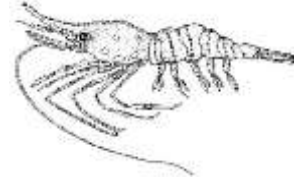


# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

## NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: 5/25/15

### **FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL SHRIMP POT FISHERY THIRD PERIOD EMERGENCY ORDER 2-SF-E-03-15**

The PWS commercial shrimp pot fishery opened on April 15 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 67,000 lb. The second period closed at 8:00 p.m. May 21 and currently, the reported harvest is approximately 4,200 lb of whole shrimp harvested by 14 vessels. Total reported harvest in the fishery so far is approximately 9,100 lb of whole shrimp harvested by 19 vessels. Overall average fishery catch per unit effort is approximately 1.05 lb of whole shrimp per pot pulled. **The third period of the PWS commercial shrimp pot fishery will open at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 26 and will remain open until September 15, 2015 unless closed earlier by emergency order.**

**Gear limits remain at a maximum of 60 shrimp pots per vessel.** A vessel operator may not have more than the legal limit of pot gear in aggregate, on board the vessel or in the water at any time. **Hours of gear operation remain at 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.,** and shrimp pot gear may only be deployed and retrieved between these hours during the open fishing period.

#### **New Regulations Are in Effect**

New regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in March 2015 are now in effect. Vessels are **no longer** required to call the reporting line each Wednesday before noon. Instead, all commercial shrimp pot vessels must call the reporting line at (907) 424-7215 **no earlier than 24 hours before fishing during each trip** and provide the following information:

- 1) CFEC permit holders name,
- 2) Vessel name and ADF&G license number of the registered vessel,
- 3) The following information for each trip:
  - a) Number of pots intended to be operated from the vessel,
  - b) Statistical area the operator of the vessel is intending to fish, and

c) Intended length of the trip.

Additionally, **before landing shrimp**, all those operating commercial shrimp pot fishery vessels must call the reporting line at (907) 424-7215 and report the information requested on the harvest reporting form supplied in the registration packet.

Other regulation changes include allowing no more than **50% of the GHL** to be harvested from any one statistical area and allowing up to five pots on a longline marked with a single buoy; shrimp pots deployed on a longline with six or more pots, must have a buoy attached to each end of the longline.

Contact ADF&G at (907) 424-3212 for further information.

Other pertinent fishery regulations are listed in Chapters 31 and 39 of the **2012-2015 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations** booklet available at department offices in Anchorage, Cordova, and Homer or at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

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