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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Area Subsistence Shrimp Pot Fishery Number of Allowable Pots Reduced to Two Emergency Order 2-SF-E-03-21

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is reducing the maximum number of allowable pots per person and per vessel in the 2021 noncommercial Prince William Sound Area (PWS) shrimp pot fishery from five pots to two pots. The season remains the same and will be open from April 15 through September 15 with no daily or annual bag limits. Noncommercial users include sport and subsistence fishers.

The total allowable harvest level (TAH) of shrimp in PWS in noncommercial and commercial fisheries combined is determined each year using historical harvest and effort, including the most recent season, and the results from an annual ADF&G shrimp pot survey; if the TAH is greater than 110,000 lb, the commercial fishery will open (5 AAC 31.214). As mandated by the PWS Shrimp Management Plan (5 AAC 55.055), the TAH is then allocated between the noncommercial (60%) and commercial (40%) fisheries to generate Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) for each fishery. For 2021, the TAH is 175,000 lb of shrimp with a GHL of 105,000 lb allocated to noncommercial fisheries.

During the 2020 season, the GHL for the noncommercial shrimp fishery was 102,100 lb; the harvest was estimated to be 140,488 lb with a pot limit of three. In order to target the noncommercial GHL for the 2021 season, a two-pot limit is warranted with a similar level of participation anticipated.

In 2021, the commercial fishery will be prosecuted in Area 3, which generally includes the southwest portion of PWS. For more information on the commercial fishery, please refer to AA05-SF-E-21.

PWS sport and subsistence shrimp permits will be available online mid-March. All participants are required to have a permit with them while fishing for shrimp. In addition, all permits are due by October 15, 2021, whether participants fished for shrimp or not. Participants may report their harvest online after they are finished shrimp fishing for the season and must report by the due date. Participants who report online with a valid email address will receive an emailed confirmation when their harvest has been reported.

For additional information about the PWS noncommercial shrimp pot fishery, please contact Jay Baumer in Anchorage at (907) 267-2265 and for subsistence and commercial shrimp pot fisheries, please contact Jan Rumble (907-321-1569) or Elisa Russ (907-399-1721).