Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the Section 13-C (Hoonah Sound/Peril Strait) commercial pot shrimp fishery will be closed north and west of a line from 57°35.07’ N. lat., 135°33.57’ W. long., to 57°37.89’ N. lat., 135°28.65’ W. long., beginning at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 2, 2019. The remainder of Section 13-C will remain open until the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) is achieved.

The department recently completed a survey of Section 13-C shrimp biomass and preliminary results indicate a steep decline in the numbers of large class shrimp and a continued lack of small class shrimp within the survey. Catch rates of large size class shrimp are now the third lowest in the history of the fishery; catch rates of small class shrimp remain at the lowest level in the 19 years of the survey. Because of this, restrictive action in the fishery is necessary.

All shrimp pot gear must be removed from the waters closed by this announcement or placed in storage by the time of this closure. Pots may be stored in the waters of Section 13-C, closed by this announcement, until 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 9, 2019. Stored pots must have all doors secured fully open and all bait and bait containers removed.

All commercial shrimp fishermen are required to notify the department within two business days of deploying gear and within two business days after ceasing fishing in a district, or portion of a district, with a GHL. Catcher/Processor and Catcher/Seller vessels must report, weekly, the pounds in whole weight by species of shrimp on board the vessel taken during the open shrimp-fishing period. For further details refer to the News Release dated August 16, 2019.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C2419.