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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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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 2017/2018 Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery.

##### 2017/2018 Fishing Season and Fishing Periods

All fishing districts and areas will open at 8:00 a.m., Sunday, October 1, 2017, and will close at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 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, 2018, may be reopened on May 15, 2018, for a summer season. The summer pot shrimp fishing season will close by regulation on July 31, 2018.

The department will issue weekly fishery updates, usually on Thursday afternoons, to update fishermen on the progress of the fishery. News releases will be provided on a less frequent basis when there is an area closure.

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.

The department will announce all closures through the department's news release system. 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 following provides an overview of regulations and general information affecting the management of the 2017/2018 commercial pot shrimp fishery.

#### Vessel Registration, Pot Shrimp 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 2017/2018 season, pot tags will not be required. **Regulations (5 AAC 31.141) were adopted at the 2015 Alaska Board of Fisheries 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 (GHL) for the 2017/2018 Season

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

District	2016/2017 Closure Date	Days Open in 2016/2017	10-year Average Harvest <sup>a</sup>	2016/2017 Harvest	2017/2018 GHL
District 1	Oct. 13	13	71,130	73,596	64,000
District 2	Oct. 23	23	71,568	30,630	30,000
Section 3-A	Oct. 13	13	128,588	136,240	114,000
Sections 3-B/C	Oct. 14	14	37,050	37,962	30,000
District 4	July 31	228	16,214	18,297	20,000
District 5	July 31	228	7,867	1,266	12,000
District 6	Oct. 18	18	39,722	41,098	<b>42,900<sup>b</sup></b>
District 7	Oct. 12	12	72,726	84,369	74,300 <sup>b</sup>
District 8	Oct. 18	18	13,512	11,590	10,500
District 9	Oct. 8	8	17,313	12,528	11,000
District 10	Oct. 14	14	45,983	41,311	29,000
District 11-Seymour	Oct. 9	9	17,385	Confidential	12,000
Section 11-A	n/a	0	3,059	Closed	Closed
Section 11-B/C	Feb. 28	151	4,382	6,890	<b>4,000</b>
District 12-Tenakee	n/a	0	17,144	Closed	Closed
District 12-Remainder	n/a	0	10,917	Closed	Closed
Sections 13-A/B	Oct. 16	16	14,239	18,968	15,000
Section 13-C	Oct. 5	5	29,574	26,970	<b>21,000</b>
District 14	Oct. 11	11	9,925	6,806	<b>Closed</b>
District 15	July 31	228	12,315	5,500	15,000
District 16	Feb. 28	151	13,539	Confidential	<b>Closed</b>

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

<sup>a</sup> Recent 10-year average includes the 2006/2007–2015/2016 seasons and only seasons when an area was open to fishing.

<sup>b</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.

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 2017/2018 season for GHLs identified in the table

above. The combined regional GHL for the 2017/2018 season is **in the range of 458,000–552,000 pounds** of whole shrimp.

#### Basis of Pot Shrimp GHLS, expected season lengths, and Management Approach for 2017/2018 Season

**District 1:** The GHL for District 1 **will remain at 64,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2017/2018 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 2008/2009 season with a third GHL reduction coupled with pre-set closures in Back Behm and West Behm Canal for the 2009/2010 season. The pre-set closures seem to have been beneficial to the shrimp population and the overall health of the District 1 shrimp stock. In response, the 2015/16 season GHL was increased to 64,000 pounds and the pre-set closure in Back Behm and West Behm was removed. CPUE in some portions of District 1 has increased significantly based on the recent 4-year average, including an increase in CPUE in West Behm Canal. Portions of District 1 show no increase in CPUE or have inconsistent harvest making assessments difficult. The recent 10-year average harvest is 71,130 pounds of spot shrimp. The 2016/2017 harvest was 73,596 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 13, 2016. District 1 is expected to close on or before October 15, 2017.

**District 2:** The GHL for District 2 **will remain at 30,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2017/2018 season. All indications from commercial harvest and department surveys remain poor for District 2. The GHL in District 2 was reduced by 25% 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). The GHL was reduced in the 2014/15 season and again in the 2015/16 season due to sharp declines in the commercial CPUE in Kasaan Bay. Due to extremely poor preseason survey results, Kasaan Bay was closed prior to the 2015/16 season. In response to the closure of Kasaan Bay, a further GHL reduction was warranted to alleviate some of the harvest pressure on Cholmondeley Sound and Moira Sound. Districtwide commercial CPUE was down from the 2014/15 season and was at the lowest level in the past 14 seasons. Kasaan Bay will remain closed west of the longitude of Kasaan Point for the 2017/18 season. The 2016/2017 harvest was 30,630 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 23, 2016. District 2 is expected to close on or before October 23, 2017.

**Section 3-A:** The GHL for Section 3-A **will remain at 114,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2017/2018 season. For the 2000/2001 season, the Section 3-A GHL was increased from the historical 200,000 pounds to 264,000 pounds of spot shrimp. In the 2004/2005 season, the GHL was reduced to 198,000 pounds due to consistent decline in average shrimp size and fishery harvest rates. In the 2008/2009 season, the GHL was further reduced to 158,400 pounds and then 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 of 198,000 pounds. In an effort to increase the health and productivity of the Section 3-A shrimp stock, the GHL was reduced by 20% to 158,400 pounds. After two years at this GHL there were no positive trends. Additionally, the average harvest for these two years was only 125,000 pounds, 20% below the GHL. The lack of positive indicators in either the biological samples or the commercial fishery led to a 40% reduction in 2010/2011 to 95,000 pounds. Poor weather prevented the department preseason pot survey for the 2013/2014 season; however, the commercial harvest showed improved harvest rates. Commercial harvest and survey information again showed improvement in the Section 3-A stock for the 2014/2015 season and the GHL was raised to 114,000 pounds for 2015/2016. The CPUE and logbook information for the 2015/2016 season shows some concerning harvest rate trends for Section 3-A, which may need to be addressed. The recent 10-year average harvest is 128,588 pounds of spot shrimp. The 2016/2017 harvest was 136,240 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 13, 2016. Section 3-A is expected to close on or before October 12, 2017.

**Sections 3-B/C:** The GHL for Sections 3-B/C **will remain at 30,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2017/2018 season. In the 2007/2008 season, the GHL 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 2016/2017 harvest was 37,962 pounds of spot shrimp and the season was closed on October 14, 2016. Section 3-B/C is expected to close on or before October 14, 2017.

**District 4:** The GHL for District 4 **will remain at 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2017/2018 season. No survey or sampling data has been collected. Effort and harvest have 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. During the 2016/2017 fall season, the GHL of 20,000 pounds was not harvested so District 4 was also open during the summer season. District 4 closed by regulation on July 31, 2016, with a total of 18,297 pounds of spot shrimp harvested. District 4 is expected to close on February 28, 2018, and may reopen for the summer season.

**District 5:** The GHL **will remain at 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2017/2018 season. 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. There have been steady and sharp declines in harvest from the 2009/10 harvest of 17,000 pounds to a low of 1,266 pounds caught in 2016/17. The 10-year average harvest is 7,867 pounds. District 5 is expected to close on February 28, 2018, and may reopen for the summer season.

**District 6:** The GHL for the 2017/2018 season **will be adjusted inseason. The initial GHL will be 42,900 pounds of spot shrimp.** The initial GHL is an increase from prior seasons initial GHL of 32,000 pounds of spot shrimp. The increase in the initial GHL is a result of a higher confidence of available data for District 6 and inseason management being able to react to changes in spot shrimp abundance. Furthermore, this increase will allow for a wider range of harvests within the GHR. Inseason adjustments 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. Inseason adjustments in District 6 will be based on catcher-processor catch per pot, daily logbook data, and CL obtained from on-the-grounds sampling. These inseason management criteria have been used for the past five seasons. For 2012/13 season, the increase was 20% increasing the target GHL to 38,400 pounds; in 2013/2014, the GHL increased 15% to 36,800 pounds; in 2014/2015, the GHL was decreased by 35% to 20,800 pounds; in 2015/2016, the GHL remained unchanged at 32,000 pounds; and the 2016/17 GHL was increased by 40% to 44,800 pounds.

The GHL for District 6 has ranged from 82,000 pounds in the 2005/2006 season to 20,800 pounds in 2014/2015. The recent 10-year average harvest is 39,722 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2016/2017 season was 41,098 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 18, 2016. District 6 is expected to close by October 20, 2017.

**District 7:** The GHL for the 2017/2018 season **will be adjusted inseason. The initial GHL will be 74,300 pounds of spot shrimp.** Inseason adjustments for the 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. 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 larger shrimp, data from catcher processor log book entries, and carapace length data derived from on the grounds sampling. Using inseason data to adjust the GHL inseason has been used since the 2012/2013 season. For 2012/2013, the net increase was 27% increasing the target GHL to 80,700 pounds; in 2013/2014, the GHL was increased by 22% to 77,500 pounds; in 2014/2015, the GHL was increased by 10% to 70,070 pounds; in 2015/2016, the initial GHL was increased to 74,300 pounds and no inseason adjustments were made; and in the 2016/17 GHL was increased by 10% to 81,700 pounds.

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 72,726 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2016/2017 season was 84,369 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 12, 2016. The 2017/2018 season is expected to close by October 15, 2017.

**District 8:** The GHL for the 2017/2018 season **will remain at 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. Due to below average commercial catch rates, biological parameters, and decreasing trends in the traditional areas, the GHL was reduced to 15,000 pounds for the 2010/2011 season and again to 10,500 pounds in the 2014/2015 season. Biological and commercial catch data has been inconsistent for the past four seasons; however, it appears that stock health has been stable for the past three seasons. The recent 10-year average harvest is 13,512 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2016/2017 season was 11,590 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 18, 2016. The 2017/2018 season is expected to close by October 22, 2017.

**District 9:** The GHL for the 2017/2018 season **will remain at 11,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. The GHL in District 9 was 18,000 pounds from the 2000/2001 season until the 2011/2012 season when it was decreased to 14,000 pounds. The GHL was decreased again in the 2015/2016 season to 11,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Fishery performance data is the only information from District 9 that can be used as an indicator of stock health. District CPUE was below baseline for nine consecutive seasons but increased strongly in the 2015/16 season. The 2016/2017 harvest was 12,528 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 8, 2016.

**District 10:** The GHL for the 2017/2018 season **will remain at 29,000 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. It remained at this level until the 2013/2014 season when it was reduced to 36,800 pounds and reduced again to 29,000 pounds in the 2016/17 season. Commercial harvest information for District 10 indicated that shrimp populations declined sharply during the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 seasons and were stable until declining again in the 2015/2016 season. Assessments for the 2016/2017 season indicated some improvements to stock health, but commercial CPUE remained below average. The recent 10-year average harvest is 45,983 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2016/2017 season was 41,311 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 14, 2016. The 2017/2018 season is expected to close around October 15, 2017.

**District 11-Seymour Canal (11-S):** The GHL for the 2017/2018 season **will remain at 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. Seymour Canal was established as a separate GHR area in 2012. After declining for several years, commercial CPUE has been relatively stable for the last four seasons, with a slight increase in the 2016/2017 season. The recent 10-year average harvest of spot shrimp from Seymour Canal is 17,385 pounds. Harvest for the 2016/2017 season is confidential and the area closed on October 9, 2016. The 2017/2018 season is likely to be of short duration.

**District 11-Remainder (11-R):** In Section 11-C, **Endicott and Tracy Arms will be closed east of the longitude of the Holkum Bay Range marker on Harbor Island at 133°38.41' W. longitude** in an effort to rebuild stocks, and the **remainder of the area will be open with a GHL of 4,000 pounds** of spot and coonstripe shrimp for the 2017/2018 season. Effort has been concentrated in the Endicott and Tracy Arms area in the past five seasons and commercial CPUE fell to a new low here in the 2016/2017 season prompting a closure of the area on October 24. The 2016/2017 season spot and coonstripe shrimp harvest was 6,890 pounds and the area closed on February 28, 2017. 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 in an effort to rebuild stocks. The 2017/2018 season is expected to close in late October or early November.

**District 12 – Tenakee Inlet (12-T):** District 12 – Tenakee Inlet **will remain closed** for the 2017/2018 season. The Tenakee GHL was established at 20,000 pounds in the 2001/2002 season. Based on strong biological and fishery parameters, the GHL of spot shrimp 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 assessment survey CPUE was the worst in its history and the area was subsequently closed to sport and personal use harvests. Department survey CPUE from 2013 to 2016 has been increasing but the 2016 combined small and large class shrimp CPUE remained below baseline; although CPUE of large class shrimp increased strongly for the third consecutive season and is near baseline. The survey will continue in order to monitor the health of the population and additional years of improved results will be needed to reopen commercial fisheries.

**District 12 – Remainder (12-R):** The remainder of District 12 **will remain closed** for the 2017/2018 season. The 12-R GHL was established at 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp for the 2001/2002 season; was reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2008/2009 season due to declining fishery performance; and the area was closed for three seasons in 2012 to allow the stock to rebuild. The area was reopened in 2015 with a reduced GHL of 7,500 pounds of spot shrimp. In the major producing bay in the area, the 2015/2016 season CPUE was the same as the year before the closure and the Remainder of District 12 was closed before the GHL was harvested. The harvest for the 2015/2016 season was 5,102 pounds and the season closed on October 9, 2015. The area will remain closed for three years in an effort to rebuild stocks.

**Sections 13-A/B:** The GHL for the 2017/2018 season **will remain at 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** The pre-set management closure used historically in Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlet east of Aspid Cape will not be in effect for the 2017/2018 season; the fishery will be closed by emergency order once the GHL is reached. In Section 13-A/B, there is no survey and limited biological sampling. Historically, commercial fishery CPUE has shown a fairly flat pattern with no long-term trends. Harvest for the 2016/2017 season was 18,968 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 16, 2016.

**Section 13-C:** The GHL for the 2017/2018 season **will be decreased to 21,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** An additional decrease may occur with short notice pending the results of a preseason survey. 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, further reduced for the 2008/2009 season to 30,000 pounds, and again for the 2012/2013 season to 26,000 pounds. The commercial CPUE for the section decreased sharply in the 2016/17 season and along with the lowest mean carapace length on record, justify the reduction in GHL. Commercial fishery CPUE data is not considered a good indicator of spot shrimp stock health except when significant declines occur. A department survey will likely occur prior to the season to determine if a further reduction is necessary. Poor survey results could result in an additional 20% reduction in the GHL (40% total reduction from 2016/2017 levels). If further reductions are necessary the department will issue a preseason News Release announcing the closure date. The 2016/2017 harvest was 26,970 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 5, 2016.

**District 14:** District 14 **will be closed** for the 2017/2018 season. The initial 20,000 pound GHL of spot shrimp was reduced to 15,000 pounds for the 2006/2007 season; 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 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. The fishery was reopened in the 2016/2017 season with a GHL of 7,500 pounds. Commercial CPUE in the 2016/17 season increased from the 2012/13 season but was still below baseline. The 2016/17 season harvest was 6,806 pounds of spot shrimp and the fishery closed October 11, 2016.

**District 15:** The GHL for the 2017/2018 season **will remain at 15,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.** The 15,000 pound GHL will be managed by assigning the harvest equally (7,500 pounds) between the western and eastern areas of the district. This division of the district is defined by a line from the southernmost tip of Seduction Point south to Little Island Light. Landing and catch sampling information will be collected from the fishery and the department may close either area if needed to distribute effort and harvest. For the 2016/2017 season, District 15 was open from October 1 through February 28 (winter) and then from May 15 until July 31 (summer). For the winter opening, there was no effort or harvest in the western area and a total harvest of 3,666 pounds in the east. For the summer opening, there was no effort or harvest in the western area and a total harvest of 1,834 pounds in the east. The total coonstripe shrimp harvest during the 2016/2017 season in District 15 was 5,500 pounds. The 2017/2018 season is expected to have the same dates for openings.

**District 16:** The district **will be closed** for the 2017/18 season following the established rotational schedule for this area. 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 2016/2017 season, the fishery was successfully prosecuted for the fifth time on its two-year rotational schedule. The average harvest since rotational fisheries have been instituted is 13,539 pounds. Harvest for the 2016/2017 season was confidential and the area closed on February 28, 2017.

#### 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 GHL.

All shrimp catcher-processors (including direct-marketers) and shrimp catcher-sellers, but not shrimp fishermen who make deliveries to shore-based 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; District 11: 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 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 GHL. Shrimp catcher-processors must contact the department before fishing in a new district.

The department relies on detailed information provided by means of fish tickets and fisherman contacts in order to effectively track effort and harvest in 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. **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, and District 15.** 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 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 4, 2017.** 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 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 GHL 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

Regulations (5 AAC 31.141 and 5 AAC 31.143(b)(1)(E)) adopted at the 2015 Alaska Board of Fisheries 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 guideline harvest level, and 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 Districts 6 and 7. In Districts 6 and 7, catcher processors will be required to report their daily harvest in pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot prawns.

#### 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 sixth season in 2017.

### Closed Waters

Fishermen should note that some waters of Southeast Alaska are closed to commercial harvest of shrimp. Those areas are in 5 AAC 31.136. CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION AREA A in the 2015–2018 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations.

### 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 2015–2018 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 Section 3-B/C

Phone: 225-5195

Contacts: Scott Walker, Justin Breese, or Bo Meredith,

#### Petersburg

Fishing Areas: Districts 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10

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

Contacts: Troy Thynes or Kevin Clark (Petersburg); 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: District 11-Seymour, 11-Remainder, 12-Tenakee, 12-Remainder, 14, and 15

Phone: 465-4250

Contacts: Dave Harris or Scott Forbes

### Haines

Fishing Area: District 15

Phone: 766-2830

Contacts: Mark Sogge or Wyatt Rhea-Fournier.

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>