

PROPOSAL 183

5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish. and 5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery.

Establish tunnel eye size requirements for ridged mesh shrimp pots in the personal use and sport fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 47.035(k)(1) and 5 AAC 77.660(5)(A) A pot used to take shrimp under this chapter must have no more than four tunnel eye openings; no tunnel eye opening may exceed 15 inches in perimeter; except a rigid hard sided pot may have a tunnel eye opening not to exceed 20 inches in perimeter.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Many commercially available hard sided rigid sport shrimp pots have tunnel eye openings which exceed the 15 inch perimeter requirement. A commonly found shrimp pot has four tunnel eye openings that is rectangular in shape and measures 8 inches wide by 2 inches tall. The rectangular opening has extruder bars which prevent larger fish, crab and starfish from entering the pot.

Looking at the current regulation, a circular tunnel eye opening of 15 inches has a surface area opening of 17.904 square inches. A hard sided rigid mesh tunnel eye opening of 8 inches long by 2 inches high has a surface area opening area of 16 square inches. Even though these rigid mesh pots exceed the current perimeter requirement, they are actually smaller in surface area.

This proposed change in regulation will allow sport fishermen and personal use fishermen to fish with commonly sold rigid hard sided mesh shrimp pots legally in Southeastern Alaska waters. All other pot regulations will remain unchanged.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-091)
