

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SHR-6-05-18

Issued at: Anchorage, Thursday, February 15, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, April 15, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
September 15, 2018 unless superseded by subsequent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 fishery 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 noncommercial 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 (a)(3)(C) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Sunday, April 15, 2018, through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, September 15, 2018.

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 noncommercial 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 noncommercial management plan (5 AAC 55.055) allocates 60% of the total allowable harvest (TAH) of shrimp in the area to noncommercial fisheries. This 60% of the TAH represents the guideline harvest levels (GHL) for the noncommercial shrimp fishery which includes the sport and subsistence fisheries.

During the 2017 season the noncommercial shrimp fishery had a GHL of 100,000 pounds. A total of 3,441 permits were issued and 2,149 of these reported harvesting shrimp. Only four pots per person and vessel were allowed to be fished during the 2017 season. The 2017 noncommercial shrimp fishery harvested an estimated 91,827 pounds of shrimp. From 2010–2016, an average of 3,207 permits have been issued for the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery annually.

The 2018 TAH is 168,017 pounds of shrimp, providing the noncommercial fishery a GHL of 100,800 lbs. (60% of the TAH). To avoid exceeding the GHL, it is warranted to limit gear for the PWS noncommercial shrimp fishery 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.