and 6 had a combined GHR of 0 to 55,000 lbs. From the 1985/86 season through the 1996/97 season it was changed to a combined

GHR of 75,000–100,000 lbs for District 6 and District 8. When these two districts were assigned separate GHRs for the 1997/98 season the GHR was set using the baseline harvest from the 1990/91 season through the 1994/95 season. The District GHR was set at 0 to 20,000 lbs of shrimp. There was no change in the GHR when ADF&G revised the tail weight to whole weight ratio of 1.67 to 2.0 for the 2000/2001 season because shrimp landed from District 8 were almost all landed as whole shrimp. The catch of coonstripe shrimp was no longer included in the GHR starting in the 2000/2001 season. The effect of removing that catch was to raise the GHR by about another 2,000–3,000 lbs. The average harvest of spot shrimp since the start of the 1995/96 season is 18,953 lbs. The average harvest of coonstripe shrimp during that same period is 2,414 lbs. Effort in the district has varied between 6 and 19 boats fishing during that same period. The season has lasted between 18 and 151 days since the 1995/96 season. In past seasons, day boats land the majority of the harvest as whole shrimp. However during the 2007/2008 season, catcher/processors landed 54% of the spot shrimp harvest and 64% was landed as whole shrimp. The 2007/2008 season was opened for 151 days. The effort in the 2007/2008 season was above the ten-year average with 14 boats fishing. The harvest included 15,346 lbs of spot shrimp and 1,650 lbs of coonstripe shrimp. The district was not opened by emergency order for the summer season.

The GHL for the 2007-2008 season will remain unchanged at 20,000 lbs of spot shrimp. Dockside and on the grounds sampling data show a generally stable or increasing L50. The mean CL obtained from dockside sampling is generally stable. The fishery performance data has indicated a decline in the major fishing area, Eastern Sumner Straits, over the past two seasons and a decline in 3 out of past 4 seasons in the Chicagof Pass Zimovia Straits area. If inseason data indicates a continuing decline in fishery performance, the season could be closed before the GHL is reached. **The season is expected to close around November 15.**

DISTRICT 9

District 9 includes waters of Chatham Strait north of Cape Decision to Coronation Island to Cape Ommaney, south of the latitude of Point Gardner, and in waters of Frederick Sound and Rocky Pass west of Point Macartney to Elliott Island and north and west of Point Camden to Salt Point. Fishing is concentrated in a small number of bays along the southern Admiralty shoreline and eastern Baranof shoreline. The more important fishing subdistricts include 109-10, 109-20, and 109-30. Since significant catch occurs in both Section 9-A and 9-B, management responsibility has shifted between the Sitka and Petersburg area offices on alternate years.

Prior to statehood and through the 1994/95 season there were no season or quota restrictions in District 9. The GHR for District 9 was set at 15,000 lbs of shrimp in the 1995/96 season using the baseline harvest from the 1990/91 season through the 1994/95 season. This was modified to 0 to 18,000 lbs of spot shrimp when the ADF&G revised the tail weight to whole weight ratio of 1.67 to 2.0 for the 2000/2001 season. The harvest of coonstripe shrimp was no longer included in the GHR starting in the 2000/2001 season. The average harvest of spot shrimp since the start of the 1995/96 season is 19,548 lbs. Effort in the district has varied between 4 and 16 boats. During the 2007–2008 season 17,336 lbs of spot shrimp was harvested by 4 boats and the season lasted for 14 days, the shortest season on record.

The GHL for the 2008-2009 season will remain unchanged at 18,000 lbs of spot shrimp. The fishery performance data gives mixed results. The spot catch-per-pot has been increasing in one of the two major fishing areas, SE Baranof, over the past 5 seasons while the catch-per-pot

decreased significantly in the other major fishing area, Eliza Harbor. However, the significant decrease in CPUE could be attributed to a change in effort and the type of effort. New boats were fishing in that area with “small” pots. In previous years, the primary harvest came from a small number of vessels fishing with “large” pots. There is very little biological information available for this district since there is no survey and minimal on the grounds sampling. **The season is expected to close around October 15.**

DISTRICT 10

District 10 includes the waters of the central portion of Frederick Sound and the southern portion of Stephens Passage. Fishing is concentrated along the mainland shoreline north of Cape Fanshaw and in the bays along the Admiralty shoreline. Prior to statehood, the fishing season east of Cape Fanshaw occasionally corresponded to the beam trawl fishery season with the fishery opening in mid-April or early May and closing between late January and late February. The first three and a half decades following statehood there were no season or quota restrictions in District 10. Each season since then, closures have occurred prior to March 1. The first GHR for District 10 of 0 to 30,000 lbs of shrimp was set in the 1995/96 season using the baseline harvest from the 1990/91 season through the 1994/95 season. This was modified to 0 to 36,000 lbs of spot shrimp when the ADF&G revised the tail weight to whole weight ratio of 1.67 to 2.0 for the 2000/2001 season. The catch of coonstripe shrimp was no longer included in the GHR starting in the 2000/2001 season. The effect of removing that catch was minimal since the harvest of coonstripe shrimp has been less than 2,000 lbs since the GHR was initiated. The GHL was increased to 48,000 lbs beginning with the 2004-2005 season. The average harvest of spot shrimp since the start of the 1995/96 season is 46,140 lbs. The average harvest of coonstripe shrimp during that same period is 1,293 lbs. Effort in the district has varied between 13 and 47 boats fishing during that same period. The season length has varied considerably, between 8 and 98 days. For the 2007/2008 season, catcher-processors landed 51% of the harvest and 27% of the harvest was landed as whole shrimp. During the 2007/2008 season, the fishery was opened for 9 days. Thirteen boats harvested 44,233 lbs of spot shrimp and no coonstripe shrimp.

The GHL for the 2008-2009 season will be 48,000 lbs of spot shrimp. This will be the fifth season of the 48,000 lb. GHL. However, last season was the sixth season in a row when total harvest has exceeded 44,000 pounds and the first season since 2002 the harvest has been less than 50,000 pounds. There is no survey but limited on the grounds and dockside sampling are conducted in this district. On the grounds sampling data indicate a stable average carapace length in the two major fishing areas. However, the L50 for the same two areas are below average and possibly indicate a declining trend. Fishery performance data indicates the second year in a row of a decrease in CPUE in three out of four of the fishing areas including the two major fishing areas. No management actions are expected this year. However, if fishery performance and biological parameters continue to decline during this season, a reduction in GHL may be necessary for the 2009 season. **The season is expected to close around October 9.**

SITKA AREA FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

The Sitka fishery management area includes all waters of District 13, Section 9-A, and Statistical Areas 112-11, 112-21, and 12-22 of District 12. For the pot shrimp fishery District 13 has been divided into two areas, each managed with separate GHRs. One area consists of all waters of Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound and Peril Strait) and the other area consists of all waters of

Sections 13-A and 13-B (outer coastal area of District 13). The offshore areas of Sections 13-A and 13-B include the waters of the EEZ. District 13 is unique since the BOF has adopted a customary and traditional finding for shrimp. The BOF also has closed the Sitka Sound special use area (5 AAC 31.136 (3)) to the commercial harvest of shrimp (Figure 2). District 9 is managed with a single GHL and encompasses waters within both the Petersburg and the Sitka management areas. With significant harvests occurring in both management areas, responsibility for managing the District 9 fishery has been shared between the Petersburg and Sitka area offices. The District 9 fishery will be managed by the Petersburg area office during the 2008/2009 season. The District 12 fishery is managed out of the Juneau area office since only a minor portion of the District occurs within the Sitka management area.

SECTION 13-C

Section 13-C consists of the waters of Hoonah Sound and Peril Strait west of a line from Point Hayes to Point Thatcher and north of Pogibshi Point.

The waters of Section 13-C contain the most productive pot shrimp fishing grounds in the Sitka management area. This area has been the focus of the Sitka area pot shrimp fishery throughout the fishery's development. The first commercial landings of pot shrimp from Section 13-C occurred during the 1977/78 fishing season with minimal harvest through the 1980/81 season. For the next thirteen years, from the 1981/82 through the 1993/94 fishing seasons, effort and harvest steadily increased with 6 to 19 boats participating and landing between 10,000 and 40,000 pounds whole weight. During this period, the Section 13-C fishery was open year round with landings occurring year round.

The 1994/95 season was pivotal in the history of the fishery. During that season, a floating processor moved into Section 13-C in response to a strong Japanese market for frozen whole shrimp. This resulted in a substantial increase of harvest in Section 13-C. Concerned with rapidly increasing harvest and having little information on stock size and productivity, the ADF&G closed all of District 13 by emergency order. This was the first closure of the pot shrimp fishery by emergency order in Southeast Alaska. The total 1994/95-season harvest in Section 13-C was 81,000 pounds whole weight, double any previous year's harvest. Other productive areas throughout Southeast Alaska had seen similar trends prompting ADF&G to establish GHRs for all districts in the region. For districts with a relatively consistent harvest history, the upper end of the GHR was based on the average harvest over the previous five seasons. The high harvest of the 1994/95 season was not included in the calculation and the resultant 1995/96 GHR for District 13 of 40,000 pounds whole weight. In 1996/97 Section 13-C was allocated a GHR of 25,000 pounds whole weight and Sections 13-A and 13-B together were allocated 15,000 pounds whole weight consistent with historical harvests from each area. The GHR for 13-C was increased to 30,000 pounds for the 2000/2001 fishing season as a result of using a more appropriate conversion factor of tail weight to whole weight. This change did not result in any real change to the amount of shrimp available for harvest in 13-C. In the Hoonah Sound area of Section 13-C, there is a significant but unaccounted subsistence and sport harvest that occurs.

Since the establishment of a GHR, the harvest and the number of vessels participating in the Section 13-C fishery has remained relatively stable. However, with increased value the fishery greatly intensified resulting in shorter and shorter seasons and more aggressive management strategies to limit harvest to the upper end of the GHR. For the past five seasons the 13-C fishery has been managed by conducting an over-flight shortly after the fishery opens to determine the

effort level and set distribution, followed by on-the-grounds monitoring and skipper interviews to determine catch rates and to collect catch samples. The 10-year average harvest from Section 13-C is 36,900 pounds of spot shrimp harvested by 18 boats in 6 days. The 2007-2008 harvest was 29,400 lbs of spot shrimp and the season lasted 7 days.

Long term data series are available in Section 13-C for both survey and commercial sampling data, with good sample sizes, and there are several biological indicators that serve as warnings of a stressed population, including: 1) decreasing trend in mean carapace length from both on-grounds commercial and survey samples; 2) decreasing trend in L50 in survey samples; and 3) decreasing trend in CPUE of XL shrimp in survey samples. Although commercial fishery CPUE trends have been relatively stable for this area, which has one of the highest spot shrimp CPUEs in the region, CPUE data is not a good indicator of spot shrimp stock health. **Due to these continuing trends; the 2008-2009 GHF will be reduced to 30,000 pounds**, a decrease of 12% from the 2007-2008 season GHF of 34,000 pounds. This 12% reduction in the GHF is made following a 20% reduction in the 2007-2008 season, and the resulting GHF of 30,000 pounds represents the long term historic harvest level for this fishery.

Shrimp fishermen can expect the 2007/2008 season to last approximately five days. The ADF&G managers will make a field announcement of closure time over the VHF radio. The ADF&G attempts to give as much notice as possible before a closure but closure announcements may provide as little as 24-hour notice. Catcher-processors will be exempt from weekly reporting requirements for this fishery due to the short duration of the Section 13-C fishery.

SECTIONS 13-A AND 13-B

The pattern of fishery development in Sections 13-A and 13-B was similar to that of Section 13-C. The first reported commercial harvest of pot shrimp occurred during the 1978/79 fishing season and harvests remained below 5,000 pounds whole weight through the 1989/90 fishing season. From the 1990/91 through the 2001/2002 fishing season, harvests have ranged from 9,500 pounds to 30,000 pounds, averaging 16,300 pounds whole weight. A GHR of 15,000 pounds whole weight was established for the Section 13-A and Section 13-B fishery prior to the 1996/97 fishing season. The 10-year average harvest from Section 13-A and Section 13-B is 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp harvested by 8 boats in 98 days. More recently a pattern of increased CPUE, fewer participants and shorter season length has been occurring.

During the 2007-2008 season 5 boats harvested 11,300 lbs of spot shrimp and the season lasted 14 days. This was the shortest season since the inception of the fishery. There is no survey and very limited biological sampling of shrimp from Sections 13-A/B has occurred. Since most of the harvest is generally from a few specific bays on the West Coast of Baranof Island, localized depletion effects are of concern but not substantiated.

The GHF for 2008-2009 will remain at 15,000 lbs of spot shrimp. For the 2008/2009 fishing season, harvesters can expect a season length similar to the 2007/2008 fishing season. Shrimp fishermen are advised that ADF&G will be monitoring catch rates as an indicator of stock strength. If a pattern of reduced catch rates is evident it may be necessary to close the fishery or specific areas before the upper end of the GHR has been harvested to protect the resource from localized depletion as well as to provide for subsistence use of the resource. Catcher-processors participating in the Section 13-A and Section 13-B fishery will be required to report their catch and effort information to ADF&G on a weekly basis beginning October 8, 2008.

JUNEAU/HAINES AREA FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

The Juneau/Haines fishery management area encompasses Districts 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16. The pot shrimp fishery is managed for spot shrimp in Districts 12 and 14, where spot shrimp typically comprise over 95% of the shrimp harvest. Districts 15 and 16 are managed for coonstripe shrimp, which typically comprise 75–100% of the harvests in those districts. District 11 is managed for spot and coonstripe shrimp combined since both species have contributed significantly to historical harvests in the district.

DISTRICT 11

District 11 includes those waters of Stephens Passage north of a line from Point League to Point Hugh, waters of Seymour Canal north of 57°37' N. latitude and waters that are south of the latitude of Little Island Light and east of a line running from Little Island Light to Point Retreat Light. Important shrimp fishing areas in the district include Seymour Canal, Endicott Arm, Port Snettisham, and the Auke Bay area.

Prior to the 1995/96 season the district was open year-around to commercial pot shrimp fishing. Between the 1990/91 and 1994/95 seasons, harvests averaged 2,000 lbs of shrimp. A GHR of 0 to 20,000 lbs of shrimp was established for the district starting with the 1995/96 fishing season. Effort levels and harvests increased substantially beginning that season. The 1995/96 season was closed by emergency order in June 1996, and the season length has since continued to shorten. District 11 was open for the fewest number of days during the 2007–2008 season, closing by emergency order on October 15, 2007. During the fifteen days the district was open 20,741 pounds of primarily spot shrimp were harvested, with an insignificant amount of coonstripe shrimp harvested. There is no survey data and very little sampling data available for this district. In 2007 overall district CPUE declined from its peak in 2006, and confidential logbook information indicates a decrease in the catch rate of large shrimp. Weekly catch reporting requirements for catcher-processors will be in place for the entire season.

The District 11 GHL will remain at 20,000 lbs of spot and coonstripe shrimp for the 2008/2009 season.

DISTRICT 12

District 12 includes those waters of Lynn Canal and Chatham Strait south of the latitude of Little Island Light, north of the latitude of Point Gardner, west of a line running from Little Island Light to Point Retreat, east of a line running from Point Couverden to Point Augusta, and east of a line running from Point Hayes to Point Thatcher. The district crosses management areas, with those waters along the western shoreline of Chatham Strait south of Point Hayes being located in the Sitka management area. Because most of the area is in the Juneau portion of the district, District 12 is managed by the Juneau area office with assistance from the Sitka office as needed.

Prior to the 1995/96 season, the district was open year-around to pot shrimp fishing. A GHR of 0–20,000 lbs was established for the district starting with the 1995/96 fishing season. Annual catches during the 1990/91 to 1993/94 seasons averaged 22,400 lbs, 93% of which was spot shrimp. The harvest increased dramatically to 58,900 lbs during the 1994/95 season when a floating processor operated in the district. The season steadily shortened from 127 days during the 1995/96 season to 7 days for the 2000/2001 season.

Since the 2001/2002 season, District 12 has been managed as two separate fisheries. Prior to this season, effort continued to concentrate in Tenakee Inlet accelerating the pace of the fishery. During the 2000/2001 season, 100% of the 20,000 pound GHR for District 12 was taken from the waters of Tenakee Inlet in just 7 days, forgoing known opportunity existing in the remainder of the district. For the 2001/2002 season, a 0–20,000 pound GHR for Tenakee Inlet was established, and a 0–15,000 pound GHR was established for the remainder of District 12.

District 12-Tenakee Inlet

For the 2005/2006 season, the GHL for Tenakee Inlet was increased 40% to 28,000 pounds of spot shrimp and 36,400 pounds were harvested. During the 2006/2007 season, the second at the increased GHL, the fishery landed 30,000 pounds of spot shrimp in four days. The results of the 2007/2008 preseason survey showed a severe decrease in CPUE and harvest from previous seasons. Staff on the grounds monitoring the commercial fishery observed a similar pattern in catch rates and revised the target GHL to 20,000 lbs. The area was closed to commercial shrimping after three days with a total of 18,000 pounds harvested. Survey data indicate the CPUE of XL and larger shrimp had significantly declined, mean CL was significantly below baseline and decreasing in one area, and survey L50 was significantly below baseline levels. While monitoring the fishery, staff observed a decrease in the extent of the area of high shrimp abundance compared to previous seasons. Due to the rapidity of the Tenakee Inlet fishery, ADF&G will monitor catch and effort levels and announce the closure on the grounds. Catcher-processor weekly call-in requirements will be waived for the Tenakee fishery.

Because of poor fishery and biological indicators, the Tenakee Inlet GHL will be reduced 40% to 17,000 lbs of spot shrimp for the 2008/2009 season.

District 12-Remainder

In the remainder of District 12, 12,838 pounds of spot shrimp were harvested in 10 days during the 2007/2008 season, again the shortest season since District 12 was split into two GHR areas. Commercial CPUE in the main area of harvest dropped 28% from the previous season's peak. No survey or sampling data is available for this area. Effort has been steady and the season length has decreased, with the bulk of the harvest taken from two bays in the area. Since most of the harvest is from a relatively small area, localized depletion effects are of concern but not substantiated. Landing information will continue to be monitored and ADF&G may close specific bays if needed to distribute effort and harvest. Weekly catch reporting requirements for catcher-processors will be in place for the entire season.

With declining commercial CPUE and lack of biological data for this area, the District 12-Remainder GHL will be reduced to 10,000 lbs of spot shrimp for the 2008/2009 season.

DISTRICT 14

District 14 includes those waters of Icy Strait west of a line from the southernmost tip of Point Couverden to Point Augusta Light, east of a line running from the southernmost tip of Cape Spencer through Yakobi Rock, and ending at Yakobi Island, and waters that are north of a line running from the northernmost point of Soapstone Point to the westernmost point of Column Point. Federal regulations prohibit all shrimp fishing in those waters of Glacier Bay proper (north of a line from Point Carolus to Point Gustavus).

The District 14 fishery had small, sporadic effort until the 1994/95 season. With an increase in effort between the 1994/95 and the 1999/2000 seasons, spot shrimp harvests in the District increased to average over 7,000 pounds annually. From the 2000/2001 season to the 2004/2005 season, with additional effort and efficiency, the average harvest in District 14 increased to 20,500 pounds of spot shrimp and has since been in decline. For the 2006/2007 season the GHL was lowered to 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp. The 2007/2008 harvest was 13,054 lbs of spot shrimp and the season lasted 151 days. Although no survey data are available for this district, limited dockside sampling data indicate a declining trend in mean carapace length and L50. With low catch rates, effort continues to decrease due to disinterest in this area. The bulk of the harvest has been consistently taken from one sub-district in the eastern third of the district and fishermen's reports indicate possible serial depletion in the productive zone over the course of the season. The GHL again failed to be taken during the 2007–2008 season. Weekly catch reporting requirements for catcher-processors will be in place for the entire season.

The District 14 GHL will be reduced to 10,000 lbs of spot shrimp for the 2008/2009 season.

DISTRICT 15

District 15 includes those waters of Lynn Canal north of the latitude of Little Island Light. The District 15 pot shrimp fishery is managed by the Haines area office. The majority of the pot shrimp harvest in Lynn Canal is composed of coonstripe shrimp. Important fishing areas include Lutak Inlet, Chilkoot Inlet, Taiya Inlet, and Chilkat Inlet.

Prior to the 1996/97 season the district was open year-around to commercial pot shrimp fishing. The average harvest between the 1990/91–1994/95 seasons was 3,200 pounds, 75% of which was coonstripe shrimp. A 0–20,000-pound GHR was established for the district starting with the 1995/96 fishing season. Effort and harvests rapidly increased since the 1996/97 season through the 2002/2003 season, averaging over 20,000 pounds, 99% of which was coonstripe shrimp. The fishery closed early by emergency order during the 1995/96 through the 2002/2003 seasons. Harvests of shrimp from catcher-processors have increased during these years as well, and over 50% of the total harvest was taken by catcher/processers. Due to concerns over serial depletion in core fishing areas, Lutak Inlet was not opened to commercial shrimp fishing north of the latitude of Tanini Point during the spring/summer fishery in 2004 and Lutak Inlet was closed north of a line from Tanini Point to Taiya Point during the 2005 spring fishery. The GHL was reduced from 20,000 pounds to 15,000 pounds for the 2005/2006 season. The 2005–2006 District 15 harvest was 4,230 lbs of coonstripe shrimp and the district closed for the season on February 28, 2006. District 15 was closed at the outset of the 2006–2007 season.

The decision to close District 15 was based on a combination of several factors. The season length increased and the GHL was not reached in the most recent three seasons. Reported harvest was no longer from the traditional core fishing areas, and fishermen reported depletion of shrimp in core areas. Limited dockside sampling indicated declining trends in mean carapace length. To further protect this stock, Sport Fish Division closed the taking of shrimp in Lutak and Taiya Inlets in 2006 under sport fishing regulations, and is extending this closure through 2008. Alaskan residents will continue to be allowed to harvest shrimp under subsistence regulations in District 15.

The Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Management Plan specifies a 0–20,000-pound GHR for coonstripe shrimp in Lynn Canal. Due to the poor fishery performance described above, **District**

15 will remain closed to the commercial and sport pot shrimp fisheries for the 2008/2009 season.

The department intends to reopen the district for the 2009/2010 season. Details of future management plans for this district will be determined following next year's GHF review meeting.

DISTRICT 16

District 16 includes those waters that are north of a line running west from the southernmost tip of Cape Spencer and south of a line running southwest from the westernmost tip of Cape Fairweather. The offshore area of District 16 includes the waters of the EEZ. The major shrimp fishing area in District 16 is Lituya Bay and coonstripe shrimp typically dominate the harvest.

Shrimp harvests in District 16 averaged 2,900 lbs during the year-around seasons between 1990/91–1994/95, with spot shrimp comprising 58% of the harvest. The 0 to 20,000 pound GHR for coonstripe shrimp was established for the district starting with the 1995/96 fishing season. Coonstripe shrimp harvests in the district appeared to be stable from 1996/97 through 2001/2002 with an average harvest of 17,000 lbs. Season length declined during this period with constant effort and a relatively stable harvest level. Following the 2001/2002 season, the trend for this population appears to be declining. In 2004/2005, the GHF was reduced to 15,000 lbs of coonstripe shrimp due to steadily decreasing harvest and CPUE levels, and increasing season length with stable effort levels. Since the 1996/97 season the entire harvest has come from one small bay in the district. Little biological data is available for this area. District 16 has been closed to pot shrimp fishing for the 2005/2006 through the 2007/2008 seasons due to stock concerns and will reopen for the 2008/2009 season. Weekly catch reporting requirements for catcher-processors will be in place for the entire season

The District 16 GHF will be 15,000 lbs of spot and coonstripe shrimp for the 2008/2009 season. The department's intention is to move to a rotational fishery in this remote district, with the fishery closed the year after significant harvest, opening again the following year.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME CONTACTS

The following are Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries contacts for this management plan:

Scott Kelley

Region 1 Supervisor
802 3rd St
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4250

Bill Davidson

Region 1 Management Coordinator
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6688

Kevin Monagle or David Harris

Area Management Biologists
802 3rd St
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4206

Scott Walker, Justin Breese or Bo Meredith

Area Management Biologists
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-5195

Dave Gordon or Eric Coonradt

Area Management Biologists
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6688

William Bergmann or Troy Thynes

Area Management Biologists
P.O. Box 667
Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772-3801

Randy Bachman

Area Management Biologist
P.O. Box 330
Haines, AK 99827
(907) 766-2830

Scott Forbes

Assistant Area Management Biologist
P.O. Box 200
Wrangell, AK 99929
(907) 874-3822

Jim Craig

Publications Specialist
802 3rd St
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4236

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.—Historical harvest of spot shrimp (whole weight) in the Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery by District/Section, 1971–2007.

Season	101	102	3-A	3-B/C	104	105	106	107	108
10/71–9/72	1,408							212	
10/72–9/73								625	
10/73–9/74		7,274							
10/74–9/ 75	2,692	1,250							
10/75–9/ 76	6,346	11,478	490						
10/76–9/ 77	1,940	9,582		926				3,268	
10/77–9/ 78	4,897	14,141				732		3,815	
10/78–9/ 79	4,163	6,703	1,570		1,280			2,167	
10/79–9/ 80	15,079	12,014	6,289					16,622	227
10/80–9/ 81	15,210	13,821	24,552	435	368		493	16,637	358
10/81–9/ 82	25,278	17,531	53,101	3,574			7,168	14,943	1,583
10/82–9/ 83	28,778	34,720	83,885	565	772		7,464	71,384	2,657
10/83–9/ 84	40,550	22,427	30,192	6,191	480	1,050	7,589	82,364	15,062
10/84–9/ 85	68,871	50,421	17,985	556	34	244	6,133	80,020	8,582
10/85–9/ 86	35,282	37,105	70,936	212	878	104	5,373	21,212	1,702
10/86–9/ 87	60,044	136,456	45,624	3,243		1,132	1,379	37,996	1,266
10/87–9/ 88	116,204	79,769	27,432	30	100	1,686	483	49,094	2,357
10/88–9/ 89	196,834	62,683	15,029	4,664	714	3,876	6,742	60,009	796
10/89–9/ 90	151,758	68,515	19,850	6,972	2,696		7,290	42,020	17,272
10/90–9/ 91	178,471	78,428	49,214	11,744	11,288		9,038	93,881	12,654
10/99–9/ 92	161,643	81,481	269,507	4,828	438	706	19,484	112,191	13,482
10/92–9/ 93	157,056	70,100	218,043	3,244	4,674	846	23,830	57,822	17,884
10/93–9/94	146,094	119,300	272,916	14,716	5,398	1,884	39,044	105,566	19,141
10/94–9/95	156,742	76,498	214,955	16,515	1,002	21,628	129,327	169,926	23,211
10/95–9/96	173,137	89,724	196,607	48,493	23,135	34,614	73,577	100,675	8,074
10/96–9/97	165,991	82,303	232,547	48,100	20,513	23,174	77,642	102,594	25,294
10/97–9/98	138,759	83,000	222,132	5,878	10,217	5,931	70,182	96,932	17,233
10/98–9/99	158,348	76,207	205,818	7,960	6,071	5,471	64,010	63,870	15,797
10/99–9/00	154,980	76,091	226,900	7,076	16,612	11,719	67,005	75,868	20,816
10/00–9 01	159,316	121,953	266,837	36,508	20,343	13,791	77,318	100,768	21,708
10/01–9/02	169,312	103,774	255,370	62,721	10,337	7,857	70,919	103,328	17,464
10/02–9/03	152,022	89,581	264,653	53,553	22,153	19,049	68,293	99,250	22,105
10/03–9/04	170,113	96,687	284,808	64,839	20,364	15,667	69,808	104,394	20,867
10/04–9/05	159,234	88,258	256,392	46,497	19,296	21,498	65,487	80,072	18,935
10/05–9/06	160,546	83,052	202,186	56,051	18,579	19,282	81,955	79,927	21,494
10/06–9/07	141,871	99,092	205,435	47,309	15,085	10,216	80,650	80,491	21,256
10/07–9/08	87,581	89,786	182,145	44,703	174		36,763	76,485	15,346
10-Year Average 1998/99- 2007/08	151,332	92,448	235,054	42,722	14,901	13,839	68,221	86,445	19,579

-continued-

Table 1.—continued (page 2 of 2)

Season	109	110	111	112-T	112-R	13-A/B	13-C	114	115	116	Total
10/71–9/72											1,620
10/72–9/73											625
10/73–9/74											7,274
10/74–9/75											3,942
10/75–9/76											18,314
10/76–9/77											15,716
10/77–9/78							347				23,932
10/78–9/79					1,166	50	63				17,162
10/79–9/80						8	645	270			51,154
10/80–9/81	4,292	2,148			380	98	414				79,206
10/81–9/82	4,309	6	1,004		2,250	1,388	12,730	1,716		2,466	149,047
10/82–9/83	9,386	3,708			440	4,817	10,011	108		450	259,145
10/83–9/84	1,643	14,188	66		3,070	674	19,389			596	245,531
10/84–9/85	2,351	33,342	1,129		1,920	120	16,816	328		3,640	292,492
10/85–9/86	1,643	13,400	255		371		10,953	97	293		199,816
10/86–9/87	4,962	31,974	2,282	1,574	1,746		10,825	159	1,212	3,530	345,404
10/87–9/88	18,234	28,587	2,342	8,071	5,270		21,170	1,716	34	98	362,677
10/88–9/89	6,616	36,302	618	6,122	4,626	3,878	22,417	12			431,938
10/89–9/90	310	47,875	564	1,864	4,710	3,180	26,873			1,052	402,801
10/90–9/91	5,234	42,439		7,004	8,714	11,048	28,560			504	548,221
10/91–9/92	2,866	48,427	1,901	9,804	2,450	23,614	36,417		2,501	2,918	794,658
10/92–9/93	8,893	29,456	8	21,770	4,253	9,506	30,901		834	240	659,360
10/93–9/94	23,702	35,229	1,920	23,516	6,029	20,705	38,938		92	1,432	875,622
10/94–9/95	11,557	85,149	2,403	45,939	12,437	22,173	79,924	2,267	301	3,082	1,075,036
10/95–9/96	25,485	42,180	11,116	25,749	2,158	9,849	38,195	17,154	491	2,664	923,077
10/96–9/97	19,500	51,889	8,919	16,028	12,366	13,156	32,607	4,309	384	3,917	941,233
10/97–9/98	20,836	37,474	7,577	20,291	5,131	12,843	27,336	12,191	125	3,390	797,458
10/98–9/99	17,781	30,182	4,138	28,583	1,390	13,924	50,391	6,651	54	2,169	758,815
10/99–9/00	18,284	36,976	3,091	21,850	1,589	14,114	30,569	240		11,706	795,486
10/00–9/01	20,765	46,099	17,051	25,613		12,914	33,001	17,639	97	3,965	995,686
10/01–9/02	18,286	38,156	14,985	19,777	14,175	13,878	25,822	25,004	24	1,464	972,653
10/02–9/03	15,713	54,706	19,126	21,558	16,904	14,066	38,318	19,903	2	6,763	997,718
10/03–9/04	17,904	61,631	18,852	30,494	19,605	13,606	42,240	19,517	43	1,763	1,073,202
10/04–9/05	17,911	51,592	20,833	23,729	17,627	18,306	34,270	21,282		2,631	963,850
10/05–9/06	20,252	53,292	23,328	36,435	13,521	13,194	43,605	15,845			942,544
10/06–9/07	24,113	51,409	23,529	30,032	18,552	16,819	36,449	13,529			915,567
10/07–9/08	17,336	44,233	20,717	18,086	12,582	11,270	29,395	13,054			699,656
10-Year Average 1998/99– 2007/08	18,835	46,828	16,565	25,616	12,883	14,209	36,406	15,266	44	4,352	911,518

Table 2.—Historical harvest of coonstripe shrimp (whole weight) in the Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery by District/Section, 1975–2007.

Season	101	102	3-A	3-B/C	104	105	106	107	108
10/75–9/76		35							
10/79–9/80								168	257
10/80–9/81		900			54		5		
10/81–9/82	1,050						2,148	554	427
10/82–9/83	1,550		60				305	2,494	19
10/83–9/84	240	39	130	38			139	4,648	851
10/84–9/85	185	81			50		28	5,261	134
10/85–9/86	1,366	436					668	1,829	1,040
10/86–9/87	865	840					792	2,619	744
10/87–9/88	2,360	186					94	1,104	478
10/88–9/89	3,892	92			20		1,252	1,540	56
10/89–9/90	3,521	110		114			1,094	2,176	1,426
10/90–9/91	2,742	456	12	796	76		1,206	3,706	914
10/91–9/92	6,977	2,096	10	96			1,673	11,233	1,807
10/92–9/93	3,042			602			524	6,414	2,183
10/93–9/ 94	1,839	1,314		1,000			2,164	14,759	6,032
10/94–9/95	3,163	475	56	706			921	29,630	7,217
10/95–9/96	6,126	807		40	148	278	2,216	18,589	1,110
10/96–9/97	5,802	200		317	300	1,066	1,381	25,652	4,465
10/97–9/98	3,925	8					2,373	30,268	2,776
10/ 98–9/99	4,842	317	141	12		25	2,914	35,975	4,101
10/99–9/00	3,609		5		1	120	3,069	24,673	2,687
10/00–9/01	1,961	10				540	2,124	14,881	1,828
10/01–9/02	4,904			230			116	24,804	2,111
10/02–9/03	5,371			621		514	38	14,262	2,223
10/03–9/04	12,260	24	60	370		4	218	17,268	1,867
10/04–9/05	10,242	266				86	37	10,899	913
10/05–9/06	13,379	8		221			441	7,983	3,453
10/06– 9/07	12,090	18					39	6,795	2,209
10/07–9/08	7,349	34					5	8,155	1,650
10-Year Average									
1998/99–2007/08	7,601	97	69	291	1	215	900	16,570	2,304

-continued-

Table 2.—continued (page 2 of 2)

Season	109	110	111	12-T	12-R	13-A/B	13-C	114	115	116	Total
10/75–9/76											35
10/79–9/80											425
10/80–9/81	533										1,492
10/81–9/82	600	6			260		70	80		2,220	7,415
10/82–9/83	226	172								1,850	6,676
10/83–9/ 84	16				200		1,007			3,364	10,672
10/84–9/85		150					109	182			6,180
10/85–9/86	34		58				80			3,336	8,847
10/86–9/87	190	440	25	410			206			770	7,901
10/87–9/88	534	434		509			320	332			6,351
10/88–9/89		157				16	527			918	8,470
10/89–9/90	14	29	1,828			251	218				10,781
10/90–9/991		297	1,546		1,112	70	171		664	333	14,101
10/91–9/92	26	1,184				1,068	64		759	1,480	28,473
10/92–9/93	700	1,237	1,250	568		40			378	122	17,060
10/93–9/94	3,273	854	200	3,704	164	1,934	942	378	1,660	1,748	41,965
10/94–9/95	525	3,333	669	476	40	7,952	178	96	8,609	2,795	66,841
10/95–9/96	444	6,662	12,214	150		1,188		348	9,519	5,012	64,851
10/96–9/97	10	1,130	11,580	221		2,964	968	2	21,772	16,008	93,838
10/97–9/98	185	2,125	10,307	77		804	84	55	21,833	17,334	92,154
10/98–9/99	275	1,607	4,791	116		1,107	214		22,704	15,415	94,556
10/99–9/ 00		945	5,057	4		891	28		24,668	16,053	81,810
10/00–9/01	66	145	2,792	14		636			24,119	17,867	66,983
10/01–9/02	196	286	8,366			450	54	16	18,918	18,490	78,941
10/02–9/03	222	4	334		144	802	22		19,559	16,504	60,620
10/03–9/04	304	22	3,162			402	68		6,873	14,476	57,378
10/04–9/05			930		36	196			6,278	6,612	36,495
10/05–9/06			262			888	6		4,230		30,871
10/06–9/07						328	20				21,499
10/07–9/08	68	8	24		256	2,323					19,872
10-Year Average											
1998/99– 2007/08	189	431	2,858	45	145	802	59	16	15,919	15,060	54,903

Table 3.—Historical seasonal closure dates and days fished by District/Section for the Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery, 1995/96 through 2007/2008.

	2007/2008	Days	2006/2007	Days	2005/2006	Days	2004/2005	Days	2003/2004	Days	2002/03	Days	2001/02	Days	2000/01	Days
Area	Closure ^a Date	Fished	Closure Date	Fished	Closure ^b Dated	Fished	Closure ^c Date	Fished								
1	31 July 08	229	16 Nov 06	47	14 Dec 05	75	20 Dec 04	80	19 Nov 03	49	21 Nov 02	52	19 Nov 01	50	10 Nov 00	41
2	11 Nov 07; 29 Jan 08 ^a	107	7 Nov 06	38	14 Oct / 05	14	14 Oct / 04	13	22 Oct / 03	21	30 Oct / 02	30	28 Oct / 01	28	29 Oct / 00	29
3-A	31 Jul 08	229	18 Oct / 06	18	15 Oct / 05	15	21 Oct / 04	20	17 Nov 03	47	9 Nov 02	41	28 Oct / 01	28	10 Oct / 00; 4 Nov 00 ^c	14
3-B/C	5 Nov 07 28 Feb 08; ^a	132	16 Nov 06	47	25 Nov 05	6	15 Oct / 04	14	15 Oct / 03	14	21 Oct / 02	21	15 Nov 01	46	15 Oct / 00	15
4	31 Jul 08	229	31 July 07	229	16 Jul 06	213	28 Feb 05	150	16 Jul 04	213	28 Feb 03	151	31 Jul 02	229	16 Jul 01	213
5	31 Jul 08	229	31 July 07	229	28 Feb 06	151	22 Jul 05	222	31 Jul 04	229	31 Jul 03	228	31 Jul 02	229	31 Jul 01	229
6	28 Feb 08	151	8 Nov 06	39	16 Dec 05	77	21 Oct / 04	21	24 Oct / 03	24	26 Oct / 02	26	27 Oct / 01	27	11 Nov 00; 17 Dec 00 ^c	51
7	28 Nov 07	59	22 Oct / 06	22	30 Oct / 05	30	6 Nov 04	37	21 Jan 04	113	8 Nov 03	39	8 Nov 01, 10 Dec 01 ^b	71	3 Nov 00	34
8	28 Nov 08	151	30 Oct / 06	30	6 Nov 05	37	6 Nov 04	37	18 Oct / 03	18	31 Oct / 02	31	4 Nov 01	35	23 Oct / 00	23
9	14 Oct / 07	14	16 Oct / 06	16	19 Oct / 05	19	30 Oct / 04	30	24 Oct / 03	24	1 Nov 02	32	25 Oct / 01	25	1 Nov 00	32
10	9 Oct / 07	9	8 Oct / 06	8	8 Oct / 05	8	11 Oct / 04	11	12 Oct / 03	12	16 Oct / 02	16	14 Oct / 01	14	26 Oct / 00	26
11	15 Oct / 07	15	19 Oct / 06	19	12 Nov 05	43	12 Nov 04	43	17 Nov 03	48	12 Dec 02	73	24 Jan 02	116	10 Feb 01	133
12-Ten	3 Oct / 07	3	4 Oct / 06	4	5 Oct / 05	5	3 Oct / 04	3	6 Oct / 03	6	6 Oct / 02	6	6 Oct / 01	6	7 Oct / 00	7
12-Rmr	10 Oct / 07	10	12 Oct / 06	12	16 Oct / 05	16	23 Oct / 04	23	6 Nov 03	37	31 Oct / 02	31	29 Dec 01	90		
13-C	7 Oct / 07	7	5 Oct / 06	5	6 Oct / 05	6	5 Oct / 04	5	5 Oct / 03	5	5 Oct / 02	5	4 Oct / 01	4	5-Oct / -00	5
13-A/B	14 Oct / 07	14	17 Oct / 06	17	30 Oct / 05	30	28 Feb 04	152	28 Feb 04	152	5 Jan 03	97	28 Feb 02	151	28 Feb 01	151
14	28 Feb 08	151	28 Feb 06	151	28 Feb 06	151	7 Dec 04	68	15 Jan 04	107	18 Jan 03	110	27 Jun 02	194	31 Jul 01	229
15	Closed		Closed		28 Feb 06	151	30 Jul 05	226	31 Jul 04	230	6 Feb 03	129	28 May 02	163	12 Dec 01	73
16			Closed		Closed		28 Feb 05	151	28 Feb 04	152	28 Feb 02	151	5 Dec 01	66	20 Nov 01	51

-continued-

Table 3.—continued (page 2 of 2)

Area	1999/00 ClosureDate ^d	Days Fished	1998/99 Closure Date ^e	Days Fished	1997/98 Closure Date ^f	Days Fished	1996/97 Closure Date	Days Fished	1995/96 Closure Date ^g	Days Fished
1	7 Feb 00	130	5 Jan 99	97	7 Nov 97	38	6 Nov 96	37	2 Jan 96	94
2	3 Nov 99	34	5 Jan 99	97	22 Oct / 97	22	30 Oct / 96	30	10 Jan 96	102
3-A	12 Oct / 99	12	Oct / 9 98, Oct / 26–30 98	14	9 Oct / 97	9	14 Oct / 96	14	13 Nov 95	44
3-B/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	31 Jul 00	230	31 Aug 99	335	31 Aug 98	335	29 Aug 97	333	8 May 96	220
5	31 Jul 00	230	31 Aug 99	335	31 Aug 98	335	27 Dec 96	88	13 Mar 96	164
6	14 Feb 00	137	14 Feb 99	137	3 Nov 97	34	1 Nov 96	32	5 Nov 95	36
7	24 Nov 99	55	31 Dec 98	92	24 Oct / 97	24	20 Oct / 96	20	5 Nov 95	36
8			19 Oct / 98; 2 Nov 98; 13 Nov 98 ^e	29	20 Oct / 97; 29 Oct / 97 ^f	27	1 Nov 96	32	5 Nov 95	36
9	22 Oct / 99	22	2 Dec 98	63	9 Dec 97	70	27 Dec 96	88	11 Mar 96	162
10	26 Nov 99	57	20 Nov 98	51	3 Nov 97	34	29 Nov 96	60	6 Jan 96	98
11	30 Oct / 99	30	31 Aug 99	335	31 Aug 98	335	18 May 97	230	23 Jun 96	266
12	31 Jul 00	230	15 Oct / 98	15	31 Oct / 97	31	18 Nov 96	49	4 Feb 96	127
13-C	9 Oct / 99	9	-	-	10 Oct / 97	10	18 Oct / 96	18	16 Jan 96 ^g	16
13-A/B	5 Oct / 99	5	7 Oct / 98	7	8 Dec 97	69	25 Nov 96	56	16 Jan 96 ^g	16
14	29 Feb 00	152	28 Feb 99	151	31 Aug 98	335	30 Sept 97	365	30 Sept 96	365
15	31 Jul 00	230	31 Aug 99	335	26 Jun 98	269	30 Sept 97	365	30 Sept 96	365
16	10 Jun 00	178	21 May 99	264	8 Dec 97	69	26 Feb 97	149	30 Sept 96	365
	15 Dec 99	76								

Note: The season may potentially be open up to 151 days in the Oct / 1- Feb. 28 regular season, unless closed by emergency order. If re-opened in the May 15- July 31 summer season then the season may potentially be open up to a total of 229 days, unless closed by emergency order.

- ^a During 2007/2008 District 2 was open Oct /1-11/10 & 11/25-1/29. Sections 3 B/C open Oct /1-11/5 & 11/25-2/28.
- ^b During the 2001/2002 season, District 7 was open October 1 to November 8 and November 25 to December 10.
- ^c During the 2000/2001 season Section 3-A was open from October 1 to 10 and from November 1 to 4. District 6 was open from October 1 to November 11 and December 9 to 17.
- ^d During the 1999/2000 season Districts 4, 5, 11, 14, and 15 were closed from March 1 through May 14.
- ^e During the 1998/99 season District 8 was open Oct /1-10/, Oct /30-11/2, and 11/8-13. During the 1998/99 season Districts 4, 5, 11, 14, and 15 were closed from March 1 through April 30.
- ^f During the 1997/98 season District 8 was open October 1 to 20 and October 26 to 29. Several districts were closed August 31, 1998 for re-registration and issuing of pot tags.
- ^g During the 1995/96 season, District 13 did not open October 1, 1995, but opened January 1-January 16 1996.

Table 4.—Guideline harvest levels for the Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery by Area, showing GHLS for the 2008/2009 season, GHLS over the previous five seasons, noting years when GHL changes were implemented, and showing combined harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp during the 2007/2008 season.

Season	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04	2007/08
Area	GH L	Harvest					
1	78,700	98,400	98,400	164,000	164,000	164,000	94,930
2	86,000	86,000	86,000	86,000	86,000	86,000	89,820
3-A	158,400	198,000	198,000	198,000	198,000	264,000	182,145
3-B/C	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	44,703
4	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	174
5	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	0
6	68,000	82,000	82,000	82,000	68,000	68,000	36,768
7	78,000	78,000	78,000	78,000	78,000	104,000	84,640
8	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	16,996
9	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	17,404
10	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	36,000	44,241
11 ^a	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,741
12-Ten.	17,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	20,000	20,000	18,086
12-Rem.	10,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	12,838
13-A/B	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	13,593
13-C	30,000	34,000	42,000	42,000	42,000	30,000	29,395
14	10,000	15,000	15,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	13,054
15 ^b	Closed	Closed	Closed	15,000	20,000	20,000	Closed
16 ^b	15,000	Closed	Closed	Closed	15,000	20,000	Closed
TOTAL	752,100	835,400	853,400	939,000	937,000	1,010,000	719,528

Notes: GHLS and Harvests are in pounds, whole weight and are for spot shrimp only unless otherwise noted.

Years when GHL changes are implemented are shown in bold.

^a GH L for District 11 is for spot and coonstripe shrimp combined.

^b GHLS for Districts 15 and 16 are for coonstripe shrimp.

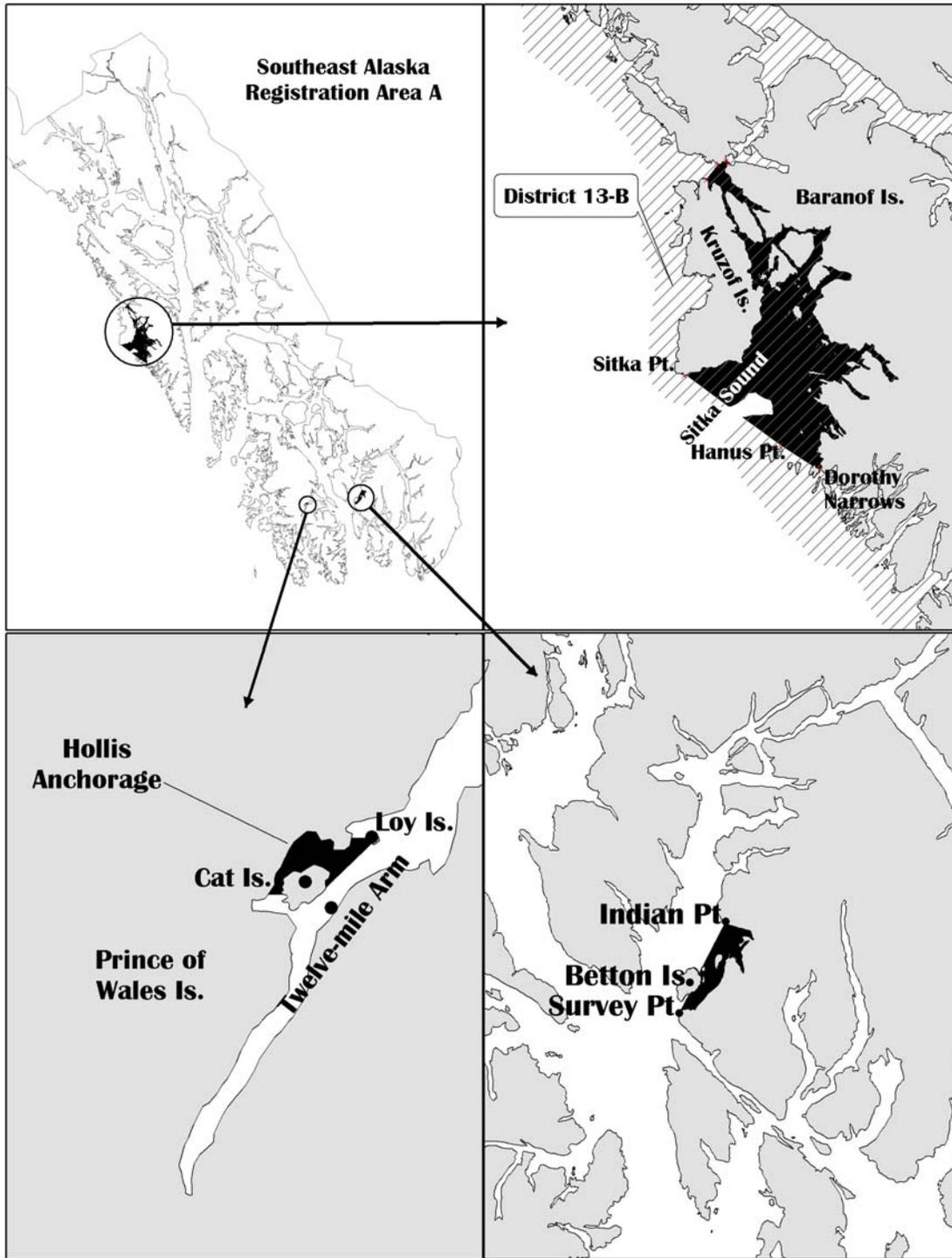


Figure 2.—Closed waters for pot shrimp fishing in Registration Area A.

APPENDICES

Appendix B.—September 1, 2008 letter to Region Pot Shrimp Catcher-Processors and Direct Marketers, notifying of changes to shrimp fish tickets, and size categories.

<h1>STATE OF ALASKA</h1>	SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR	
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME <i>DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES</i>	<i>P.O. Box 110024 Juneau, AK 99811-0024 PHONE: (907) 465-4250 FAX: (907) 465-4944</i>	
September 1, 2008		
To All Southeast Region Pot Shrimp Catcher-Processors and Direct Marketers,		
<p>The purpose of this letter is to request your participation in the fourth season of the voluntary pot shrimp logbook program. This program was initiated following the January 24 meeting of the Pot Shrimp Fishery Task Force held in Ketchikan. The task force was created by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2003 to work with the department on development of the pot shrimp fishery and includes elected representatives by port city. The department is working to sustain and develop the Southeast Alaska shrimp fishery. Based on the initial three years of voluntary logbooks, the department believes that this type of information is highly worthwhile, and is in the best long-term interest of the fishery. Although the program is now voluntary, the department is strongly considering making shrimp logbooks mandatory.</p>		
<p>Shrimp logbooks involve reporting quantities of shrimp processed according to a breakdown by size category. Since fish tickets are required for each day of fishing it becomes possible for the department to monitor changes in harvest rates for each size category reported over the course of the fishery. This information is a lot more useful to the department than simply determining overall catch rates (CPUE as pounds per pot per day), of all sizes, based on total poundage and pot lift information from fish tickets. Both types of information are useful, however logbook information by size category provides more timely information on shrimp population responses to harvest. It is crucial to shrimp populations productivity that they are harvested conservatively so that enough egg-bearing shrimp sizes are left unharvested to maintain reproductive potential. In addition logbooks can provide very useful information from districts where very little information is otherwise available.</p>		
<p>In the first year of the logbook program, the 2005-06 season, the department received 508 logbooks from 18 catcher-processors (CPs). In the 2006-07 season 412 logbooks were received from 23 CPs. Last year, in the 2007-08 season 85 logbooks were received from only 3 C-Ps. Since the Japanese boxed, whole-frozen market collapsed in 2007, marketing strategies and shrimp size categories may have changed. However, the department would still like to work with catcher-processors to gather any useful size category information that is available. The department can then evaluate the utility of this information for management. Continued evaluation in the coming season may determine whether mandatory logbooks should be implemented after further discussions with the Pot Shrimp Task Force either by the department's Emergency Order authority or through the Alaska Board of Fisheries regulatory process.</p>		
<p>The simple steps to participate in this program are as follows:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fill out or provide the Voluntary Pot Shrimp Logbook Registration Form when registering for the fishery. A copy of the form and an example are included with this mailing. Information on this form relates shrimp size category used for your market to how you will record box count categories by size or poundage on daily fish tickets.• Record size breakdowns by box or pounds on daily fish tickets as shown on the examples provided with this mailing.		
<p>If you would like to participate, you can bring this form with you or fill it out when you come to your ADF&G office to register for the fishery. The registration information will be used to convert the fish ticket data into numbers of spot shrimp in various size classes in the department's database. Using the fish ticket as the logbook avoids the need for an extra logbook form. Remember that the entire harvest by species must always be reported in pounds on each ticket since the logbook information is handled separately from fish ticket information by the department.</p>		
<p>Thanks for your consideration, Bill Davidson, Regional Management Coordinator, Commercial Fisheries, Region I</p>		
<p>Enclosures: Voluntary Pot Shrimp Logbook Registration form and sample, fish ticket examples (2)</p>		

Appendix D.—Sample ADF&G Voluntary Pot Shrimp Logbook Registration Form (Completed).

Example

Voluntary Shrimp Logbook Registration Form

Year	2008				
Season	08-09				
Species	965				
Vessel Name & ADFG No.	FV Boat 12345				
CFEC Permit Number	P91A 00000Z				
Permit Holder's Name	Name				
Permit Holder's phone no.	586-0000				
Number of Pots	140				
Pot Size (large or small)	small				
Mesh Size	1.25 inch				
Target Specific Size Range (e.g. medium)	XL + VA				
		Size Information per 1 kg. Box			
		Grams		Number	
Whole or Tails	Category	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Whole	SS	70		14	
	S	50	70	15	19
	XL	40	50	20	24
	L	35	40	25	30
	M	25	35	31	40
Tails/Head	115				
	16-20				
	21-30				
	31-40				

Appendix E.-Sample ADF&G Shrimp Ticket filled out with Boxes.

Example with boxes

PLACE WRAPAROUND COVER UNDER GOLDENROD COPY
 WHITE - PURCHASER YELLOW - FISH & GAME PINK - SELLER GOLDENROD - PURCHASER

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
 SHRIMP TICKET

PURCHASER

Vessel Name Dog Gone It
 Fishery _____
 Name John Doe
 Permit Number PA1A 00000Z

ADF&G NO. 12345
 Date Fishing Began (Gear in water) 10/2/06

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 Number of pot lifts 140

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
S05
 Port of Landing or off-shore operations type Ket
 Type of Gear used _____

Proc. Code F0006 10/4/06 ← Date Landed
 Company Dog Gone Sflds 2 ← Days Fished (Gear in Water)

PARTIAL DELIVERY
 Ticket No. _____
 Processor _____

SPECIES	CODE	STAT AREA	EFFORT	POUNDS	DELIV CODE	PRICE	AMOUNT	SPECIES	CODE	STAT AREA	EFFORT	POUNDS	DELIV CODE	PRICE	AMOUNT
Northern (Pink) Shrimp	961							Spot Shrimp	965	101-44		222.2	01		
											Boxes				
											SJ	27	01		
											J	23			
											XL	16			
											L	18			
											M	7			
(deadloss)	961				79			(deadloss)	965				78		
Sidestriped Shrimp	962							Humpty-Shrimp	963	415		20	78		
											16-20	3			
											21-30	12			
											31-40	5			
												40			
								(deadloss)	963				79		
								Octopus	870						
(deadloss)	961				79										
Coonstriped Shrimp	964														
Discards/Personal Use/Not Sold Species Disposition and Pounds															
(deadloss)	961				79										

DELIVERY CODES	
Whole Animal - 01	Deadloss - 79
Tails - 78	Discard at Sea - 98
Personal Use - 95	Discard on Shore - 99

UNITS OF EFFORT	
Drag/Dredge	- No. lows
Pot	- No. pot lifts

ADF&G USE
Interview
Observer
Logbook

Appendix F.—Sample ADF&G Shrimp Ticket filled out with Pounds.

Example with Pounds

PLACE WRAPAROUND COVER UNDER GOLDENROD COPY
WHITE - PURCHASER YELLOW - FISH & GAME PINK - SELLER GOLDENROD - PURCHASER

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
SHRIMP TICKET**

PURCHASER

Vessel Name Dog Gone It

Fishery _____

Name John Doe

Permit Number PA1A00000Z

ADF&G NO. 12345

Date Fishing Began (Gear in water) 10/2/06

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

805

Number of pot lifts 140

Part of Landing or off-shore operations type Ket

Type of Gear used _____

Proc. Code F0000 10/5/06 ← Date Landed

Company Dog Gone Sflds. 2 ← Days Fished (Gear in Water)

PARTIAL DELIVERY

Ticket No. _____

Processor _____

SPECIES	CODE	STAT AREA	EFFORT	POUNDS	DELIV CODE	PRICE	AMOUNT	SPECIES	CODE	STAT AREA	EFFORT	POUNDS	DELIV CODE	PRICE	AMOUNT
Northern (Pink) Shrimp	961							Spot Shrimp	965	101-44		222.3	01		
										SJ		81.4	01		
										J		50.6			
										XL		35.2			
										L		39.6			
										M		15.4			
(deadloss)	961				79			(deadloss)	965	U15		20	78		
Sidestriped Shrimp	962							Plumpy Shrimp	963	16-20		3			
										21-30		12			
										31-40		5			
												40	78		
								(deadloss)	963					79	
								Octopus	870						
(deadloss)	961				79										
Coonstriped Shrimp	964														
Discards/Personal Use/Not Sold/Species/Disposition and Pounds															
(deadloss)	961				79										

DELIVERY CODES

Whole Animal - 01 Deadloss - 79

Tails - 78 Discard at Sea - 98

Personal Use - 95 Discard on Shore - 99

UNITS OF EFFORT

Drag/Dredge - No. tows

Pot - No. pot lifts

ADF&G USE

Interview _____

Observer _____

Logbook _____