

PROPOSAL 81

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 31.126. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31. 141. Logbooks.

Allow commercial shrimp pots in the Southeastern Alaska Area to be pulled only one time per day, as follows:

The solution is to limit the number of times a pot can be picked to once a day by adding a new regulation to 5 AAC 31.124. To be successful, several other regulations would need to change. First, limit the number of buoys each boat may have in the water to 20 in 5 AAC 31.126(c). Second, each set of pots must have a buoy on each end with an identifying set number that will be used in the logbook, also in 5 AAC 31.126(c). Third, the time, latitude and longitude when each set is picked and set should be recorded in a daily logbook in ink, which would be a new regulation in 5 AAC 31.124. This would result in boats fishing longer sets and no more than 10 sets per boat. By boats hauling longer sets and documenting when they haul them, enforcement would be easily accomplished. When considering these regulation changes, also consider: 1) only minor changes would occur to gear; 2) the importance of estimating number of pot lifts in ADF&G's attempt to calculate daily production; 3) reduction in fleet efficiency and prolonging the season length; 4) reduction in the occurrence of stock depletion; 5) the possibility of more hours to work gear daily; 6) reduction of the number of undersize shrimp harvested or disturbed; 7) the only other change that could be made to protect small shrimp is to look at a minimum size for retention.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial pot shrimp fishermen are allowed to pick their pots multiple times a day. This practice adversely affects shrimp stocks and managers ability to accurately assess effort levels. The need for a single daily lift of shrimp gear has been discussed with knowledge that short soaks will yield a larger percentage of small shrimp. This practice hurts the long term health of shrimp stocks. The most often stated objection is that a single pick regulation cannot be enforced. However, the Canadian fishery is proof that it can be done.

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