

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SHR-6-11-17

Issued at: Anchorage, Friday, March 24, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 15, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 15, 2017 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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.

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 (a)(3)(C) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Saturday, April 15 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 15, 2017.

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for 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
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, and subsistence.

During the 2016 season, using only four pots, the non-commercial shrimp fishery harvested an estimated 102,786 pounds of shrimp and exceeded their GHL by 32,193 pounds. From 2012–2015, an average of 3,100 households were issued Prince William Sound shrimp permit. In 2016 a total of 3,592 households received shrimp permits; 2,107 households reported harvesting shrimp, an increase from the 2012-2015 average of 1,869 households.

The 2017 estimated TAH is 167,579 pounds of shrimp, providing the non-commercial fisheries with a GHL of 100,000 lbs. In an effort to keep the non-commercial allowable harvest within its GHL during the 2017 season, a four pot limit is necessary. The non-commercial GHL will likely be exceeded again if pot limits were to return to five pots. To avoid exceeding the GHL, it is warranted to limit gear for shrimp fishing in PWS 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 II Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.