



Those Alaskan residents who choose to participate instead in the subsistence fishery do not need a sport fishing license but are still required to have a permit. All Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp permits are available online through the ADF&G online store www.adfg.alaska.gov/store. All noncommercial permit holders are required to have their permit on them while shrimping. Remember to record when you have pots in the water and record your catch immediately after you harvest shrimp. All permit holders are required to submit their harvest report at the end of the shrimping season, whether they went shrimping or not. Those permit holders that fail to report harvest by October 15 will be denied a permit the following season unless they return harvest information and demonstrate in writing that the failure to report was due to unavoidable circumstances.

There is no annual limit and permit holders can harvest as much shrimp as they will use. By regulation five shrimp pots are allowed in the fishery; however, in recent years the shrimp pot limits have been restricted by a preseason emergency order reducing the number of pots allowed during the season.

Please review the shellfish regulations in the current Southcentral Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary booklet for regulations on buoys, pot construction, pot limits, and more. Don't forget to review the current advisory announcements and emergency orders for the Prince William Sound area prior to going shrimping.

For More Information

Contact the ADF&G Cordova office at (907) 424-3212 or the Anchorage office at (907) 267-2218. Inseason fishing reports are posted online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/fishingreports or call the Prince William Sound area inseason fishing report hotline at (907) 267-2504.

Identifying Your Shrimp Catch

Spot Shrimp



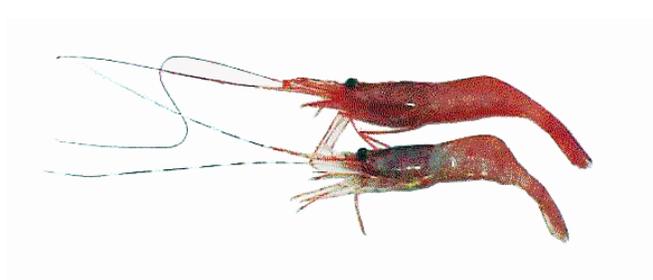
Coonstripe Shrimp



Sidestripe Shrimp



Northern (top) and Humpy (bottom) Shrimp



Prince William Sound Shrimp

Lifecycle Management Fishing Methods

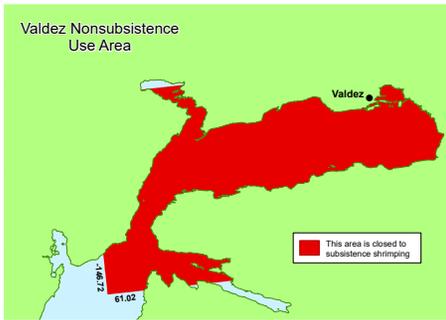


Southcentral Region
Division of Sport Fish
Anchorage, Alaska



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between 60 to 4,800 feet, while humpies and coonstripes can be found in shallower waters between 18 to 1,200 feet. Spot shrimp seem to be caught in the greatest concentrations between 300 to 400 feet, but range between six to 1,500 feet. Sidestripes are typically found between 150 to 2,100 feet, but highest concentrations occur in waters deeper than 240 feet.

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.

Baiting Methods

Pandalus shrimp are opportunistic bottom feeders that will eat a wide variety of items such as worms, diatoms, detritus (dead organic material), algae, and invertebrates. 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 into the top and bottom of the can), canned tuna fish in oil, and other substances soaked in fish oils, or blended with fish oils. Pellets made specifically for shrimp pots are also available and a great option.

Be creative and do not limit yourself to one type of bait. But don't forget that there are regulations that prohibit the use of sport-caught fish as bait. Check 'use of sport-caught fish as bait,' 'bait,' and Prince William Sound general regulations in the current Southcentral Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary booklet. In Prince William Sound pink and chum salmon can be used as bait but must be dead, and are counted towards your bag limit.

Shrimping Management

The Prince William Sound noncommercial (sport and subsistence) shrimp pot fishery open season is from April 15 through September 15 every year. This fishery is open to residents and nonresidents. Every person participating in the sport shrimp pot fishery is required to have a valid sport fishing license and a permit or be listed on another permit.



Shrimp Lifecycle

There are five species of shrimp (*Pandalus* family) found in Alaskan saltwaters 1) northern (formally 'pink'), 2) humpy, 3) sidestripe, 4) coonstripe, and 5) 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 and most commonly caught in Prince William Sound.

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

Shrimping Habitats

Shrimp live at various depths and in various habitats. A good spot to find shrimp is to look for underwater structures, such as rock piles or pinnacles, and places where a rock slide has fallen into the water. Areas where glaciers meet the ocean also seem to be good places to drop pots. Be very careful around calving glaciers, as falling ice is heavier than it looks, and is very dangerous.

Spots and coonstripes are generally found in rock piles, coral gardens, and on debris-covered bottoms. Northerns, sidestripes, and humpies are usually found on flatter and muddy bottoms. Northern shrimp can be found over the widest depth range