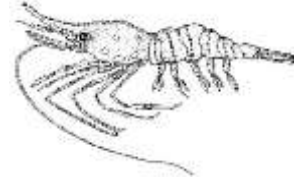


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SUBSISTENCE SHRIMP POT FISHERY NUMBER OF ALLOWABLE POTS REDUCED TO FOUR EMERGENCY ORDER 2-SF-E-01-16

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is reducing the number of allowable pots per vessel in the 2016 noncommercial Prince William Sound (PWS) shrimp pot fishery from 5 pots to 4 pots. The season remains the same and will be open from April 15 through September 15 with no daily or annual bag limits. Noncommercial users include sport, personal-use, and subsistence fishers.

The total allowable harvest level (TAH) of shrimp in PWS by noncommercial and commercial users is determined each year using the previous year's harvest and effort and the results from an annual pot shrimp survey conducted by the department in October. As mandated by the PWS Shrimp Management Plan, the TAH is then divided between the noncommercial (60%) and commercial (40%) fisheries to create Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) for each fishery. For 2016, the TAH is determined to be 117,500 pounds of shrimp. Of that total, 70,500 pounds is allocated to noncommercial fisheries.

Noncommercial participation and harvest levels over the last three years have been consistent and average 89,500 pounds annually. The department anticipates effort and harvest to be similar in 2016. If no management action is taken, the noncommercial GHL would likely be substantially exceeded. Therefore, in order to stay within guideline harvest levels, the department is reducing pot limits from five pots per vessel to four pots per vessel.

All participants are still required to have a permit. Permits will be available online March 31st or at department offices and select fishing license vendors. For more information about specific regulations of the PWS shrimp fishery refer to page 9 of the 2016 Southcentral Alaska Sport Fishing Regulation Summary.

Please contact Jay Baumer in Anchorage at 267-2265 with any questions regarding the PWS shrimp fisheries or permitting requirements.