

Gordon Scott

March 17, 2015 Board of Fisheries

Re: PWS Shrimp Proposals

Chairman Kluberton and Fish Board Members

I have submitted separate comments for proposals 245, 249, and 254
Here are my recommendations for other shrimp proposals

Proposal 246: NEUTRAL

I believe that the Department needs to be able to control the non-commercial fishery with the health of the resource as the primary consideration. This includes being able to open and close the fishery or areas in season with response to resource pointers such as CPUE. There may be other measures that the Department could use.

Proposal 247: OPPOSE

This proposal would potentially double the number of pots fishing for shrimp in the non-commercial fishery, stressing the population, and quite possibly overfishing the GHF by a large percentage.

Proposal 248: SUPPORT

More accurate and more timely reporting in the non-commercial fishery would allow the Department to manage this fishery in-season, and would give the Department much more usable data for overall management of the resource.

Proposal 250: SUPPORT

This would close a loophole that allows a person to circumvent the intent of the commercial fishery management plan by operating more than one vessel.

Proposal 251: SUPPORT

This adjustment does not have any downsides, and improves a few things.

Proposal 253: OPPOSE

This proposes 2 different things. There is no reason to shorten the commercial season, as it is regulated such as to not overfish the GHF.

Changing the designation should not be proposed until AFTER the definitions of are made.

Proposal 255 & 256: SUPPORT

Either or both of these proposals would help to reduce gear loss, and make it easier to fit with gear limits set by the Department.

Proposal 257: SUPPORT with addition of email and/or texting as an acceptable communication.

This will make it easier for fishermen to comply with the reporting requirements, and will allow the Department to manage the fishery better.

Proposals 258, 259, & 260: OPPOSE

There are no biological reasons to close the commercial fishery. The current commercial management plan is very conservative, and reactive to the strength of the resource.

Thank you

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