

PROPOSAL 221

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Amend statistical areas included in the three areas fished triennially on a rotating basis in the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishery, as follows:

I recommend that the current rotating area system in regulation be changed to a system which allows fishermen each year (if we retain the rotation concept) to have a more or less equal chance of catching the allotted GHL.

An example of how this could be done is as follows: This could be regulated by having certain groups of stat areas open each year of the rotation. These stat areas would not have to be contiguous, and should be grouped together (by catch history and other factors) such that each year's group would provide a more or less equal chance of harvesting the GHL.

This would make for a more stable supply of shrimp available for the abundance of people who can not access the fishery resources otherwise, and rely on the commercial fishery as to get their shrimp.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the 3 rotating area system makes it hard to reliably catch an economic number of shrimp in one of the 3 areas. That has curtailed the effort and the catch, such that the GHL has not been utilized or even approached one out every three years. It makes so that fishermen are not likely to be successful and so that the people who rely on commercially caught shrimp are not very likely to be able to get the amount they need, if any.

This current system also increases fishing pressure on an area that has relatively depressed populations of shrimp, thereby slowing the timeline of it becoming more productive.

PROPOSED BY: Gordon Scott

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