

PROPOSAL 245 - 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan. Change harvest allocation guidelines under the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan, as follows:

Revisit the *Spot Shrimp Management Plan*. The plan called for a sport fish allocation of 60% to commercial harvest of 40% after subsistence was taken from the surplus harvest amount.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return the allocation to the sport fishery for spot shrimp in Prince William Sound. Three years ago the Board of Fisheries was misled about the intentions of the proposal which took the allocation away from sport fish. There was no public input to this. There was not a proposal that spoke to taking away an allocation and making a guideline harvest level. The fishery should be on the conservative side of management based on the fact of the failure of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage sustainable shellfish fisheries in Southcentral Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Crawford (HQ-F14-048)

PROPOSAL 246 - 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan. Change harvest strategies under the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan, as follows:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game shall determine harvest strategies so that sport fishers shall harvest 60% of spot shrimp harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Restore sport allocation and tools to achieve allocation in spot shrimp fishery in Prince William Sound. The Board of Fisheries (board) removed the allocation in the last meeting changing it to a guideline harvest level (GHL) using a proposal that was directed toward closing the commercial fishery. This violated board protocol and should be fixed.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Hanes (HQ-F14-044)

PROPOSAL 247 - 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area; 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan; and 5 AAC 77.553. Personal use shrimp fishery. Modify pot limits per person and household, and increase the pot limit from five to 10 shrimp pots per vessel, as follows:

People would save money in gas, and the activity would be considerably safer if we were allowed to take another person with pots to check both households pots on one boat during the same trip out.

Also, a change from 'person' to 'household' would prevent people from abusing the five pot limit by getting five pots for additional family members.

Therefore, I would recommend changing the regulation from 'five pots per person, to five pots per household'. I would also recommend the change from max. five pots per vessel, to max. ten pots per vessel'.

New language:

"Five shrimp pots per household, with a maximum of ten pots per vessel may be used."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently in Prince William Sound you are allowed 'five shrimp pots per person, maximum five per vessel'. Gas prices have increased over the years and it costs a lot more money to take your boat out to check your family's shrimp pots. Also, during times of strong currents and higher winds it is dangerous to check your pots by yourself.

Currently in the southeast you are allowed 'Five shrimp pots per person with a maximum of ten pots per vessel'.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Mott (EF-C14-154)

PROPOSAL 248 - 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area; 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan; and 5 AAC 77.553. Personal use shrimp fishery. Modify reporting requirements for sport and personal use shrimp fishing in the Prince William Sound Area, including monthly reporting, as follows:

Sport and personal use shellfish fisheries in Prince William Sound shall be required to record and log catch results immediately upon harvest, while on the fishing grounds, on a department issued permit and harvest record. In addition, and until the harvest record (permit) is returned to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) at the end of the season by existing regulation, monthly reporting of effort and catch results by statistical area will be submitted to ADF&G for resource management by the permit holder; due by the 1st of each month while a permit is in possession. Timely reporting would allow sound management decisions to be made in season, if necessary, for the health of this fisheries resource.

Proposed administrative code would take the form of the following:

5 AAC 55.055 Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan

(a)

...

(2) a harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.016;

(A) the department shall collect from this record, at a minimum, the harvest date, catch weight, number of pots pulled, and statistical area.

5 AAC 55.022 General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Prince William Sound Area

(b)

...

(5)

(D) only under a permit issued by the department; a harvest recording form under 5 AAC 75.016 is required;

(i) shall be in possession of the permit holder while engaged in harvesting shrimp;

(ii) shall be used to immediately upon harvest, record all required catch information;

(iii) and while a sport or personal use permit is issued, and has not yet been returned to the department, permit harvest information shall be reported to the department monthly, by online or other methods as determined by the department, no later than the 1st of each month during open fishing periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently no reporting required of sport and personal use shrimp fishers in Prince William Sound. Because of this, it is impossible to ensure harvest remains within stated management Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) allocations.

Sport and personal use fishers comprise 60% of the shrimp total allowable harvest for this region; however, reporting how much is harvested is not required. There has been continued growing interest and participation in this fishery by recreational participants, which places increasing pressure on the fishery. The lack of timely and actual catch data can only lead to the speculation of harvest levels or reliance on the inaccurate and incomplete statewide sport fish creel survey, which is not available until long after the season closes by regulation. Harvest reporting by all user groups is essential for the sustainable management of this fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Wilbanks (EF-C14-130)

PROPOSAL 249 - 5 AAC 02.210. Subsistence shrimp fishery. Create a subsistence permit for shrimp in the Prince William Sound management area.

Make available a subsistence permit to Alaska residents. Review the *Spot Shrimp Management Plan*. All Alaskans should be able to harvest under the state subsistence regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *Spot Shrimp Management Plan* talks about a subsistence allocation. This is to be taken out before other allocation issues are decided. There is no subsistence permit offered. How does the Alaska Department of Fish and Game figure out the subsistence part of the allocation? Just a guess?

PROPOSED BY: Wynn Gilbertson (HQ-F14-046)

PROPOSAL 250 - 5 AAC 31.206. Area E registration. Clarify that a person may only register one vessel each season for the Registration Area E shrimp pot fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 31.206 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) A person may register only one vessel to participate in the Registration Area E shrimp pot fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A principal component of the management plan for the Prince William Sound Area E commercial shrimp pot fishery is a vessel pot limit. Registration for this fishery needs to be clearly limited to one vessel per person in order to prevent one person from operating more than one limit of gear. Clarification of this will aid managers, law enforcement, and participants.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-102)

PROPOSAL 251 - 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E. Amend the boundary between shrimp pot fishing areas in Registration Area E, as follows:

5 AAC 31.210(a) is amended to read:

(a) In the waters of the Inside District west of a line from Middle Point at 60° 20.00' N. lat., 147° W. long., north to a point at 60° 40.00' N. lat., 147° W. long., then northeast to the Coast Guard marker light on Goose Island at 60° 42.78' N. lat., 146° 43.63' W. long., to a point on Knowles head at 60° 41.00' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long., shrimp may be taken from April 15 through September 15, as established by emergency order. Fishing in this area will be rotated on a tri-annual basis between the following waters:

(1) the waters north of 60° 40.00' N. lat. [,] and east of 148° W. long.;

(2) the waters south of those waters described in (1) of this section and north **and west of a line from 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 57.70' W. long to 147° W. long.** [OF 60° 25.00' N. LAT.]

(3) the waters south of **60° 30.00' N. lat.** [60° 25.00' N. LAT.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current boundary line between Area 2 ((5 AAC 31.210(a)(2)) and Area 3 (5 AAC 31.210(a)(3)) splits three statistical areas. Moving it north will align the boundary with statistical area boundaries. This will result is a small loss of area to Area 2 and a concurrent gain of area to Area 3. In 2012, the Alaska Board of Fisheries opened additional waters in Area 2 to commercial shrimp pot fishing; the loss of the area proposed will not significantly impact the fishery when it occurs in Area 2.

Conversely, Area 3 has a relatively low abundance of shrimp, and the additional area proposed should positively impact the fishery, when it occurs in Area 3.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-103)

PROPOSAL 252 - 5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E. Add additional waters closed to the taking of shrimp with trawl gear and correct coordinates within the closed waters section, as follows:

5 AAC 31.235(a) is amended to read:

(a) The following waters are closed to the taking of shrimp with trawl gear:

(1) waters enclosed by a line from Point Whitshed to Point Bentinck, a line from Cape Hinchinbrook Light to Seal Rocks Light to Zaikof Point at 60° 18.48' N. lat., 146° 55.10' W. long. [(60° 19.00' N. LAT., 146° 55.00' W. LONG.)], and by a line from a point at 60° 11.00' N. lat., 147° 20.00' W. long. on the northwest side of Montague Island, north to a point at 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 20.00' W. long., then east to a point at 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 00.00' W. long., then northeast to Knowles Head (60° 41.00' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long.);

...

(3) waters of Port Gravina north of a line from Gravina Point at 60° 37.37' N. lat., 147° 15.22' W. long. to Red Head at 60° 40.25' N. lat., 147° 30.22' W. long.;

(4) waters of Port Valdez north of 61° 01.00' N. lat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Port Gravina and Port Valdez are both important Tanner crab habitat. In order to protect the Tanner crab population, these waters should be closed to the taking of shrimp with trawl gear. In addition, precisely defining the coordinates of geographical points is important and has become more common in the regulations. Coordinates that define Zaikof Point in this regulation do not match those in 5 AAC 28.263, which were updated at the December 2011 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting. Accuracy and consistency within regulations will benefit fishery managers, participants, and enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-104)

PROPOSAL 253 - 5 AAC 31.206. Area E registration; and 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E. Change Registration Area E shrimp pot commercial fishery designation from exclusive to superexclusive area and season closing date from September 15 to August 1, as follows:

If there must be a commercial harvest then more restrictive dates need to be implemented. A later opening such as June 15 with a smaller allocation to leave room for miscalculations of subsistence harvest and misrepresentations of population estimates. Return the superexclusive language to the commercial permit. No vessel should be able to participate in this fishery and any other commercial fishery in the state. Close this fishery no later than August 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Restrict commercial spot shrimp harvest. Questionable information on populations. This should not be open to commercial fishing. Sport and commercial gear types are not compatible. Bycatch or the slow escapement of undersize shrimp out of a large number of commercial pots has not been

accounted for. There is still egg bearing shrimp in the early commercial fishery. History shows that this cannot withstand the pressure of the commercial fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Crawford (HQ-F14-049)

PROPOSAL 254 - 5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area

E. Increase the current 25 percent statistical area harvest cap or restriction to 50 percent of the total commercial guideline harvest level (GHL), as follows:

We propose that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) statistical area cap be changed from 25% to 50% of the guideline harvest level (GHL).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently a 25% cap of the commercial GHL which can be caught in any one ADF&G statistical areas. This is regardless of shrimp habitat and populations. Many of the ADF&G statistical areas have little to no shrimp habitat and populations, and the most productive ADF&G statistical areas have shown that they can produce a sustainable catch much greater than the 25% cap allows. This 25% cap has made it so that the commercial fleet cannot utilize their allotted GHL because once forced out of areas that have a lot of good shrimp habitat and therefore populations, they cannot find enough shrimp to keep catching the GHL.

This still allows a very conservative regulatory measure to be on the books, and is more consistent with how shrimp are caught mainly in a very few highly productive habitat rich ADF&G statistical areas in the non-commercial fishery year after year, and it will allow the commercial fishers to fully utilize a sustainable resource.

PROPOSED BY: Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C14-141)

PROPOSAL 255 - 5 AAC 31.226. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area

E. Increase the minimum number of commercial shrimp pots, or require a distance greater than 300 feet between first and last pot, before a buoy must be placed on each end of the longline in Registration Area E, as follows:

31.226

...

(c) Shrimp pots deployed on a longline, including six [FIVE] or more pots or with a distance greater than 300 feet between the first and last pot, must have a buoy attached to each end of the longline...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulation limits the number of shrimp pots fished on one string to four with a buoy and line to the surface on one end. When five or more pots are fished on a string, current regulation requires a second line and buoy attached to the other end. In practice the vast majority of gear in Prince William Sound is

fished in four pot strings. I would like the board to consider increasing the legal limit of pots fished with one line and buoy, from four pots to five.

Fishing five pots per string is often desirable to better anchor your string to reduce gear loss and also to reduce the amount of line and buoys required to deploy your legal compliment of gear, which in a fishery designed and intended for small boats is an issue worthy of consideration. Furthermore, ADF&G always sets the pot limit as a multiple of five which in the very common case of 30 or 50 pots forces you to fish an entire extra string of gear for two pots. Requiring a second line and buoy on a long string of gear makes sense, but not for a string of five pots.

Past arguments against this concept have claimed the second buoy is needed to help see where the gear is set and avoid gear conflicts. However in areas of concentrated effort, the second buoy can easily be confused as a separate string if gear, so the desired goal is not accomplished. Instead of requiring a second buoy when fishing five pots, establishing a maximum distance between the first pot and the last pot on a string of five or less pots would better accomplish the effort to reduce conflict and allow the individual fishermen the advantages listed above. A limitation of 300 feet in string length would insure that any actually longlines would still have two buoys to mark their location and assist in recovery in case of a broken line, as these concerns are legitimate in an actual longline context. Three hundred feet allows for five pots 75 feet apart or for four pots 100 feet apart, but is still approximately half the length of the associated buoy line. This is more than sufficient marking for separation purposes. If the board feels that the length restriction is unnecessary the length restriction could be dropped, and just up the string limit from four to five.

It is important to realize that adding one pot to a string is for most fishermen an increase of 50-80 feet of stringer line in the water, whereas an extra buoy line is an additional 500-700 feet of line depending on depth. It is fairly clear which is a higher risk for entanglement with other gear. In fact, it is likely that an increase from four to five pots on a string and the resulting 20% decrease in buoys and buoy line would actually result in a significant reduction in tangles and gear conflict between boats in the commercial fishery as well as recreational fishermen. Furthermore, the 20% reduction in line would be a significant reduction in both line required and would increase efficiency in actual gear operation a similar amount. The significant benefits of an increase in string limit from four to five pots appear to be offset by virtually no negatives and merits consideration.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person (EF-C14-125)

PROPOSAL 256 - 5 AAC 31.226. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area E. Increase the minimum number of commercial shrimp pots before a buoy must be placed on each end of the longline in Registration Area E, as follows:

Change regulation to: Shrimp pots deployed on a longline with six [FIVE] or more pots must have a buoy attached to both ends of the longline.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Existing commercial shrimp regulations read: Shrimp pots deployed on a long line with five or more pots must have a buoy attached to both sides of the longline. I am asking for that number to be increased to six. Being able to fish a string of five pots with one buoy would reduce the amount of rope and related gear necessary to conduct this fishery. This is intended to be a small boat fishery, making this adjustment would be in line with that intent. In addition, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game always issues pot limits in multiples of five this would be in line with those decisions.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Person (EF-C14-143)

PROPOSAL 257 - 5 AAC 31.245. Reporting requirements for Registration Area E. Amend the reporting requirements for the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Registration Area E, as follows:

(a)

(b) [THE OPERATOR OF A CATCHER-SELLER VESSEL OR A CATCHER-PROCESSOR VESSEL USED TO TAKE SHRIMP IN REGISTRATION AREA E SHALL COMPLETE AN ADF&G FISH TICKET BEFORE ANY SHRIMP ARE REMOVED FROM THE VESSEL.] Before landing shrimp, the operator of a **shrimp pot** [CATCHER-SELLER VESSEL OR CATCHER-PROCESSOR] vessel **operating in Registration Area E** shall contact the Cordova office at a telephone number provided by the department at the time of registration and provide the following information:

- (1) the CFEC permit holder's name;
- (2) the name of the vessel and the ADF&G number of the registered vessel;
- (3) the following information for each ADF&G fish ticket that pertains to that trip:
 - (A) the preprinted fish ticket number, **when available**;
 - (B) the date of landing;
 - (C) the statistical areas fished;
 - (D) the number of pot lifts in each statistical area;
 - (E) the round weight of all shrimp taken by species and statistical area.

(c) Each **trip** [week], the operator of a shrimp pot vessel operating in Registration Area E shall contact, by telephone, the local area office in Cordova **no earlier than 24 hours before fishing** [BEFORE 12:00 NOON WEDNESDAY] at a telephone number provided by the department at the time of registration and provide the following information:

- (1) the CFEC permit holder's name;
- (2) the name of the vessel and the ADF&G license number of the registered vessel;
- (3) the following information for each [ADF&G FISH TICKET THAT PERTAINS TO THAT] trip:
 - (A) the number of **pots intended to be operated from the vessel** [POT LIFTS IN EACH STATISTICAL AREA];
 - (B) the [ROUND WEIGHT OF ALL SHRIMP TAKEN BY SPECIES AND] statistical area **the vessel is intending to fish; and**
 - (C) **the intended length of trip.**

(d) The operator of a catcher-seller vessel or a catcher-processor vessel used to take shrimp in Registration Area E shall complete an ADF&G fish ticket before any shrimp are removed from the vessel.

(e) The commissioner may require additional reporting during periods of high effort.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current reporting requirements specify a Wednesday call-in (5 AAC 31.245(c)) which does not meet the management needs of this fishery: it provides incomplete and not always relevant information. In addition, it is often difficult for participants to comply with. Eliminating the Wednesday call-in requirement and requiring all vessels to contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) prior to fishing will allow accurate estimation of effort and potential catch rates; this will assist the department in making timely management decisions and reduce the reporting burden on participants.

The current reporting requirements also specify that catcher-sellers and catcher-processors call in a landing report to the department upon landing. Some vessels operate as both catcher-sellers and catchers only, occasionally during the same trip; this leads to confusing and incomplete reporting. Requiring all vessel operators to call in a landing report will simplify the regulation and facilitate accurate accounting of harvest and effort.

Adding additional reporting requirements, if necessary, will ensure flexibility within the management plan to address periods of potential high effort.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-105)

PROPOSAL 258 - 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.
Close the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Close the commercial fishery. Open only to state subsistence fishery. At the very least close the commercial fishery, and give a state subsistence priority to this fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prince William Sound (PWS) spot shrimp. This is not a viable fishery in its current state. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is making guesses on population estimates. When we see a dramatic decline it will be too late. When did Kachamak close to sport shrimping? How long does it take for PWS to recover from the last time of overharvest by commercial fisheries? Explain the lack of shrimp in Area 3. The board was told that there were plenty of shrimp there. The ADF&G has no successes in shellfish management in Southcentral Alaska. Be conservative to the management of this fishery. This fishery is a family event to provide for Alaska families. Revisit the management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Crawford (HQ-F14-047)

PROPOSAL 259 - 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.
Close the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Close all commercial spot shrimp fisheries in Prince William Sound

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close all commercial spot shrimp in Prince William Sound (PWS). If current catch reports are accurate every commercial fisher in PWS is losing money. Why are we giving our resources away? Conflict continues between commercial and sport users. Catch per unit effort continues to fall in non-commercial zones due to the fact that more sport fishers are crowded into non-commercial zones to avoid conflict.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Benkert (HQ-F14-043)

PROPOSAL 260 - 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.
Close the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Close the commercial spot shrimp fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Mismanagement of the fragile spot shrimp in PWS. There is history of overharvest by commercial fisheries for spot shrimp in PWS. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has a terrible record for management of shellfish in Southcentral Alaska. This has been a mistake from the beginning. The fishery was fully allocated before the commercial harvest was started. ADF&G told the Board of Fish that they had this in control. Look to the closure of Area 3 to show that they have no idea what is going on with shrimp. The method of counting shrimp has to be suspect. Please do not crash this fishery again. This has been a fun family fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Wynn Gilbertson (HQ-F14-045)
