

SHRIMPING OUT OF VALDEZ

Permit data shows that most shrimp harvest comes from Knowles Bay, Bligh Reef, Columbia Bay, Unakwik Inlet, Glacier Island, and Port Gravina.

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SHRIMPING OUT OF WHITTIER

Permit data shows that most shrimp harvest comes from Port Nellie Juan, Culross Passage, Squaw Bay, Blue Fiord, King's Bay, Port Wells, Bay of Isles, McClure Bay, Derickson Bay, Deep Water Bay, and Cochrane Bay.



BAITING METHODS

Shrimp are scavengers and grazers. A great way to attract them is to use oily bait that will leave a good strong scent trail, such as herring, canned cat food (punch holes in can), tuna fish in oil, and other substances soaked in fish oils, or blended with fish oils.

Be creative and do not limit yourself to one type of bait. But don't forget that there are regulations about using salmon and other sport-caught fish as bait. Check sport fishing regulations under "wasting of fish" and also "bait."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cordova area office: (907) 424-3212

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Southcentral Region Sport Fish Information Center in Anchorage:
(907) 267-2218, or
e-mail: dfg.dsf.infocenter@alaska.gov

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Weekly in-season fishing reports are posted online at:
www.adfg.alaska.gov

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Weekly in-season reports hotline for the Prince William Sound area:
(907) 267-2516.

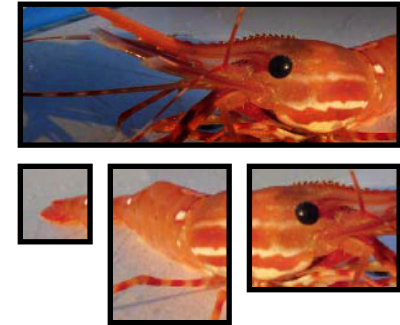
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ADA statement: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADFG=home.ocoostatement>
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SHRIMP

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND



Fishing Methods

Life Cycle

Management



SHRIMP LIFE CYCLE

There are five species of shrimp (*Pandalis* family) found in Alaskan waters: Northern (formally “pink”), Humpy, Sidestripe, Coonstripe, and Spot. Both Northern and Humpy shrimp are usually marketed as cocktail or salad shrimp. Sidestripes are commonly found in deeper water, and Spots tend to be the largest species.

Pandalid shrimp are among the relatively few animals that are hermaphroditic. Most individuals spend the early part of their mature lives as males and then transform into females for the rest of their lifetimes. Females carry from a few hundred to as many as 4,000 eggs. Eggs hatch in the spring, and by mid-summer the shrimp larvae have typically grown enough to settle into their preferred habitat as a juvenile shrimp.

SHRIMPING METHODS

Look for underwater structure, such as rock piles or pinnacles, and places where a rock slide has fallen into the water, and continues underwater for 200 - 300 feet. Areas where glaciers meet the ocean also seem to be good places to drop pots, but be very careful around the calving glaciers, as falling ice is heavier than it looks, and is very dangerous.

Shrimp live at various depths and in various habitats. Spots and Coonstripes are generally found in rock piles, coral gardens, and on debris-covered bottoms.

Northern, Sidestripes and Humpies are usually found on flatter, muddy bottoms. Northern shrimp can be found over the widest depth range (60 - 4,800 feet) while humpies and coonstripes usually are found in shallower waters (18- 1,200 feet). Spot shrimp seem to be caught in greatest concentrations around 360 feet, but range from six to 1,500 feet. Sidestripes are typically found from 150-2,100 feet, but most concentrations occur in waters deeper than 240 feet.

It appears that younger shrimp tend to be found in shallower areas, while older shrimp are in deeper areas. Also, older shrimp seem to be found offshore, while younger shrimp are generally found closer to shore. Most shrimp migrate nightly up and down the water column, and seasonally from deep waters in winter to shallow waters in summer. Northern shrimp, for example, have been observed moving off the bottom in the evening, occupying the whole water column for much of the night, and returning to the bottom in early morning.

Pandalid shrimp are opportunistic bottom feeders that will eat a wide variety of items such as worms, diatoms, detritus (dead organic material), algae, and invertebrates.

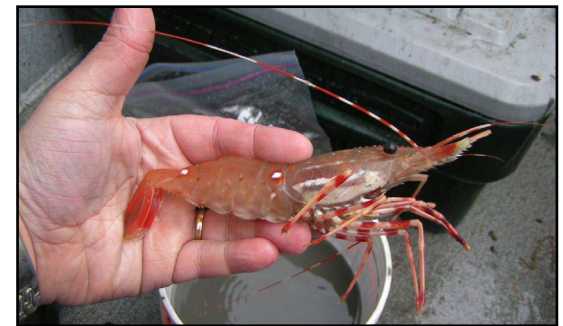
Keep in mind that many areas of Prince William Sound experience strong ocean and tidal currents. Add enough weight and line to keep your pot from breaking away. In order to be successful at shrimping, you may have to have several favorite spots.



(TOP) HUMPY SHRIMP (*P. GONIURUS*)
NORTHERN SHRIMP (*P. BOREALIS*)



COONSTRIPES SHRIMP (*S. HYP SINOTIS*)



SPOT SHRIMP (*P. PLATYCEROS*)

Season: April 15 - Sept. 15

Pots: 5 pots per person; 5 per vessel.

Bag/Possession: Unlimited

There are waters near Valdez that are closed to subsistence fishing. Please check regulations.

Regulations can change by emergency order. Always check for EO's before heading out.