

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SHR-6-13-16

Issued at: Anchorage, Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 15, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
September 15, 2016, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order decreases the number of shrimp pots allowed to harvest shrimp in the Prince William Sound sport fisheries from five pots per person with a maximum of five pots per vessel, to four pots per person with a maximum of four pots per vessel. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 15 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, September 15, 2016.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area. (b)(5)(B) and 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound non-commercial shrimp fishery management plan. (a)(3)(C) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 15 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, September 15, 2016.

5 AAC 55.022 General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

(b)(5)(B) no more than four pots per person, with no more than four pots per vessel, may be used to take shrimp;

5 AAC 55.055 Prince William Sound non-commercial shrimp fishery management plan.

(a)(3)(C) no more than four pots per vessel may be used to take shrimp.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jay Baumer
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Prince William Sound non-commercial management plan (5 AAC 55.055) allocates 60% of the total allowable harvest (TAH) of shrimp in the area, to non-commercial fisheries. This 60% of the TAH represents the guideline harvest levels (GHL) for the non-commercial shrimp fisheries including sport, subsistence, and personal use.

The estimated TAH is 117,653 pounds of spot shrimp for the 2016 season, resulting in a GHL for the non-commercial fisheries of 70,500 pounds. The recent 3-year average of noncommercial shrimp harvest is 89,500 pounds. If effort remains constant as it has in the past 3 years, the non-commercial GHL will likely be exceeded if pot limits remain at five. Therefore, in order to remain with the GHL, it is warranted to limit gear for personal use shrimp fishing in PWS are reduced to four pots per person with no more than four pots per vessel.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.