

In conjunction with the Shrimp Task Force Charge and the Pot Shrimp Management Plan the board finds:

The shrimp populations in Southeast are dynamic and the management regime needs to respond to changes in populations of shrimp by increasing the harvest when populations are high and decreasing harvest when populations decline. Matching the harvest level to the level of the abundance will maximize the fishery, while ensuring the long term viability of the fishery. Data from the commercial spot shrimp fishery including size data and CPUE is an index of the health of the resource. This is currently the most wide spread data available in Southeast. It is unlikely in the current fiscal reality of the State of Alaska that more funds for additional ADF&G independent data collection will be forthcoming.

Industry members have been requesting the Department through the Board of Fish process to collect size data from catcher-processors since at least 2000 Board of Fish meeting, first by board of fish proposals every cycle and then through collaboration on a volunteer logbook program, to a mandatory logbook program in Districts 6 & 7 under an experimental management regime in 2012-2014 through the Shrimp Task Force process.

The Board requests the Department to continue this experimental management regime in Districts 6 & 7 and to implement further refinements as deemed appropriate. The Board understands that three years of data is insufficient to fully adopt this management regime without more data and time. In the meantime the Board of Fish will/may pass at this meeting regulatory language to require mandatory logbooks from catcher-processors in all districts. This additional data from the other districts is necessary for the development of baseline information for those districts; to gain confidence with the information being gathered; and to help inform how this data can be best used within those districts to improve the management of the pot shrimp fishery and to provide for a more responsive management regime.

The Board of Fish acknowledges that while the Department is utilizing experimental management, the pre-determined, pre-season GHF will become a soft target in-season based on data gathered from the mandatory logbooks and the fishery in-season, but will be managed within the overall Guideline Harvest Ranges set for the district under 5AAC 31.115.

The Board of Fish finds that the Department should continue to refine the 2012-2014 experimental in-season management regime in districts 6 & 7 as the Department sees fit, work with the Pot Shrimp Task Force and expand if appropriate. The Board requests to receive a report at the 2018 Board meeting on the results from the experimental inseason management regimes utilized in Districts 6 & 7, the viability of using those types of inseason management regimes in Southeast Alaska, and what additional tools or information that might be necessary.