

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Policy #78-35-FB

Relating to Depressed Shrimp Stocks

The Alaska Board of Fisheries recognizes that shrimp stock abundance depends on environmental or oceanographic changes, predation, recruitment, or over-fishing. Fishing may have to be curtailed or closed in areas of historic harvest if a depressed stock condition is identifiable by one or more of the following criteria:

1. a decline in historic harvest levels;
2. a steady decline in fishing performance as exhibited by declining catch per unit effort (CPUE) of the fishing fleet;
3. inability of the fishing fleet to achieve a seasonal guideline harvest level;
4. radical reduction of the area fished by the fleet as the stock abundance becomes reduced and concentrated in a smaller area;
5. decline in stock abundance indices as indicated by resource assessment studies;
6. biological changes in distribution, age class structure, or other biological parameters as a result of environmental or oceanographic changes.

When these conditions exist and a depressed stock is recognized, the Board intends that appropriate seasons and/or guideline harvest levels be implemented consistent with this policy. These procedures will allow for rebuilding of the stock and will include restrictive harvest periods to provide protection for female shrimp during their egg bearing and hatching periods. These measures may include a complete closure of an area until such time that shrimp abundance levels have risen to again allow fishing.

  
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Nick Szabo, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anchorage, Alaska  
VOTE: 7/0