
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Sam Rabung, Director



Contact:
Troy Thynes

Phone: (907) 772-3801
Fax: (907) 772-9336

Petersburg Area Office
P.O. Box 667
Petersburg, Alaska
Date: August 16, 2019
Time: 3:30 p.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL POT SHRIMP FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Petersburg . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the 2019/2020 Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery.

2019/2020 Fishing Season and Fishing Periods

All fishing districts and areas will open at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 1, 2019, and will close at 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 28, 2020, unless closed earlier by emergency order [5 AAC 31.110]. Areas will close when guideline harvest levels (GHLs) have been reached or are expected to be reached by the time of the closure. Shrimp fishing districts or areas where the GHLs have not been reached by February 28, 2020, may be reopened on May 15, 2020, for a summer season. The summer pot shrimp fishing season will close by regulation on July 31, 2020.

The department will issue weekly fishery updates, usually on Thursday afternoons, to update fishermen on the progress of the fishery. News releases announcing area closures will be issued separately. Pot shrimp fishermen should be aware that fishing time in certain districts, or areas, may be very limited and may close on short notice, depending on harvest rates and effort levels. Fishermen should also be aware that entire areas with distinct GHLs or portions of those areas may close if the department has specific conservation concerns. If harvest rates are low or sharply declining as the season progresses, areas may be closed before the GHL has been reached in order to prevent excessive harvests.

Closures will be announced through the department's news release system: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>. Fishermen are advised to frequently check for news releases closing shrimp fishing districts or areas. There are some areas that will close on short notice and may first be announced by department personnel from the fishing grounds via VHF. In addition, the department may request the USCG and/or NOAA to announce closures over their marine information broadcast. However, this will not be the case for all shrimp fishing areas and the department cannot guarantee that the closure will be announced via the USCG and NOAA marine information broadcasts.

Operation of shrimp fishing gear may only occur during daily fishing periods from 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. [5 AAC 31.124.(e)(5)]. This means that pots may only be hauled or deployed during this eight-hour period each day.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted new shrimp management areas into regulation at the January 2018 meeting. New areas are Sections 6-B/C/D, Sections 8-A/10-C, Sections 8-B/6-A and

Sections 10-A/B. Descriptions of these areas can be found in 5 AAC 31.105. New regulations can be found online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial> (see link to Folio database at bottom of webpage, Chapter 31 for descriptions of new District 10 sections).

The following provides an overview of regulations and general information affecting the management of the 2019/2020 commercial pot shrimp fishery.

Vessel Registration, Shrimp Pot Identification Tags, and Catcher-Processor Logbook Program

All vessels pot shrimp fishing must be registered with the department prior to fishing. Registration is available at any of the Southeast Alaska area offices Monday through Friday during normal working hours. During the 2019/2020 season, pot tags will not be required. **Regulations (5 AAC 31.141) were adopted at the 2015 BOF meeting that require all catcher-processor vessels participating in the Southeast Alaska pot shrimp fishery to complete a daily logbook.** Logbooks will be available at Southeast Alaska area offices. Details of the logbook program are described later in this news release.

Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) for the 2019/2020 season in pounds of whole shrimp.

District/Area	2018/2019 Closure Date	Days Open in 2018/2019	10-year Average Harvest	2018/2019 Harvest	2019/2020 GHL
District 1	Oct. 15	15	59,518	57,932	50,000
District 2	Oct. 11	11	52,565	31,295	30,000
Section 3-A	Oct. 10	10	114,934	105,958	114,000
Sections 3-B/C	Oct. 19	19	33,919	21,733	30,000
District 4	July 31	228	17,920	13,375	20,000
District 5	July 31	228	6,259	1,713	12,000
Sections 6-B/C/D	Oct. 19	19	35,993	38,181	42,900 ^a
District 7	Oct. 12	13	77,216	77,482	74,300 ^a
Sections 8-B/6-A	Oct. 18	18	10,491	16,434	15,000
Sections 8-A/10-C	Oct. 26	26	9,881	10,780	12,000
District 9	Oct. 10	10	14,237	5,441	6,500
Sections 10-A/B	Oct. 8	8	38,717	39,973	35,000
District 11-Seymour	Oct. 8	8	16,248	11,456	10,000
District 11-Remainder	Oct. 30	30	4,919	Confidential	Closed
District 12-Tenakee	Oct. 2	2	9,205	Confidential	7,500
District 12-Remainder	n/a	n/a	7,575	Closed	7,500
Sections 13-A/B	Oct. 13	13	15,075	12,695	15,000
Section 13-C	Oct. 6	6	25,065	14,182	16,000
District 14	Feb. 28	151	7,040	5,541	Closed
District 15	July 31	228	10,361	Confidential	11,000
District 16	Feb. 28	151	11,748	Confidential	Closed

Notes on Table: Bold type indicates GHL has changed from the previous season.

^a The GHLs for Districts 6 and 7 may be adjusted inseason. Adjustments to GHLs will be announced in weekly fishery updates.

The department has recently completed an annual review of available shrimp stock status information for each area with a distinct GHL and will manage the 2019/2020 season for GHLs identified in the table

above. The combined regional GHL for the 2019/2020 season is **in the range of 461,800–555,600 pounds** of whole shrimp.

Basis of Pot Shrimp GHLs, expected season lengths, and Management Approach for 2019/2020 Season

District 1: The GHL will decrease to **50,000 pounds** of spot shrimp. For the 2006/07 season the GHL was reduced from 164,000 to 98,400 pounds due to declining harvest rates and increasing season length observed during the previous five seasons. The GHL was reduced for the 2008/09 season to 78,700 pounds and again in 2009/10 to 50,000 pounds with a preset closure. Due to improving stock health, the GHL was increased to 64,000 pounds in 2015/16. The overall District 1 catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) remained above baseline during the 2018/19 season. However, the preseason survey and commercial harvest information continued to show sharp declines in the Back Behm Canal area. This was the eighth year of a preseason survey in District 1 and harvest rates of all size classes of shrimp have been declining since 2012. There was also a sharp decline during the 2018/19 season in commercial CPUE in the Back Behm Canal area. The continued steady decline in the preseason survey harvest rate of all size classes of shrimp with no positive indicators and the sudden sharp drop in the commercial CPUE warrant a predetermined closure date in the Back Behm Canal area. In the last ten years, the Back Behm Canal area has accounted for 30% of the total harvest in District 1, so an overall reduction in the districtwide GHL is needed to alleviate some of the harvest pressure in the remainder of the district. **The waters of Behm Canal north of a line from Nose Point at 55°48.32' N. lat., 131°42.53' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Snail Point at 55°49.47' N. lat., 131°46.25' W. long. and west of the longitude of Point Whaley at 131°15.84' W. long. will close at 4:00 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2019.** The recent 10-year average harvest is 60,000 pounds. The 2018/19 harvest was 57,900 pounds and the season closed October 15, 2018. **The remainder of District 1 is expected to close on or before October 20, 2019.**

District 2: The GHL will remain at **30,000 pounds** of spot shrimp. The GHL in District 2 was reduced in the 2009/10 season from 86,000 pounds to 65,000 pounds due to excessive exploitation rates, declining CPUE, and a decrease in mean carapace length (CL). For the 2014/15 season, negative survey indicators prompted a reduction in GHL to 52,000 pounds. Based on extremely poor preseason survey results, Kasaan Bay was closed prior to the 2015/16 season and the GHL was reduced to 42,000 pounds. In the 2016/17 season, the continued stock decline in Kasaan Bay and Cholmondeley Sound prompted a further reduction in GHL to 29,400 pounds. District 2 fisheries seem to have responded positively to recent management actions. Districtwide CPUE increased slightly and then remained stable through the 2018/19 season from the historical low in the 2015/16 season. Harvest rates and CLs in Kasaan Bay show slight declines in the preseason survey. Kasaan Bay reopened for the 2018/19 season with limited effort and a preset closure on October 7. Portions of Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm will open for the 2019/20 season with no preset closure date. **The waters of Twelve-Mile Arm will remain closed south of the latitude of Outer Point at 55°31.24' N. lat.** The recent 10-year average harvest is 52,600 pounds. The 2018/19 harvest was 31,300 pounds and the season closed October 11, 2018. **District 2 is expected to close on or before October 20, 2019.**

Section 3-A: The GHL will remain at **114,000 pounds** of spot shrimp. For the 2000/01 season, the Section 3-A GHL was increased from 200,000 to 264,000 pounds. The GHL was reduced to 198,000 pounds in the 2004/05 season due to a consistent decline in average shrimp size and fishery harvest rates. From 2004/05 through the 2007/08 seasons, the shrimp population was stable with an average harvest of 198,000 pounds. However, in an effort to increase the health and productivity of the Section 3-A shrimp stock, the GHL was reduced to 158,400 pounds in 2008/09. After two years at this GHL, there were no signs of improvement from the fishery or the department survey and the average harvest for these two years was 128,000 pounds. The lack of positive indicators in either the biological samples or the commercial fishery led to a GHL reduction to 95,000 pounds for the 2010/11 season and was increased to the current GHL of 114,000 pounds beginning in the 2015/16 season. The 2018/19 season section wide commercial CPUE remained similar to the previous season. Although there was a large drop in Hetta Inlet CPUE, it was offset with a large increase in mid-Cordova Bay CPUE. The preseason survey has shown associated declines in harvest rate and CL in Hetta Inlet, which may lead to a localized closure at the head

of the inlet in the future. Overall the fishery appears to be stable or increasing in most analysis areas with the exception of Hetta Inlet. The recent 10-year average harvest is 116,200 pounds. The 2018/19 harvest was 106,000 pounds and the season closed October 10, 2018. **Section 3-A is expected to close on or before October 11, 2019.**

Sections 3-B/C: The GHL will remain at 30,000 pounds of spot shrimp. For the 2007/08 season, the GHL was reduced from 50,000 to 40,000 pounds due to a decline in mean CL and CPUE. For the 2010/11 season, the GHL was reduced to 30,000 pounds based on decreasing CPUE. In Sections 3-B/C, there is no survey and limited biological sampling. The areawide CPUE showed a decrease in commercial CPUE for the third year in a row and is now at its lowest level since standardization was possible and significantly below average. Given the nature of how effort and harvest can spike dramatically in Sections 3-B/C immediately after Section 3-A closes, there may be an announced closure inseason shortly after the closure of Section 3-A to stay within the GHL. The recent 10-year average harvest is 34,800 pounds. The 2018/19 season harvest was 21,700 pounds and the season closed October 19, 2018. **Section 3-B/C is expected to close on or before October 18, 2019.**

District 4: The GHL will remain at 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Data is very limited in District 4. No survey is conducted, and the fishery has not been sampled. Effort and harvest have been sporadic throughout the history of the fishery. Fishery performance and logbooks are the only data from District 4 that can be used as an indicator of stock health. Commercial CPUE remains stable and commercial logbook data show a high harvest rate of large class shrimp. The recent 10-year average harvest is approximately 18,400 pounds. The district closed February 28, 2019 and reopened for the spring/summer season. The 2018/19 season harvest was 14,000 pounds. **District 4 is expected to close on February 28, 2020 and may reopen for the summer season.**

District 5: The GHL will remain at 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp. The GHL for District 5 was 20,000 pounds from the 1995/96 season until the 2015/16 season, when it was reduced to 12,000 pounds. The recent 10-year average harvest is 7,000 pounds with a range of 17,000 pounds in the 2009/10 season to a low of 1,700 pounds reported for the 2018/19 season. No biological data is available for this area and a survey is not conducted. District 5 closed by regulation on July 31, 2019 with a total of 1,700 pounds of spot shrimp harvested. **District 5 is expected to close on or before February 28, 2020 and may reopen for the summer season.**

Sections 6-B/C/D: The GHL will be adjusted inseason with an initial base GHL of 42,900 pounds of spot shrimp. This inseason adjustment will not exceed 40% of the base GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the GHL is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below historical levels for a healthy stock. Sections 6-B/C/D is a new management area adopted by the BOF in 2018 with a GHR of 0 - 60,000 pounds. The 2019/20 season will be the second season this has been a distinct area. This area has historically been the core fishing area of District 6. The GHL for District 6 has ranged from 82,000 pounds in the 2005/06 season to 24,000 pounds in 2011/12 season. Following meetings with industry in 2012, the department devised an experimental management plan to use inseason fishery data to adjust the GHLs in Districts 6 and 7. The adjustment in District 6 is based on catcher-processor CPUE and logbook data and CL data obtained from on-the-grounds sampling. These inseason management criteria have been used for the past seven seasons. Since the start of inseason management, most years have experienced an increase in GHL. The 2016/17 season had the highest increase of 40% to 44,800 pounds with the final harvest of 41,000 pounds. The lowest adjustment occurred in the 2014/15 season when the GHL was decreased by 35% to 20,800 pounds. More recently, the 2017/18 season GHL was increased by 20% to 51,480 pounds with a final harvest of 56,000 pounds. The 2018/19 season GHL was decreased by 20% to 34,300 pounds and the final harvest was 38,200 pounds after closing October 19, 2018. The recent 10-year average harvest is 36,000 pounds. **Sections 6-B/C/D are expected to close on or before October 20, 2019.**

District 7: The GHL will be adjusted inseason with an initial base GHL of 74,300 pounds of spot shrimp. This inseason adjustment will not exceed 40% of the base GHL. Additionally, the department

may close the fishery before the GHL is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below historical levels for healthy stocks. The GHL for District 7 has ranged from 104,000 pounds in the 2000/01 season to 54,600 pounds in 2010/11. Following meetings with industry in 2012, the department devised an experimental management plan to use inseason fishery data to adjust the GHLs in Districts 6 and 7. The adjustment in District 7 is based on catcher-processor CPUE and logbook data, CL data obtained from on-the-grounds sampling, and initial preseason survey results. These inseason management criteria have been used for the past seven seasons. The base GHL was 63,700 pounds for the 2012/13, 2013/14, and 2014/15 seasons. The initial GHL for the 2015/16 season was increased to 74,300 pounds to allow the upper end of the GHR to be reached with inseason adjustments. The 2017/18 season experienced a 30% increase to 100,000 pounds, which resulted in the highest harvest in the past 14 years. However, there were no adjustments made the following season in 2018/19. The 10-year average harvest is 74,900 pounds. The 2018/19 season harvest was 77,500 pounds and the district closed October 12, 2018. **District 7 is expected to close on or before October 15, 2019.**

Sections 8-A/10-C: The GHL will remain at 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Sections 8-A and 10-C were combined into a new management area adopted by the BOF in 2018 with a GHR of 0 - 20,000 pounds. The 2019/20 season will be the second season this has been a distinct area. Commercial catch data is difficult to interpret as effort in this area can vary considerably from year to year. Most of the effort occurs after other areas close for the season. Additionally, effort in Section 10-C has been small and sporadic in recent years. Standardized commercial CPUE decreased to below baseline in 2018/19, but confidence in the data was low due to inconsistent effort. The recent 10-year average harvest is 9,900 pounds. This area closed October 26, 2018 with a harvest of 10,800 pounds. **Sections 8-A/10-C are expected to close on or before October 18, 2019.**

Sections 8-B/6-A: The GHL will remain at 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Sections 6-A and 8-B were combined into a new management area adopted by the BOF in 2018 with a GHR of 0 - 25,000 pounds. The 2019/20 season will be the second season this has been a distinct area. CPUE has been generally increasing for the past four seasons. The recent 10-year average harvest is 10,500 pounds. The average harvest for the past three seasons is 13,652 pounds. In 2018, the area closed October 18, 2018 with a harvest of 16,400 pounds. **Sections 8-B/6-A are expected to close on or before October 20, 2019.**

District 9: The GHL will remain at 6,500 pounds of spot shrimp. This will be the second year a 40% reduction in GHL has been in place, therefore the GHL is not up for review until next season. If inseason catch rates indicate continued declines in the shrimp population, an area closure in Eliza Harbor may be necessary. The GHL in District 9 has changed four times since the 1998/99 season. It was increased 20% from 15,000 to 18,000 pounds in the 2000/01 season, where it remained until the 2011/12 season when it was reduced to 14,000 pounds. In response to continued declining CPUE, the GHL was reduced by 20% to 11,000 pounds prior to the 2015/16 season and further reduced by 40% to 6,500 pounds prior to the 2018/19 season. Over the last ten years, harvest has averaged 14,300 pounds. Most harvest has come from the Eliza Harbor and Southeast Baranof Island areas. There were no landings from Keku Strait or Western Kuiu Island during the 2011/12 to 2018/19 seasons. The only data currently available for this district are standardized commercial CPUE. Overall, the districtwide CPUE declined again in the 2018/19 season. Districtwide CPUE has been below baseline for twelve consecutive seasons. This strong decline was driven by a decline in the Eliza Harbor area where standardized CPUE was the lowest since standardization was possible and was currently 36% of the baseline with a significant four-year declining trend. The 2018/19 season harvest was 5,400 pounds and the season closed October 10, 2018. **District 9 is expected to close by October 10, 2019.**

Sections 10-A/B: The GHL will be remain at 35,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Sections 10-A and 10-B were adopted by BOF in 2018 with a combined GHR of 0 - 50,000 pounds. The 2019/20 season will be the second season this has been a distinct area. This area has historically been the core fishing area of District 10. The GHL in District 10 increased from 30,000 to 35,000 pounds for the 2000/01 season and to 48,000 pounds in the 2004/05 season. The GHL was reduced to 36,000 pounds for the 2013/14 season and to 29,000 pounds for the 2016/17 season. Commercial harvest information indicated shrimp

populations declined sharply during the 2011/12 and 2012/13 seasons and again during the 2014/15 season. CPUE improved to above baseline in the 2017/18 season, but then decreased slightly to just below baseline in 2018/19 season. The recent 10-year average harvest is 38,700 pounds. The 2018 harvest was 40,000 pounds and the area closed October 8, 2018. **Sections 10-A/B are expected to close on or before October 10, 2019.**

District 11-Seymour Canal (11-S): The GHL will decrease to 10,000 pounds of spot shrimp. In 2012, the BOF adopted separate GHRs of 0-30,000 pounds of spot shrimp for Seymour Canal (11-S) and 0-15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp for the remainder of the District (11-R). In the 2011/12 and 2012/13 seasons, an experimental inseason management approach modeled on the spawner index (SI) method utilized in British Columbia, Canada was investigated in 11-S, but managers felt that with the small extent of the fishing area and rapid pace of the fishery, the SI approach was not suitable and reverted to the preseason GHL approach for the 2013/14 season. Based on declines in CPUE and the observed contraction of the area fished while investigating the SI approach, the GHL for 11-S was 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp for the 2013/14 season and was further reduced to 12,000 pounds for the 2014/15 season. CPUE in the 2018/19 season decreased from the previous season and was below the recent six-year average. The 2018/19 season harvest was 11,500 pounds and the area closed October 8, 2018. **The 2019/2020 season is likely to be of short duration.**

District 11-Remainder (11-R): The remainder of District 11 will be closed to rebuild stocks. A GHL of 7,500 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp was established for 11-R for the 2012/13 season. Due to the observed decreases in commercial CPUE in Section 11-A combined with an analysis of Division of Sport Fish creel data indicating the sport and personal use harvest was at least equal to the commercial harvests, Section 11-A was closed to all shrimping to rebuild stock health in 2013 and has remained closed. A department survey of the area was conducted in March 2018 and again in 2019, with the results strongly suggesting there is not a commercially viable spot or coonstripe shrimp populations in the area which is adjacent to the community of Juneau. The 7,500-pound GHL was in place through the 2016/17 season with nearly all the harvest coming from Endicott Arm in Section 11-C. Declining CPUE and concerns of serial depletion led to the closure of Endicott Arm and a reduction in the GHL to 4,000 pounds for the remainder of 11-R. The 2018/19 season's CPUE decreased from the previous season, with the harvest coming from the same limited area. Harvest has averaged 6,600 pounds since the 2012/13 season, with the majority coming from Endicott Arm. The 2018/19 season harvest is confidential and the area closed October 30, 2018.

District 12 – Tenakee Inlet (12-T): The GHL will remain at 7,500 pounds of spot shrimp. A GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp was established for all of District 12 in 1995. In the 2000/01 season, the entire 20,000-pound GHL for the district was taken from Tenakee Inlet and for the 2001/02 season, Tenakee Inlet was separated out and given its own GHL of 20,000 pounds. The remainder of the district (12-R) was given a 15,000-pound GHL. The Tenakee Inlet GHL was increased to 28,000 pounds for the 2005/06 season. With declining CPUE in department preseason surveys, the GHL for Tenakee was reduced to 17,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season and was further reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2010/11 season. Following the 2011 preseason survey, a stock collapse was evident, and Tenakee Inlet was closed to commercial harvest. With continuing declines in the preseason survey performance, Tenakee Inlet was closed to sport and personal use shrimping in 2012. Survey data has shown some stock recovery over the past six years and catch rates of large shrimp have been at baseline levels for the past three years. Additionally, the size structure of the stock shows a robust distribution. With survey results returning to near baseline levels, personal use and sport shrimping was reopened in Tenakee Inlet in December 2017 and a commercial fishery was reopened in 2018 for a preset two days with an area closure west of Long Bay to provide some refugia. The 2018/19 season commercial CPUE was above the 2001-2010 average and the harvest is confidential. The preseason survey will continue to monitor the health of the shrimp population and inform commercial fishery opportunities. For the 2019/20 season, Tenakee Inlet will again open for an initial two days and will be managed on the grounds. **The 2019/2020 season is likely to be of short duration.**

District 12 – Remainder (12-R): The remainder of District 12 will **reopen with a GHL of 7,500 pounds** of spot shrimp. The 15,000-pound GHL of spot shrimp for 12-R was reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season. Due to declining fishery performance and concerns from fishermen, the area was closed to rebuild the stock from the 2012/13 season through the 2014/15 season. 12-R was reopened for the 2015/16 season with a reduced GHL of 7,500 pounds. Catch rates in Kelp Bay, the primary driver of this GHL area, remained unchanged and another three-year closure was instated to continue to rebuild stocks. Portions or all of 12-R may be closed before the GHL is reached if fishery performance warrants. **12-R is expected to close on or before October 20, 2019.**

Sections 13-A/B: The GHL **will remain at 15,000 pounds** of spot shrimp. Sections 13-A/B were divided from Section 13-C with a GHL of 15,000 pounds beginning with the 2000/01 season. The GHL has not been modified since its inception. Fishery performance is the only information that is used as an indicator of stock health. Sectionwide standardized CPUE decreased from last season and is now at baseline. The recent 10-year average harvest is 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp. The 2018/19 harvest was 12,700 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed October 13, 2018. **Sections 13 A/B are expected to close on or before October 15, 2019.**

Section 13-C: The GHL **will remain at 16,000 pounds** of spot shrimp. In Section 13-C, effort has varied but season length has been relatively stable. The GHL was reduced from 42,000 pounds to 34,000 pounds for the 2007/08 season, to 30,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season, to 26,000 pounds for the 2012/13 season, and to 16,000 pounds for the 2017/18 season. This will be the third season since the GHL was last reduced. In the more productive Hoonah Sound portion, annual surveys were conducted from 1998 through 2014 and 2017 through 2018. The sectionwide standardized commercial CPUE increased for the second consecutive season from the historic low observed in the 2016/17 season. The recent 10-year average harvest is 25,000 pounds of spot shrimp. The 2018/19 harvest was 14,200 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed October 6, 2018. **Section 13-C is expected to close on or before October 6, 2019.**

District 14: District 14 **will be closed** for the 2019/20 season continuing the alternate-year rotational harvest strategy for this district. A GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp was established for District 14 in 1995. With declining fishery performance, the GHL was reduced to 15,000 pounds for the 2006/07 season and further reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season. The fishery was closed for three seasons to rebuild the stock and was reopened for the 2012/13 season with a GHL of 10,000 pounds. With fishery performance unchanged, District 14 was again closed for three seasons. The district reopened for the 2016/17 season with a reduced GHL of 7,500 pounds and an alternate-year rotational harvest strategy. The 2018/19 season CPUE increased slightly from the 2016/17 season when last fished and total harvest declined by 16%. For the 2018/19 season, the spot shrimp harvest was 5,500 pounds and the fishery was open for 151 days.

District 15: The districtwide GHL **will remain at 11,000 pounds** of coonstripe shrimp which will again be split between the East side and the remainder of District 15. **District 15 East will have a GHL of 3,500 pounds and the remainder will have a GHL of 7,500 pounds.** The District 15 East areas encompass Lutak, Chilkoot, and Taiya inlets. The remainder of District 15 includes Chilkat Inlet. This strategy has been in place for the last ten seasons following a three-year closure from the 2006/07 through the 2008/09 seasons. When District 15 was reopened for the 2009/10 season, the 15,000-pound GHL was split equally between the East side and remainder. The total District 15 harvest has averaged 10,400 pounds since the split. The East side was managed for a 7,500-pound GHL until the 2018/19 season when the GHL was reduced to 3,500 pounds, and all areas but Taiya Inlet were closed due to stock health concerns. CPUE in Taiya Inlet increased in the 2018/2019 season but remained at baseline levels. District 15 East closed February 28, 2019, with a harvest of 3,882 pounds. With limited fishing area and increased fishing effort, a cautious management approach is necessary. The remainder of the district was managed for a GHL of 7,500 pounds for the 2018/2019 season. The fishery standardized CPUE in this area dropped precipitously in the 2015/16 season to the lowest on record. The 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons have shown standardized CPUE at baseline levels, but with decreases in mean CL. Harvest has averaged only 22% of the GHL for the past five years. The remainder of the district opened for the 2018/19

summer season and closed July 31, 2019. Harvest information is confidential. The 2019/2020 season is anticipated to have a similar duration.

District 16: District 16 **will be closed**. A GHL of 20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp was established for District 16 in 1995. With declining fishery performance, the GHL was reduced to 15,000 pounds for the 2004/05 season and with continued declines was closed for three seasons to rebuild stocks. The fishery was reopened in 2008/09 with a 15,000-pound GHL of spot and coonstripe shrimp and an alternate-year rotational harvest strategy was established. The spot shrimp contribution has historically made up a significant proportion of the harvest, and in recent seasons has been as high as 70% of the harvest. The GHL has been considered in total pounds of shrimp, combining coonstripe and spot shrimp, since the alternate-year rotational harvest strategy has been in place. The fishery was opened for the sixth time in its biennial schedule in 2018/19 and CPUE of all shrimp decreased to levels that prompted the initial three-year closure in 2005/06. The 2018/19 harvest is confidential and the area closed February 28, 2019.

Reporting Requirements

All commercial shrimp fishermen are required to notify the department within two days of deploying gear and within two business days after ceasing fishing in a district, or portion of a district with a distinct GHL.

All shrimp catcher-processors (including direct-marketers) and shrimp catcher-sellers, but not shrimp fishermen who make deliveries to shorebased or floating processors, are required to report to the department specified information by noon on Wednesday of each week. Fishermen are advised that it would be most efficient to contact the office responsible for each area: Districts 1–4: Ketchikan; Districts 5–8 and 10: Petersburg or Wrangell; Districts 11-S, 12-R, and 12-T: Juneau; Districts 9 and 13: Sitka; and District 15: Haines.

All shrimp catcher-processors are required to complete a separate fish ticket for each day fished for each district or portion of a district with a distinct GHL. Fish tickets must be submitted to the department within 7 days of the closure of a district or portion of a district with a distinct GHL. Shrimp catcher-processors must contact the department before fishing in a new district/area with a distinct GHL.

The department relies on detailed information provided by fish tickets and fisherman contacts in order to effectively track effort and harvest in the fishery. The department will need this information in order to make timely decisions each week regarding the status of the fishery. **Catcher-sellers will be required to report catches weekly in District 1, District 2, Section 3-A, Sections 3-B/C, District 4, District 9, District 11-Seymour, District 12-Remainder, Sections 13-A/B, and District 15.** The department is excluding from weekly reporting **catcher-sellers** fishing in Districts 5, 7, 12-T, and Sections 6-B/C/D, 8-B/6-A and 8-A/10-C from this requirement.

Sections 13-C and 10-A/B, and District 12-T are excluded from this requirement for catcher-sellers due to the expected short duration of the seasons and on-the-grounds management in these areas. Districts 5 and 7, and Sections 6-B/C/D, 8-B/6-A, and 8-A/10-C are excluded from this requirement for catcher-sellers due to the relatively fewer numbers of catcher-sellers generally fishing in these districts and there is sufficient time to accurately manage for GHLS set for these areas.

Weekly reporting requirements for all catcher-processors and catcher-sellers in those areas listed above will begin 8:00 a.m., Monday, October 7, 2019. To facilitate reporting requirements, the department will provide reporting forms at ADF&G area offices.

General Fish Ticket Reporting Requirements

Fishermen, catcher-processors, and catcher-sellers selling to a processor must furnish factual information for the completion of fish tickets at the time of landing. It is important to include the statistical subdistrict

information (example: 107-10, lower Ernest Sound) to identify where the harvest occurred. Multiple statistical sub-districts can be entered on a single fish ticket and fishermen should account for the harvest from each sub-district. A separate fish ticket is required for each district or area that has a GHL [5 AAC 31.143 (c)].

The shrimp fish ticket has a box in the heading to record the number of pot lifts specific to that ticket. In order to obtain accurate CPUE information, the department is requiring that information concerning the number of pot lifts is recorded on each fish ticket. The daily number of pots lifted should be written on the top of the fish ticket in the effort box on these new tickets. The effort column in the body of the ticket should be left blank. For example, if 100 pots are fished twice a day, the number of pot lifts should read 200 for that day. All fish tickets must be imprinted with a valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) card and completed at the time of delivery. The department also requests that fishermen fill in the number of days actually fished (days gear was in the water) each time they pick their gear.

Catcher-Processor Logbook Program

Regulations (5 AAC 31.141 and 5 AAC 31.143(b)(1)(E)), adopted at the 2015 BOF meeting in Wrangell, require all vessels participating in the Southeast Alaska pot shrimp fishery to complete a daily logbook if they process their catch onboard the vessel (catcher-processor vessels). All catcher-processor vessels will be required to keep logbooks regardless of the product type (whole or tails) they process. Logbooks and instructions will be available at all area offices. Catcher-processors will be required to complete a logbook registration form when registering for the fishery which will include gear information and the size category breakdown used onboard. Daily logbooks will include pounds caught by size category, species, product type, location, date, and corresponding ticket number. Logbooks will be required to be turned in with the corresponding fish tickets when switching between districts or portions of a district with a distinct GHL, no later than seven days after a closure.

Daily logbook information will not be required to be reported during weekly call-in periods except in District 7 and Sections 6-B/C/D. In these areas, catcher-processors will be required to report their daily harvest in pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot prawns.

Inseason Management Plan

Sections 6-B/C/D and District 7 were chosen for inseason management due to the amount of detailed historical harvest information available. A large portion of the harvest in both districts is from catcher-processors and the department has a consistent time series of daily harvest information from these areas. In addition, the highest participation of the earlier voluntary logbook program came from participants fishing in District 7 and to a lesser extent in Sections 6-B/C/D. The department reviewed this information and developed a plan to adjust the GHL inseason based on the current year's harvest information compared to prior years. The same inseason management approach used in Sections 6-B/C/D and District 7 will be used for the eighth season in 2019.

Closed Waters

Fishermen should note that some waters of Southeast Alaska are closed to commercial harvest of shrimp. Those areas are described in 5 AAC 31.136. CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION AREA A in the 2019–2021 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations. In addition, the waters of Tenakee Inlet west of 135°34.5' W. long., are closed by Emergency Order.

Octopus Bycatch

A management plan has been adopted [5 AAC 38.150] and a commissioner's permit is not required to retain and sell octopus bycatch. The regulation allows for retention of octopus up to 35% of the whole

weight of spot shrimp harvested and provides for a maximum harvest level of 35,000 pounds of octopus for Area A. The department will close the fishery to further retention of octopus by emergency order if the maximum level is reached. All octopus sold or retained for personal use must be recorded on a fish ticket.

Pot Shrimp Fishing Offshore

Offshore waters are included in Districts 4 and 13; 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). Fishermen who wish to fish in offshore waters may do so only if those districts are open. Shrimp harvested in these areas will be part of existing GHs for those districts. Fishermen who wish to fish in these areas must have a Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery CFEC permit card.

General Information

The information contained in this news release is intended as a summary of important regulations. Participants in the Southeast Alaska shrimp pot fishery are reminded to obtain and review a copy of the 2019–2021 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations booklet to make sure that they are familiar with and understand all pertinent regulations.

Fishery Management Contacts

For information on the commercial pot shrimp fishery, contact the Area Management Biologists:

Ketchikan

Fishing Areas: Districts 1, 2, and 4; Section 3-A and Sections 3-B/C

Phone: 225-5195

Contacts: Bo Meredith or Justin Breese

Petersburg

Fishing Areas: Districts 5 and 7; Sections 6-B/C/D, Sections 8-B/6-A, Sections 8-B/10-C, and Sections 10-A/B

Phone: 772-3801 (Petersburg); 874-3822 (Wrangell)

Contacts: Paul Salomone (Petersburg) or Tom Kowalske (Wrangell)

Sitka

Fishing Areas: District 9; Sections 13-A/B and 13-C

Phone: 747-6688

Contacts: Eric Coonradt or Aaron Dupuis

Juneau

Fishing Areas: Districts 11-S, 12-R, and 12-T

Phone: 465-4250

Contacts: Dave Harris or Scott Forbes

Haines

Fishing Area: District 15

Phone: 766-2830

Contacts: Nicole Zeiser or Shane Ransbury

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&G</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220