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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office  
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#### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL POT SHRIMP FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the 2014/2015 Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery:

##### 2014/2015 Fishing Season and Fishing Periods

All fishing districts and areas will open at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 1, 2014, and will close at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, February 28, 2015, 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, 2015, may be reopened on May 15, 2015, for a summer season. The summer pot shrimp fishing season will close by regulation on July 31, 2015.

The department will issue weekly news releases, usually on Thursday afternoons, which will update fishermen on the progress of the fishery.

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 these 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.

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 following provides an overview of regulations and general information affecting the management of the 2014/2015 commercial pot shrimp fishery.

##### Vessel Registration, Pot Shrimp Identification Tags, and Voluntary 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 2014/2015 season, pot tags will not be required. Catcher-processors willing to

participate in the voluntary logbook program should plan to provide the department with their specific shrimp size category information at the time of registration.

#### Guideline Harvest Levels (GHL) for the 2014/2015 Season

The GHLs or preseason target harvest amounts in pounds whole weight for each fishing district or area are as follows:

District	2013/2014 Closure Date	Days Open in 2013/2014	10-year Average Harvest <sup>c</sup>	2013/2014 Harvest	2014/2015 GHL
District 1	Oct. 14	14	86,997	54,033	50,000
District 2	Oct. 19	19	79,689	62,250	<b>52,000</b>
Section 3-A	Oct. 13	13	151,720	123,238	95,000
Sections 3-B/C	Oct. 19	19	40,652	26,714	30,000
District 4	Feb. 28	151	14,521	Confidential	20,000
District 5	July 31	229	10,296	Confidential	20,000
District 6	Oct. 21	21	49,641	35,116	32,000 <sup>a</sup>
District 7	Oct. 17	17	73,035	94,922	63,700 <sup>a</sup>
District 8	Oct. 28	28	15,691	12,228	<b>10,500</b>
District 9	Oct. 11	11	18,208	15,243	14,000
District 10	Oct. 10	10	49,528	35,600	36,000
District 11-Seymour	Oct. 8	8	18,594	13,007	<b>12,000</b>
District 11-Remainder	Oct. 19	19	4,682	8,563	7,500
District 12-Tenakee	n/a	0	20,978	Closed	Closed
District 12-Remainder	n/a	0	12,821	Closed	Closed
Sections 13-A/B	Nov. 25	56	14,033	16,681	15,000
Section 13-C	Oct. 4	4	32,223	23,171	26,000
District 14	n/a	0	13,368	Closed	Closed
District 15	Nov. 8/May 23 <sup>b</sup>	39/160 <sup>b</sup>	10,621	14,630	15,000
District 16	n/a	0	13,324	Closed	<b>15,000</b>

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

<sup>a</sup> The GHLs for Districts 6 and 7 may be adjusted inseason based on the results of the District 7 preseason survey and different trigger points in commercial CPUE. Adjustments to GHLs will be announced in weekly fishery updates.

<sup>b</sup> D-15 East and West sides.

<sup>c</sup> Recent 10-year average includes only seasons when area was open to fishing.

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 2014/2015 season for GHLs identified in the table above. The combined regional GHL for the 2014/2015 season is **in the range of 475,000–552,000 pounds** of whole shrimp.

#### Basis of Pot Shrimp GHLs, expected season lengths, and Management Approach for 2014/2015 Season

**District 1:** The GHL for District 1 **will remain at 50,000 lbs. of spot shrimp** for the 2014/2015 season and there will be no set closures announced.

In the 2006/2007 season the GHL for spot shrimp was reduced by 40% due to declining harvest rates and increasing season length observed during the previous five seasons. The GHL was again reduced in the Shrimp Fishery News Release

2008/2009 season with a third reduction coupled with pre-set closures for the 2009/2010 season. The pre-set closures seem to have been beneficial to the West Behm Canal shrimp population and the overall health to District 1 shrimp stock. The large area with differing habitats, the low numbers of catcher processors, the inconsistent harvest in some areas, and the limited ability for on-grounds sampling has made population changes difficult to assess in the district. CPUE in some portions of District 1 have increased significantly based on the recent 4-year average, including an increase in CPUE in West Behm Canal. There continue to be portions of District 1 that show no increase in CPUE or have inconsistent harvest making assessments difficult. The recent 10-year average harvest is 86,997 pounds of spot shrimp. The GHL for the 2013/14 season was taken in 14 days which was the shortest fishery for District 1 on record. The 2013/2014 harvest was 54,033 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 14, 2013. District 1 is expected to close on or before October 18, 2014.

The department received a legislative increment in funding for shrimp research in the region in 2011 and as a result implemented a preseason pot shrimp survey for District 1. The survey included areas of Back Behm, West Behm, Carroll Inlet, and George Inlet. The department has completed the fourth consecutive preseason survey in District 1 and plans to integrate the results into management decisions by the 2015/16 season.

**District 2:** The GHL for District 2 **will be reduced by 20% to 52,000 lbs of spot shrimp** for the 2014/2015 season. The department plans to monitor portions of the district, specifically, Kasaan Bay, and if commercial catch rates continue to be poor, Kasaan Bay (Subdistrict 102-60) may close before the remainder of the district. The GHL in District 2 was reduced in the 2009/2010 season by 25% from 86,000 to 65,000 pounds. This reduction was due to excessive exploitation rates, declining CPUE, and a decrease in mean carapace length. For the past two seasons there has been a sharp decline in the commercial CPUE in Kasaan Bay. District wide commercial CPUE is down significantly to the second lowest level in the past 14 seasons. Significantly decreasing trends are seen throughout the district which includes a sharp decline in mean CL and commercial CPUE in Cholmondeley Sound, and sharp declines in commercial CPUE in Kasaan Bay and Moira Sound. The L50 scores were significantly below baseline in both Cholmondeley Sound and Kasaan Bay. The recent 10-year average harvest is 79,689 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2013/2014 season was 62,250 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 19, 2013. District 2 is expected to close on or before October 20, 2014.

The department initiated a preseason survey in 2011 in areas of Cholmondeley Sound and Kasaan Bay which will help to monitor shrimp populations. As with District 1, this will be the fourth year of preseason surveys in District 2 and the data obtained will be used for management in the district beginning in the 2015/16 season.

**Section 3-A:** The GHL for Section 3-A **will remain at 95,000 lbs of spot shrimp** for the 2014/2015 season. For the 2000/2001 season, the Section 3-A GHL was increased from the historic 200,000 to 264,000 pounds of spot shrimp. After four years at this harvest rate, for the 2004/2005 season, the GHL was reduced back to 198,000 pounds due to consistent decline in average shrimp size and fishery harvest rates. The GHL was further reduced four years later to 158,400 pounds for the 2008/2009 season and then again reduced to 95,000 pounds in the 2010/2011 season.

From the 2004/2005 season through the 2008/2009 season, the shrimp population appeared to have stabilized with a harvest rate of 198,000 pounds. In an effort to increase the health and productivity of the Section 3-A shrimp stock, the GHL was further reduced by 20% to 158,400 pounds. After two years at this GHL there were no positive indications from the fishery or the department survey. Additionally, the average harvest for these two years was only 125,000 pounds or an additional 20% lower than the set GHL. The lack of positive indicators in either the biological samples or the commercial fishery led to the further reduction, by 40% to 95,000 pounds. Poor weather prevented the department survey for the 2013/2014 season, however the commercial harvest did show improved harvest rates. Commercial harvest and survey information indicates that the Section 3-A stock continues to be below historical averages. The

recent 10-year average harvest is 151,720 pounds of spot shrimp. The 2013/2014 harvest was 123,238 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 13, 2013. Section 3-A is expected to close on or before October 15, 2014.

**Sections 3-B/C:** The GHL for Sections 3-B/C **will remain at 30,000 lbs of spot shrimp** for the 2014/2015 season. In the 2007/2008 season, the GHL for spot shrimp was reduced by 20%, from 50,000 to 40,000 pounds, due to a decline in mean carapace length and CPUE. Last season a further reduction of 25% to 30,000 pounds was instituted primarily based on decreasing CPUE. In Section 3-B/C there is no survey and limited biological sampling. There have been no significant trends in recent fishery harvest information. The 2013/2014 harvest was 26,714 pounds of spot shrimp and the season was closed on October 19, 2013. Section 3-B/C is expected to close on or before October 20, 2014.

**District 4:** The GHL for District 4 **will remain at 20,000 lbs of spot shrimp** for the 2014/2015 season. No survey or sampling data has been collected. Effort and harvest has been sporadic throughout the history of the fishery. Commercial CPUE is above the long-term baseline. Fishery performance is the only data from District 4 that can be used as an indicator of stock health. The 2013/2014 harvest was *confidential*. The District remained open through February 28, 2014 and was not re-opened for the spring/summer season. District 4 is expected to close on February 28, 2015 and may reopen for the summer season.

**District 5:** The GHL for 2014/2015 season **will remain at 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. The GHL of 20,000 pounds has been in place since 1995. District 5 typically receives little effort and has not been closed before February 28 since the 1996/1997 season. The recent 10-year average harvest is 10,296 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2013/2014 season is *confidential*. District 5 is expected to close on February 28, 2015 and may reopen for the summer season.

**District 6:** The GHL for the 2014/2015 season **will be adjusted inseason. The initial GHL will be 32,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Logbooks will be mandatory for catcher-processors.** The logbook procedure and the information recorded will be the same as the voluntary program. The information from the logbooks will be used inseason as one of the components for inseason management and will be used postseason for evaluating the fishery. Those catcher-processors operating in District 6 will need to provide specific shrimp size category information and will need to record catch size distribution data on daily fish tickets as specified in an information packet available at ADF&G area offices. Fishermen will not be required to report their daily size breakdowns during the weekly reporting periods but are requested to report their daily harvest in pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot prawns.

For inseason management, the commercial fishery data will include daily harvest rates from catcher-processors, harvest rates of XL or greater, shrimp from catcher-processor log book data, and carapace length data derived from on the grounds sampling. The department will analyze the harvest information from the first 7 to 10 days of the fishery and compare it to prior seasons. Adjustments to the GHL will be made according to the degree above or below the current year's harvest data compared to past years. Using the inseason management criteria for 2013/2014, the net increase was 15%, increasing the target GHL to 36,800 pounds. Inseason adjustments for the 2014/2015 season will not exceed 40% of the initial GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the inseason revised GHL is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below historical levels for healthy stocks.

The GHL for District 6 was increased to 82,000 pounds in the 2005/2006 season, after remaining at 68,000 pounds for the prior 10 seasons. The GHL was reduced back to 68,000 pounds for the 2008/2009 season and reduced to 24,000 pounds for the 2011/2012 season. The season was closed prior to reaching the GHL from 2007/2008 through 2010/2011 and the average harvest during that time period was 40,200 pounds. In 2012, inseason management was implemented with a starting GHL of 32,000 pounds. The recent 10-year average harvest is 49,641 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2013/2014 season was

35,116 pounds of spot shrimp and closed on October 21, 2013. District 6 is expected to close by October 18, 2014.

**District 7:** The GHL for the 2014/2015 season **will be adjusted inseason. The initial GHL will be 63,700 pounds of spot shrimp. Logbooks will be mandatory for catcher-processors.** The logbook procedure and the information recorded will be the same as the voluntary program. The information from the logbooks will be used inseason as one of the components for inseason management and will be used postseason for evaluating the fishery. Those catcher-processors operating in District 7 will need to provide specific shrimp size category information and will need to record catch size distribution data on daily fish tickets as specified in an information packet available at ADF&G area offices. Fishermen will not be required to report their daily size breakdowns during the weekly reporting periods but are requested to report their daily harvest in pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot prawns.

For inseason management, the department will incorporate the preliminary District 7 preseason survey results in conjunction with commercial fishery data. The commercial fishery data will include daily harvest rates from catcher-processors, harvest rates of XL or greater, shrimp from catcher processor log book data, and carapace length data derived from on the grounds sampling. The department will analyze the harvest information from the first 7 to 10 days of the fishery and compare it to prior seasons. Adjustments to the GHL will be made depending on the degree above or below the current year's harvest data compared to past years. Using the inseason management criteria for 2013/2014, the net increase was 22%, increasing the GHL to 77,500 pounds. Inseason adjustments for the 2014/2015 season will not exceed 40% of the base GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the inseason revised 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 2000/2001 season to 54,600 pounds in 2010/2011. The recent 10-year average harvest is 73,035 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2013/2014 season was 94,922 pounds of spot shrimp and closed on October 17, 2013. The 2014/2015 season is expected to close by October 25, 2014.

**District 8:** The GHL for the 2014/2015 season **will be reduced 30% to 10,500 pounds of spot shrimp.** The GHL in District 8 was 20,000 pounds from 1997/1998 through 2009/2010 seasons; prior to that time a guideline harvest range (GHR) of 75,000–100,000 pounds was in place for Districts 6 and 8 combined. The GHL was reduced to 15,000 pounds beginning with the 2010/2011 season. During the past three seasons the district was closed before the reduced GHL was achieved. Commercial catch rates and biological parameters have been below average and have shown continued decreasing trends in the traditional areas despite the reduction in GHL and closing the district before the GHL was achieved. The recent 10-year average harvest is 15,691 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2013/2014 season was 12,228 pounds of spot shrimp and closed on October 28, 2013. The 2014/2015 season is expected to close by October 31, 2014.

**District 9:** The GHL for the 2014/2015 season **will remain at 14,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** The GHL in District 9 decreased from 18,000 to 14,000 pounds in the 2011/2012 season; prior to that the GHL was 18,000 pounds since the 2000/2001 season. Fishery performance data is the only information from District 9 that can be used as an indicator of stock health. Commercial fishery CPUE is down after two years of increases and is still below the historical average. Harvest for the 2013/2014 season was 15,243 pounds of spot shrimp and the area closed on October 11, 2013.

**District 10:** The GHL for the 2014/2015 season **will remain at 36,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** The GHL in District 10 increased from 30,000 to 35,000 pounds in the 2000/2001 season and to 48,000 pounds in the 2004/2005 season. Commercial harvest information for District 10 indicated that shrimp populations declined sharply during the 2011/2013 and 2012/2013 seasons, and then was stable for the 2013/2014 season. The recent 10-year average harvest is 49,528 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the

2013/2014 season was 35,600 pounds of spot shrimp and closed on October 10, 2013. The 2014/2015 season is expected to close around October 8, 2014.

**District 11-Seymour Canal (11-S):** At the January 2012 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, District 11 was split into two GHL areas: Seymour Canal with a GHR of 0–30,000 pounds of spot shrimp and the Remainder of District 11 with a GHR of 0–15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp. Prior to splitting Seymour Canal from the Remainder of District 11, the GHL for the entire district was 20,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp.

The GHL for the 2014/2015 season **will be reduced 20% to 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. Seymour Canal was established as a separate GHR area in 2012 but was not given a GHL in order to investigate the use of a Canadian type spawner index (SI) management approach. Initial investigations suggest use of SI management may not be appropriate for the relatively small area and fast pace of the Seymour Canal fishery and a 15,000 pound GHL of spot shrimp was in place for the 2013/2014 season. The decline in CPUE observed in each of the last four seasons and fishermen reports of a decrease in area of good shrimp concentrations suggests a continuing decrease in population size and a reduction in harvest is warranted. The recent 10-year average harvest of spot shrimp from Seymour Canal is 18,594 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2013/2014 season was 13,007 pounds and the area closed on October 8, 2013. The 2014/2015 season is anticipated to be of short duration. With no management presence on the grounds this season, the closure date will be based on observed effort levels and 2013 catch rates to determine the closure date, unless inseason catch information is available.

**District 11-Remainder (11-R):** The GHL for the 2014/2015 season **will remain at 7,500 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp**. Due to declining trends in commercial CPUE and indications of serial depletion, commercial, sport, and personal use shrimping in Section 11-A was closed in 2013 and will remain closed for two more years in an effort to rebuild stocks. Sections 11-B & C have little recent harvest data due to the concentration of effort in Seymour Canal in recent seasons but the average harvest from 1995-2005 was 7,700 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp. Sections 11-B & C will be open in 2014 to allow further exploration and assessment of the area. The harvest for the 2013/2014 season was 8,563 pounds and the season closed on October 19, 2013. The 2014/2015 season is expected to close mid to late October.

**District 12 – Tenakee Inlet (12-T):** District 12 – Tenakee Inlet **will be closed**. The Tenakee GHL was established at 20,000 pounds in the 2001/2002 season. Based on strong biological and fishery parameters, the GHL was raised to 28,000 pounds for the 2005/2006 season. When a strong decline in fishery performance was observed the GHL was reduced to 17,000 pounds for the 2008/2009 season and further reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2010/2011 season. The 2010 preseason survey found significant increases in both large and small shrimp in portions of Tenakee Inlet and a two-day fishery was allowed, harvesting 14,152 pounds. The 2011 preseason survey results were the poorest up to that time and the commercial fishery was not opened for the 2011/2012 season. The 2012 long term stock assessment survey CPUE was the worst in its history and the area was closed to sport and personal use harvests in the fall of 2012. The 2013 survey results were only slightly better and the area remained closed to all shrimping. The survey will continue in order to monitor the health of the population and several years of much improved results will be needed to reopen to commercial fisheries. A separate news release about the Tenakee fishery will be issued once the pre-season survey and data analysis have been completed.

**District 12 – Remainder (12-R):** The remainder of District 12 **will be closed** in an effort to rebuild stocks. Due to continually declining fishery performance, the area will be closed for one more year and will reopen in 2015. The 12-R GHL was established at 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp for the 2001/2002 season, and was reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2008/2009 season due to declining fishery performance.

**Sections 13-A/B:** The GHL for the 2014/2015 season **will remain at 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlet east of Aspid Cape, will be closed after fifteen days of fishing (through

October 15, 2014). This will be the fourth year with a pre-set management closure in Section 13-A/B. This early closure is to prevent excessive harvest of shrimp populations in Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlets. In Section 13-A/B there is no survey and limited biological sampling. Historically, commercial fishery CPUE has shown a fairly flat pattern, however in recent seasons a slight increase has been observed. Harvest for the 2013/2014 season was 16,681 pounds of spot shrimp and closed on November 25, 2013.

**Section 13-C:** The GHL for the 2014/2015 season **will remain at 26,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** In Section 13-C, effort has varied but season length has been relatively stable. The GHL for 13-C was reduced from 42,000 pounds to 34,000 pounds for the 2007/2008 season; it was reduced further for the 2008/2009 season to 30,000 pounds; and for the 2012/2013 season the GHL was reduced to 26,000 pounds. In the more productive Hoonah Sound portion of Section 13-C, annual surveys have been conducted since 1998. Indicators of stock health collected during the survey are mixed, with mean carapace length increasing and L50 decreasing. The commercial fishery CPUE has been relatively stable for the main fishery area. Commercial fishery CPUE data is not considered a good indicator of spot shrimp stock health, except when significant declines are indicated. The 2013/2014 harvest was 23,171 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 4, 2013.

**District 14:** District 14 **will be closed** in 2014/2015 in an effort to rebuild stocks. The initial 20,000 pound GHL was reduced to 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp for the 2006/2007 season; was further reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2008/2009 season; and was closed for three years to rebuild stocks beginning in 2009. After reopening for the 2012/2013 season, the commercial fishery CPUE was even lower than in the most recent years fished. The district was closed again the following season for three years in an effort to rebuild stocks and will reopen in 2017.

**District 15:** The GHL for the 2014/2015 season **will remain at 15,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.** The 15,000 pound GHL will be managed by splitting the harvest equally between the eastern and western portions of the district. This split is defined by a line from the southernmost tip of Seduction Point south to Little Island Light. Both areas of the district will be managed for 7,500 pounds of coonstripe shrimp each. Commercial harvest information and biological parameters for District 15 indicate that the shrimp population is sustaining itself with this strategy. Landing and catch sampling information will be collected from this fishery and the department may close either area if needed to distribute effort and harvest. A total of 14,630 pounds of coonstripe shrimp was harvested during the 2013/2014 season. The eastern portion of the district closed November 8, 2013 with a total harvest of 8,506 pounds of coonstripe shrimp. The western portion of the district closed by regulation on February 28, 2014, and reopened on May 15, 2014, closing again on May 23, 2014. The harvest for the western portion of the district was 6,124 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.

**District 16:** The GHL for the 2014/15 season **will be 15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp,** opening this season on the two-year rotational cycle. In response to poor fishery performance, the 20,000 pound GHL of coonstripe shrimp was reduced to 15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp in the 2004/2005 season. Continuing declines led to a three-year closure from 2005–2008 to rebuild stocks. A rotational fishery strategy was established for the 2008/2009 season, closing the district for a year after significant harvest occurs and re-opening the following season with a GHL of 15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp. In the 2012/2013 season, the fishery was successfully prosecuted for the third time on its two-year rotational schedule. The recent 10-year average harvest is 13,324 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season is confidential and the area closed on December 11, 2012.

#### **In-season Reporting and Fish Ticket Requirements**

The “2012–2015 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations” pamphlet is available at ADF&G area offices. Shrimp catcher-processor (including direct-marketers) and catcher-seller fishermen are advised to become familiar with the following regulation:

5 AAC 31.143. Reporting requirements for commercial shrimp vessels in Registration Area A.

- (a) Unless otherwise specified by the department, the owner or operator of a commercial shrimp vessel operating pot gear in Registration Area A shall report by telephone or in person to a local representative of the department within two business days of deploying shrimp gear and two business days after ceasing shrimp fishing in any district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, including the following information:
  - (1) the pounds in whole weight by species of shrimp on board the vessel taken during the fishing period in any district or portion of a district;
  - (2) other information requested by the department for the purpose of conserving or developing shrimp resources.
- (b) In addition to the reporting requirements specified in (a) of this section, the weekly reporting requirements in Registration Area A for vessels commercial shrimp fishing with pots or beam trawls are as follows:
  - (1) unless other arrangements have been made with a local representative of the department, each week the owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel, or the owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-seller vessel, operating gear in the waters of Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone or in person, the ADF&G area office in the area where shrimp fishing occurs, before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact:
    - (A) the permit holder's name;
    - (B) the name and ADF&G license plate number of the shrimp pot vessel;
    - (C) the following information regarding ADF&G fish tickets:
      - (i) ADF&G fish ticket number of each fish ticket used since the last contact;
      - (ii) date of landing on each fish ticket;
      - (iii) district and statistical area on each fish ticket;
      - (iv) the number of pot lifts on each fish ticket;
      - (v) days that pots soaked on each fish ticket;
      - (vi) weight of spot and coonstripe shrimp per fish ticket specifying whether whole or tail weight;
    - (D) date of last delivery.
    - (E) any other information the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery.
- (c) The fish ticket requirement for commercial shrimp pot and beam trawl vessels in Registration Area A are as follows:
  - (1) an owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel shall complete a separate fish ticket for each day fished for each district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, and in which shrimp are harvested and processed on board the vessel; fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days of closure of a district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level; a shrimp pot catcher-processor who has stopped fishing in a district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level shall contact, by telephone or in person, the local ADF&G area office and report the information specified in this paragraph before fishing in a new district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department;
- (d) The owner or operator of a catcher-seller vessel registered to take shrimp in Registration Area A shall complete an ADF&G shrimp fish ticket indicating the weight of the shrimp on board by species before any shrimp are removed from the vessel.
- (e) For the purposes of this section,
  - (1) "business day" means a day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a state holiday;



- (2) “catcher-processor” means a commercial fisherman who catches and either sells or attempts to sell processed shrimp, and does not purchase or process shrimp caught on another vessel;
- (3) “catcher-seller” means a commercial fisherman who catches and either sells or attempts to sell unprocessed shrimp to a person not licensed to process shrimp.

#### Application Reporting and Fish Ticket Regulations

Part (a) applies to all commercial shrimp fishermen. The department is not planning to make “other arrangements” to this requirement 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 GHL. The department is implementing this season in order to more effectively track effort and harvest in the fishery.

Part (b) applies to shrimp catcher-processors (including direct-marketers) and to shrimp catcher-sellers, but not to shrimp fishermen who make deliveries to shore-based or floating processors. This requirement to report to the department specified information by noon on Wednesday of each week has been in effect for catcher-processors during recent years. The once a week call-in reporting requirements allows fishermen 2 ½ days at the start of each week to contact the local area office. 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, 12, 14, and 16: Juneau; Districts 9 and 13: Sitka; and District 15: Haines.

Part (c) applies only to shrimp catcher-processors. The same requirement has been in place during past seasons. The regulatory language has been clarified, but provisions for daily fish tickets for each district, submitting fish tickets within 7 days of a closure, and contacting the department before fishing in a new district, remains the same.

The department relies on detailed information provided by means of fish tickets in order to appropriately manage the fishery. The department will need information provided in this fashion in order to make timely decisions each week regarding the status of the fishery. **Under this provision, 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 11-Remainder, Sections 13-A/B, District 15, and District 16.** Under the provision for “other arrangements” the department is excluding from weekly reporting catcher-sellers fishing in District 5, District 6, District 7, District 8, District 10, and Section 13-C from this requirement.

Section 13-C and District 10 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, 6, 7, and 8 are excluded from this requirement for catcher-sellers due to the relatively fewer numbers of catcher-sellers generally fishing in these districts and since 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 Monday, October 6, 2014.** To facilitate reporting requirements, the department will provide reporting forms at ADF&G area offices.

To keep harvest information confidential, the department suggests that each catcher-processor reporting via radio indicate a *unique number* for their operation **at the time of registration**. The unique number is unnecessary if harvest information is reported via cell or satellite phones. Harvest information reported during radio calls inseason will be based on a percentage of their unique number. For example, if the unique number were equal to 10,000 pounds, a reported catch of 30% would equal 3,000 pounds.

## 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 sub-district 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 fish ticket for each district or area that has a GHR is required [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 catch per unit effort 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 and district. 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

In cooperation with the Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Task Force, the department has implemented a voluntary logbook program since the 2005/2006 season in order to obtain additional information on shrimp catch size distribution from catcher-processors. The information generated has been shown to be useful to the department when evaluating population trends and in setting an appropriate GHL to better manage the fishery. The department encourages all catcher-processors to participate in this voluntary program this season. Those interested in participating will need to provide specific shrimp size category information at the time of registration and will need to record catch size distribution data on daily fish tickets as specified in an information packet available at ADF&G area offices. **The catcher-processor logbook program will be mandatory for Districts 6 and 7. Fishermen will not be required to report their daily size breakdowns during the weekly reporting periods but are requested to report their daily harvest in pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot prawns.**

## Experimental Inseason Management Plan

In January 2012, the department met with representatives of the pot shrimp industry in Petersburg. Industry expressed a desire to experiment with active inseason management. As a result of those discussions, the department implemented a variation of Canada's Spawner Index (SI) management system in the Seymour Canal portion of District 11 for the 2012 season. Results of this investigation suggest use of SI management may not be appropriate for the relatively small area and fast pace of the Seymour Canal fishery and use of this system as a management tool in the Seymour Canal fishery was not adopted, although the investigation continued during the 2013 season. In addition, the department reviewed available data for Districts 6 and 7 for the potential of inseason management. Districts 6 and 7 were chosen due to the amount of detailed historical harvest information. A large portion of the harvest in both districts is from catcher-processors. As a result, the department has a consistent time series of daily harvest information. In addition, the highest participation of the voluntary logbook program has come from participants fishing in District 7 and to a lesser extent in District 6. The department reviewed this information and developed an experimental plan for the 2012/2013 season to adjust the GHL inseason based on the current year's harvest information compared to prior years. This plan was reviewed by many of the fishermen that participate in the District 6 and 7 fisheries at a meeting in Wrangell. Some adjustments were made after that meeting and the plan was implemented for the 2012 season. The same inseason management approach used in Districts 6 and 7 will be used for the third season in 2014.

## Closed Waters

Fishermen should be aware that some waters of Southeast Alaska are closed to the commercial harvest of shrimp. Those areas are listed in 5 AAC 31.136. CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION AREA A in the 2012–2015 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations pamphlet.

## Octopus Bycatch

A management plan has been adopted [5 AAC 38.150] and a commissioner's permit is no longer 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 for Area A. The department will close the fishery to further retention of octopus by emergency order in the event that 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, 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). 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 2012–2015 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 Contacts

For more information regarding the commercial pot shrimp fishery please contact any of the following Area Management Biologists:

Ketchikan (225-5195): Scott Walker, Justin Breese, or Bo Meredith,  
Petersburg (772-3801): Troy Thynes or Kevin Clark,  
Wrangell (874-3822): Tom Kowalske,  
Sitka (747-6688): Dave Gordon or Eric Coonradt,  
Juneau (465-4250): Dave Harris or Scott Forbes,  
Haines (766-2830): Randy Bachman.

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&amp;G</i>	<i>225-5195</i>	<i>772-3801</i>	<i>874-3822</i>	<i>747-6688</i>	<i>465-4250</i>	<i>766-2830</i>	<i>784-3255</i>
<i>AWT</i>	<i>225-5111</i>	<i>772-3983</i>	<i>874-3215</i>	<i>747-3254</i>	<i>465-4000</i>	<i>766-2533</i>	<i>784-3220</i>