

At its January 2018 shellfish & finfish meeting in Sitka, the board found an emergency existed related to the District 13 subsistence shrimp fishery (on January 12). They later passed RC 45 as a board generated proposal which was further amended to set the District 13 spot shrimp bag and possession limit at ten gallons for subsistence and personal use, indicated ten gallons bag limit between subsistence and personal use fisheries is noncumulative, noted the household limit applies to both subsistence and personal use. A free noncommercial (subsistence, personal use, and sport) permit is required to fish for shrimp in the Southeast and Yakutat areas.

RC 45

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of Board Member Jensen.
January 12, 2018

Board Generated Proposal based on Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee petition (RC25).

PROPOSAL XXX - 5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence shrimp fishery, 5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – shellfish, and 5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery. Allow noncommercial harvest of shrimp in Southeast Alaska only under terms of a permit issued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and implement a subsistence and personal use spot shrimp bag and possession limit in District 13, as follows:

5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence shrimp fishery.

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(4) shrimp may only be taken under the authority of a permit issued under 5 AAC 02.015;

(A) only one permit may be issued to a household each year;

(5) in waters of District 13, except the waters of Section 13-C east of the longitude of Point Elizabeth, the bag and possession limit for spot shrimp is five gallons of spot shrimp, whether whole or deheaded.

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5 AAC 47.020. General Provisions.

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(16) shrimp: may be taken from January 1 – December 31 **only under a permit issued by the department; a harvest recording form under 5 AAC 75.016 is required;** bag and possession limit of three pounds or three quarts; no annual limit;

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5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery.

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(7) in the waters of described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A,

(A) spot shrimp may be taken with pots and ring nets [ONLY UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A PERMIT ISSUED UNDER 5 AAC 77.015; ONLY ONE PERMIT MAY BE ISSUED TO A HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR;]

[(B) A PERMIT HOLDER SHALL RECORD HARVEST INFORMATION ON FORMS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT];

[(C)] **(B)** the bag and possession limit for spot shrimp is one gallon of spot shrimp, whether whole or de-headed.

(8) in the waters Section 13-C east of the longitude of Point Elizabeth,

(A) spot shrimp may be taken with pots and ring nets;

(B) the bag and possession limit for spot shrimp is five gallons of spot shrimp, whether whole or deheaded;

(9) shrimp may only be taken under the authority of a permit issued under 5 AAC 77.015.

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department does not currently have reliable, annual estimates of shrimp harvest in the Southeast Alaska subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries. While the magnitude of noncommercial harvest is unknown, these removals are believed to be significant in some portions of Southeast Alaska and accurate annual estimates of noncommercial shrimp harvest will improve the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (department) ability to manage and conserve shrimp stocks in Southeast Alaska. In District 13, department surveys and fishery data indicate that the shrimp population has declined in abundance recently and commercial harvest has been reduced over 60% during the past decade. Implementing a noncommercial bag and possession limit for spot shrimp in District 13 will promote rebuilding of this shrimp stock.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries