

PROPOSAL 85

5 AAC 31.111. Shrimp beam trawl fishing seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area A.

Expand current beam trawl shrimp fishery logbook requirement to cover all fishing areas, as follows:

5 AAC 31.111 (a) (3) is amended to read:

(a) In Registration Area A, **a person may fish for shrimp only after contacting the department and obtaining a logbook; the logbook must be completed and attached to the corresponding shrimp fish tickets.** **Shrimp** [SHRIMP] may be taken by beam trawls only as follows:

...

(3) in Districts 3, 5, 9, 11, in District 6, that portion south of a line from Mitchell Point to Point St. John, in District 10, that portion west of the longitude and north of the latitude of the westernmost tip of Cape Fanshaw, and in District 7, except in Eastern Channel west of 132° 06.50' W. long., from May 1 through February 28; [A PERSON MAY FISH FOR SHRIMP ONLY AFTER CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT AND OBTAINING A LOGBOOK; THE LOGBOOK MUST BE COMPLETED AND ATTACHED TO THE CORRESPONDING SHRIMP FISH TICKETS;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Harvest in the southeast shrimp beam trawl fishery most recently peaked in the mid-1990s at approximately three million pounds. Due to a poor market, catch subsequently dropped to less than 100,000 pounds by 2007. In recent seasons catches have been expanding and additional information for management is needed. The current regulations require logbooks in areas with a history of low effort and a majority of trawl shrimp are landed from districts with no logbook requirement, thus only pounds harvested by species is reported. Without the corresponding effort data there is no way to calculate catch per unit effort (CPUE) for the fishery. Without this basic stock health metric the department must manage the fishery based on harvest levels that allowed for fishery expansion over 30 years ago. This proposal would allow department staff to have access to both catch and effort information which would improve management of the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-114)
