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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 2018/2019 Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery.

##### 2018/2019 Fishing Season and Fishing Periods

All fishing districts and areas will open at 8:00 a.m., Monday, October 1, 2018, and will close at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, February 28, 2019, 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, 2019, may be reopened on May 15, 2019, for a summer season. The summer pot shrimp fishing season will close by regulation on July 31, 2019.

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 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 Alaska Board of Fisheries 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 2018/2019 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 2018/2019 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 2018/2019 Season in pounds of whole shrimp.

District	2017/2018 Closure Date	Days Open in 2017/2018	10-year Average Harvest <sup>a</sup>	2017/2018 Harvest	2018/2019 GHL
District 1	Oct. 13	13	63,125	73,319	64,000
District 2	Oct. 15	15	64,679	27,173	29,400
Section 3-A	Oct. 11	11	121,531	132,536	114,000
Sections 3-B/C	Oct. 18	18	36,088	33,597	30,000
District 4	July 31	228	15,902	17,232	20,000
District 5	July 31	228	7,127	9,016	12,000
Sections 6-B/C/D <sup>c</sup>	Oct. 19	19	35,031	52,179	<b>42,900<sup>b</sup></b>
District 7	Oct. 13	13	76,103	96,234	74,300 <sup>b</sup>
Sections 8-B/6-A <sup>c</sup>	-	-	9,807	12,132	<b>15,000</b>
Sections 8-A/10-C <sup>c</sup>	-	-	9,647	Confidential	<b>12,000</b>
District 9	Oct. 9	9	16,208	10,784	<b>6,500</b>
Sections 10-A/B <sup>c</sup>	Oct. 9	9	39,800	40,365	<b>35,000</b>
District 11-Seymour	Oct. 9	9	16,477	Confidential	12,000
Section 11-A	n/a	n/a	2,806	Closed	Closed
Section 11-B/C	Oct. 19	19	4,955	4,768	4,000
District 12-Tenakee	n/a	n/a	12,440	Closed	<b>7,500</b>
District 12-Remainder	n/a	n/a	8,535	Closed	Closed
Sections 13-A/B	Oct. 10	10	14,749	20,624	15,000
Section 13-C	Oct. 3	3	28,657	12,100	16,000
District 14	n/a	n/a	7,772	Closed	<b>7,500</b>
District 15	July 31	228	11,366	5,530	<b>11,000</b>
District 16	n/a	n/a	13,539	Closed	<b>15,000</b>

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

<sup>a</sup> Recent 10-year average includes the 2007/2008–2016/2017 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.

<sup>c</sup> New area in 2018.

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 2018/2019 season for GHLS identified in the table above. The combined regional GHL for the 2018/2019 season is **in the range of 496,000–590,000 pounds** of whole shrimp.

#### Basis of Pot Shrimp GHLS, expected season lengths, and Management Approach for 2018/2019 Season

**District 1:** The GHL for District 1 **will remain at 64,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2018/2019 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. Commercial 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, however, there have been strong declines (50% in 2 years) in catch rates of both large and small class shrimp in Back Behm Canal during the pre-season survey. The commercial CPUE will be closely monitored in back Behm Canal for the 2018/19 season. 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 2017/2018 harvest was 73,319 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 13, 2017. District 1 is expected to close on or before October 15, 2018.

**District 2:** The GHL for District 2 **will remain at 30,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2018/2019 season. 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 pre-season 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. The district seems to be responding positively to recent management actions. Districtwide CPUE increased slightly in 2016/17 and then remained stable during the 2017/18 season from the historical low in 2015/16. Survey data has shown some stock recovery over the past three seasons and overall CPUE of large class shrimp is above baseline level for the past two seasons in Kasaan Bay. **Portions of Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm will re-open for the 2018/2019 season. The waters of 12-mile arm south of Outer Point at 55°31.24' N. latitude will remain closed. The remainder of Kasaan Bay west of the longitude of Kasaan Point will close at 4:00 p.m., October 7. A pre-season survey will be conducted in Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm the first week of September, and the Kasaan Bay open area may be modified or rescinded based on survey results.** The 2017/2018 harvest was 27,173 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 15, 2017. District 2 is expected to close on or before October 20, 2018.

**Section 3-A:** The GHL for Section 3-A **will remain at 114,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2018/2019 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 pre-season 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 recent 10-year average harvest is 116,704 pounds of spot shrimp. The 2017/2018 harvest was 132,536 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 11, 2017. Section 3-A is expected to close on or before October 11, 2018.

**Sections 3-B/C:** The GHL for Sections 3-B/C **will remain at 30,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2018/2019 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. In the 2010/2011 season, the GHL was further reduced by 25% to 30,000 pounds 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 2017/2018 harvest was 33,597 pounds of spot shrimp and the season was closed on October 18, 2017. Section 3-B/C is expected to close on or before October 18, 2018.

**District 4:** The GHL for District 4 **will remain at 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2018/2019 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 2017/2018 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, 2018, with a total of 17,232 pounds of spot shrimp harvested. District 4 is expected to close on February 28, 2019, and may reopen for the summer season.

**District 5:** The GHL **will remain at 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2018/2019 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 16,794 pounds to a low of 1,666 pounds caught in 2016/17. The 10-year average harvest is 7,127 pounds. District 5 closed by regulation on July 31, 2018, with a total of 9,016 pounds of spot shrimp harvested. District 5 is expected to close on February 28, 2019, and may reopen for the summer season.

**Sections 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D:** **This is a new management area created by the Board of Fisheries at the 2018 meeting in Sitka with a GHR of 0 - 60,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** It encompasses the waters of District 6 south of line from Macnamara Point to Point Colpoys. This area has historically been the core fishing area of District 6.

The GHL for this new area for the 2018/2019 season **will be adjusted inseason. The initial GHL will be 42,900 pounds of spot shrimp.** 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, and carapace length data obtained from on-the-grounds sampling.

The GHL for District 6 has ranged from 82,000 pounds in the 2005/2006 season to 20,800 pounds in 2014/2015. While using inseason adjustments, the GHL has ranged from 20,800 pounds in the 2014/15 season to 51,480 pounds in the 2017/18 season. The recent 10-year average harvest for Sections 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D is 35,031 pounds of spot shrimp. The 2017/18 final harvest for District 6 was 55,749 pounds and the season closed on October 19, 2017. This area is expected to close by October 20, 2018.

**District 7:** The GHL for the 2018/2019 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 pre-season 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 fishery data to adjust the GHL inseason has been used since the 2012/2013 season. While using inseason adjustments, the GHL has ranged from 70,000 pounds in the 2014/15 season to 96,600 pounds in the 2017/18 season.

The GHL for District 7 has ranged from 104,000 pounds in the 2000/2001 season to 49,135 pounds in 2010/2011. The recent 10-year average harvest is 74,822 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2017/2018 season was 96,234 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed on October 13, 2017. The 2018/2019 season is expected to close by October 15, 2018.

**Sections 8-A and 10-C: This is a new management area created by the Board of Fisheries at the 2018 meeting in Sitka with a GHR of 0 - 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** This area includes the waters of Frederick Sound, Farragut Bay, and Thomas Bay east of line from Pinta Point to Cape Fanshaw.

The GHL for this new area for the 2018/2019 season **will be set at 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** Commercial catch data is difficult to interpret as effort in those sections of District 8 and District 10 that have been combined into this new reporting area can vary considerably from year to year. Most of the effort in Section 8-A occurred after other districts closed for the season. Additionally, effort in Section 10-C has been small and sporadic in recent years. Standardized commercial CPUE increased in the analysis areas in 2017/18 and is at or above baseline for this area. The 10-year average harvest for this new area is 9,467 pounds. The 2017 harvest from the two sections that were combined to form this management area is confidential. Section 8-A closed with the rest of District 8 on October 11, 2017. Section 10-C closed with the rest of District 10 on October 9, 2017. The 2018/2019 season is expected to close by October 20, 2018.

**Sections 8-B and 6-A: This is a new management area created by the Board of Fisheries at the 2018 meeting in Sitka with a GHR of 0 - 25,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** This area includes the waters of Sumner Strait in Districts 6 and 8, Stikine and Zimovia Straits in District 8, and Chicagof Pass.

The GHL for this new area for the 2018/2019 season **will be set at 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** Fishery performance has been generally increasing for the past four seasons in this area. Over the past 10 years, the harvest has averaged 9,807 pounds. The average for the past two seasons is approximately 12,000 pounds. The 2017 combined harvest for both sections was 12,132 pounds. Section 6-A closed with the rest of District 6 on October 19, 2017. Section 8-B closed with the rest of District 8 on October 11, 2017. The 2018/2019 season is expected to close by October 18, 2019.

**District 9:** The GHL for the 2018/2019 season **will be decreased by 40% to 6,500 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 has been below baseline for eleven consecutive seasons. Area CPUE is below baseline in all fished analysis areas with no four-year trends. Due to the decrease in GHL, the department will likely issue a preseason News Release announcing the closure date of the 2018/2019 season. The 2017/18 harvest was 10,784 pounds and the season closed on October 9, 2017.

**Sections 10-A and 10-B: This a new management area created by the Board of Fisheries at the 2018 meeting in Sitka with a GHR of 0 - 50,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** This area encompasses the remainder of District 10 north of a line from Cape Fanshaw to Pinta Point and has historically been the core fishing area.

The GHL for this new section for the 2018/2019 season **will be set at 35,000 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 past two seasons indicated improvements to stock health including increases in commercial CPUE. The recent 10-year average harvest in the area encompassed by this new section is 39,800 pounds of spot shrimp. Harvest for the 2017/2018 season was 40,365 pounds of spot shrimp in District 10 and closed on October 9, 2017. The 2017/2018 season is expected to close around October 10, 2018.

**District 11-Seymour Canal (11-S):** The GHL for the 2018/2019 season **will remain at 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** Seymour Canal was established as a separate GHR area in 2012. Standardized commercial CPUE increased from the 2016/2017 season, and although still below long-term base line, does show an increasing trend. The recent 10-year average harvest of spot shrimp from Seymour Canal is 16,477 pounds. Harvest for the 2017/2018 season is confidential and the area closed on October 9, 2017. The 2018/2019 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 Holkham Bay range marker on Harbor Island at 133°38.41' W. longitude** in an effort to rebuild stocks. The **remainder of the area will be open with a GHL of 4,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp** for the 2018/2019 season. Effort had been concentrated in the Endicott and Tracy Arms area in past seasons and commercial CPUE fell to a new low in the 2016/2017 season prompting a closure of the area to rebuild local stocks. The remainder of upper Stephens Passage, Taku Inlet, and Port Snettisham was open in the 2017/2018 season with an exploratory GHL of 4,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp, and 4,768 pounds of predominantly spot shrimp were harvested. 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 2018/2019 season is expected to close in late October or early November.

**District 12 – Tenakee Inlet (12-T):** District 12 – Tenakee Inlet **is planned to open for the 2018/2019 season with a preliminary GHL of 7,500 pounds of spot shrimp.** 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. The survey CPUE of large class shrimp in West Tenakee is now at baseline level and shows a four-year increasing trend while small class shrimp show a three-year increasing trend. Survey data has shown some stock recovery over the past five seasons and overall CPUE has been at baseline level for the past two seasons resulting in a reopening of the personal use fishery. An exploratory commercial opening is planned for the 2018/2019 season. **Season length will be limited to a maximum of two days, closing October 2 at 4:00 p.m. and the waters of Tenakee Inlet west of 135°34.5' W. longitude will be closed. A preseason survey will be conducted in Tenakee Inlet in the third week of September, and this planned opening could be modified or rescinded on short notice based on survey results.**

**District 12 – Remainder (12-R):** The remainder of District 12 **will remain closed** for the 2018/2019 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 seasons in an effort to rebuild stocks.

**Sections 13-A/B:** The GHL for the 2018/2019 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 2018/2019 season; the fishery will be closed by emergency order once the GHL is reached. Fishery performance is the only information from Section 13-A/B that is used as an indicator of stock health. Standardized commercial CPUE from the 2017/2018 season was the second highest since standardization was possible. The 10-year average harvest is 14,749 pounds. The 2017/18 harvest was 20,624 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed October 10, 2017.

**Section 13-C:** The GHL for the 2018/2019 season **will remain at 16,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** The GHL for Section 13-C 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. The commercial CPUE for the section decreased sharply in the 2016/17 season and showed the lowest mean carapace length on record; additionally, poor survey results in 2017 justified the reduction in GHL for the 2017/18 season. Because of the reduced GHL, the department will issue a preseason News Release announcing the closure date for the 2018/2019 season. The 10-year average harvest is 28,657 pounds of spot shrimp. The 2017/18 harvest was 12,100 pounds of spot shrimp and the season closed October 3, 2017.

**District 14:** District 14 **will open with a GHL of 7,500 pounds of spot shrimp** for the 2018/2019 season. The initial 20,000-pound GHL of spot shrimp for this district 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 seasons 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 for three seasons 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. To provide more consistent opportunity in the Icy Strait area, a rotational approach to openings is being explored where the fishery will be open and closed in alternating seasons.

**District 15:** The GHL for the 2018/2019 season **will be reduced to 11,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.** District 15 GHL is managed as two separate areas, each with a specific GHL. Since the 2009/2010 season a total GHL of 15,000 pounds has been split between District 15-East and District 15-Remainder, allocating 7,500 pounds to each area. District 15-East is comprised of Chilkoot, Lutak, and Taiya inlets, and District 15-Remainder includes Chilkat Inlet and the remaining waters of District 15. For the 2018/2019 season, **the GHL in District 15-East will be reduced to 3,500 pounds** with Chilkoot and Lutak inlets closed north of the latitude of Seduction Point at 59°04.93' N. latitude. Taiya Inlet will remain open in District 15-East north of the latitude of Taiya Point at 59°17.27' N. latitude. The GHL in District 15-Remainder will be 7,500 pounds for the 2018/2019 season. Landing and catch information will be collected from the fishery and the department may close either area if needed to distribute effort and harvest. The total coonstripe shrimp harvest during the 2017/2018 season in District 15 was 5,530 pounds. For the 2017/2018 season, District 15 was open from October 1 through February 28 and then from May 15 through July 31. The 2018/2019 season is anticipated to have a similar duration.

**District 16:** The district **will be open with a GHL of 15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp** for the 2018/19 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-season 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 is 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, 14, 16 and Tenakee Inlet: 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 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 11-Remainder, Sections 13-A/B, District 14, 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, District 16, and Tenakee Inlet from this requirement.

Section 13-C, District 10, and Tenakee Inlet 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, 8, and 16 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 8, 2018.** 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 separate 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, 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

Districts 6 and 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 District 6. 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 Districts 6 and 7 will be used for the seventh season in 2018.

## 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 2015–2018 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations. In addition, the waters of Tenakee Inlet west of 135°34.5' W. longitude 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 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 Sections 3-B/C

Phone: 225-5195

Contacts: Scott Walker, Justin Breese, or Bo Meredith

### 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: 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 16

Phone: 465-4250

Contacts: Dave Harris or Scott Forbes

### Haines

Fishing Area: District 15

Phone: 766-2830

Contacts: Wyatt Rhea-Fournier or Heather Spore

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

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<i>ADF&amp;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