

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
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**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: February 22, 2023*

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**Area Shellfish Management Biologist**  
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**Prince William Sound Area**  
**Commercial Shrimp Pot Fishery**  
**Guideline Harvest Level, Registration Deadline, Season Opening Date,**  
**and Survey Results**  
**Emergency Order # 2-SF-E-01-23**

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) commercial shrimp pot fishing season will open at 8:00 a.m. April 15, 2023, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 63,100 lb. The fishery will open only in waters designated as Area 2, as shown on the map in Figure 1.

The first step in the process to participate in the commercial PWS shrimp pot fishery is to obtain a 2023 P09E or P91E interim use permit, which are available from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC), there is a cost associated with these permits. CFEC permit forms are available at [https://cfec.state.ak.us/forms2023/Commercial\\_Fishing\\_Permit\\_Application.pdf](https://cfec.state.ak.us/forms2023/Commercial_Fishing_Permit_Application.pdf) or paper forms at Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices.

The second step in the process, after obtaining the CFEC permit, is to complete an ADF&G PWS shrimp pot fishery vessel registration, this can be done over the phone, email/fax (Homer office 907-235-8191 during regular business hours) or in person. These registrations are available and can be completed in ADF&G offices in Homer, Cordova, Anchorage, and Soldotna.

ADF&G encourages the public to contact Jan Rumble at 907-321-1569 or Homer office at 907-235-8191 with questions about the fishery, especially those who have not participated previously.

**The registration deadline for the PWS shrimp pot fishery is 5:00 p.m. April 3 (April 1 falls on a Saturday).** The number of shrimp pots that may be operated from a vessel registered for the fishery will be announced in early April, after the registration deadline.

ADF&G conducts an annual longline pot survey on spot shrimp in PWS. The results from this survey along with the fishery performance from the commercial and noncommercial fisheries are used in a surplus production model to determine the annual total allowable harvest (TAH). This TAH level must exceed 110,000 lb for a commercial fishery to be prosecuted, which has occurred for the past 14 years, following the adoption of the management plan and reopening of the commercial fishery. The figures in this document indicate the survey location (Figure 2), the average total weight of spot shrimp per pot or catch per unit effort (CPUE) for all sizes of shrimp, CPUE

of shrimp with a carapace length of 32 mm or greater for all areas surveyed (Figure 3), and the CPUE for both of these groups for the three different management areas (1, 2, and 3; Figure 4). Survey results from 2022 indicate lower abundance levels than previous years, including in Area 2 where the commercial fishery will be prosecuted.

Fishery management and other pertinent regulations are found in Chapters 31 and 39 of the **2022-2023 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish** book, available online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial> or at ADF&G offices. Fishery participants should thoroughly review the regulatory requirements for this fishery.

ADF&G will be holding an in-person preseason meeting at 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 12 during the Board of Fisheries meeting at the Egan Civic and Convention Center. Staff will discuss season plans, fishery requirements, survey results, log sheets, and answer questions about the upcoming season.

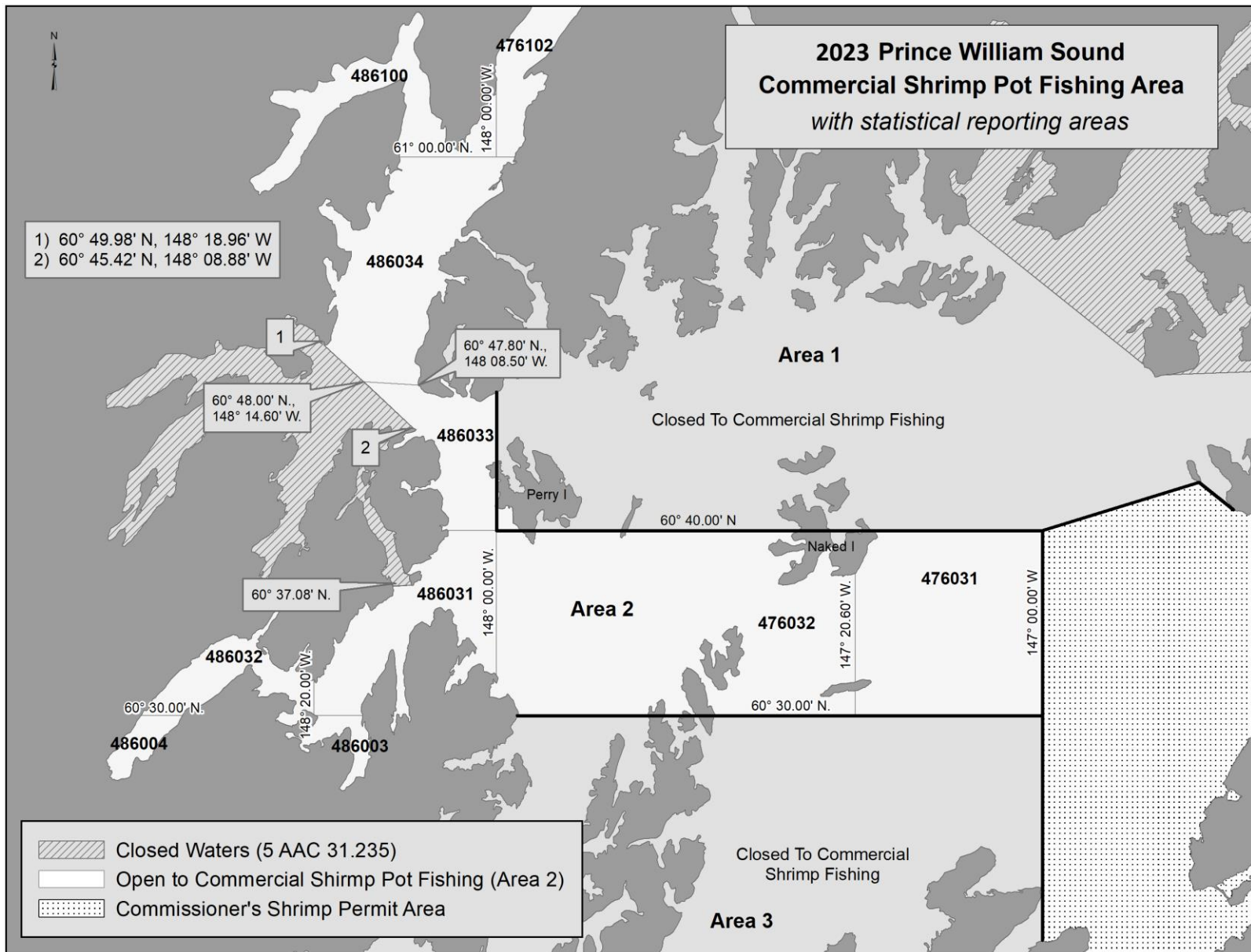


Figure 1.–The 2023 Prince William Sound Area shrimp pot fishery will open in Area 2.

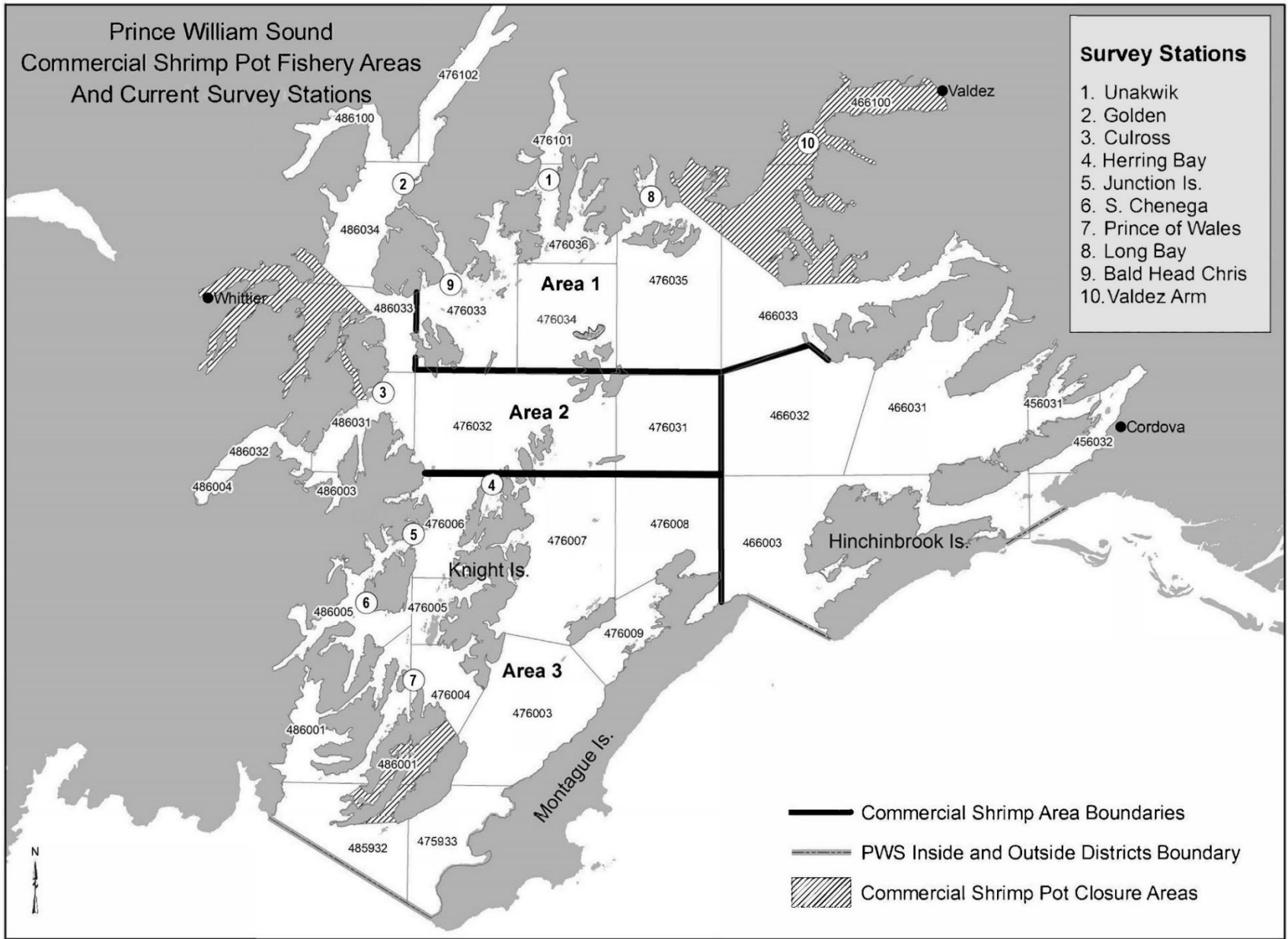


Figure 2.— Shrimp pot survey sites and three commercial management areas in Prince William Sound.

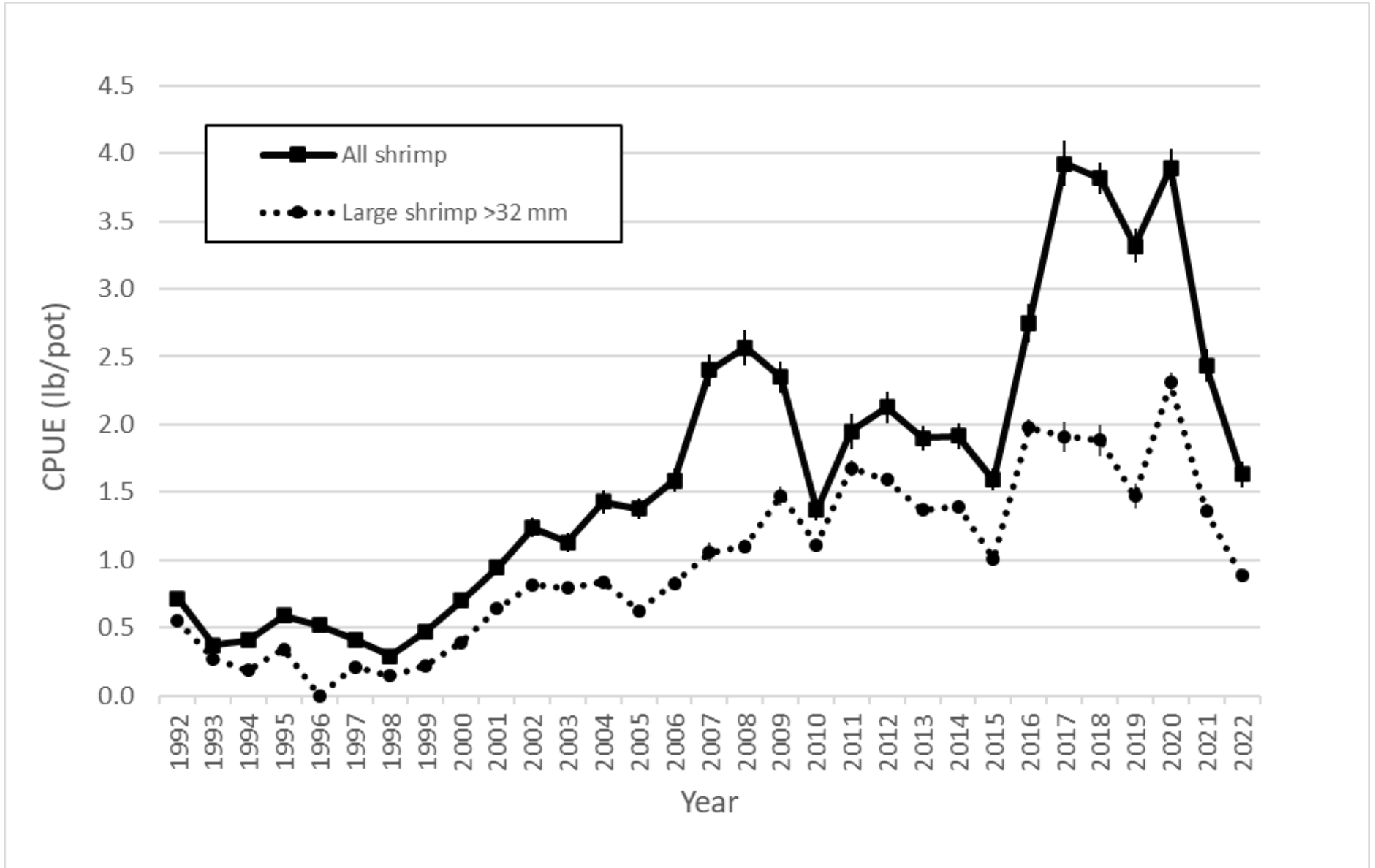


Figure 3.—Prince William Sound spot shrimp survey average catch per unit effort (CPUE) for all spot shrimp and large spot shrimp (equal to or greater than 32 mm in carapace length), 1992–2022.

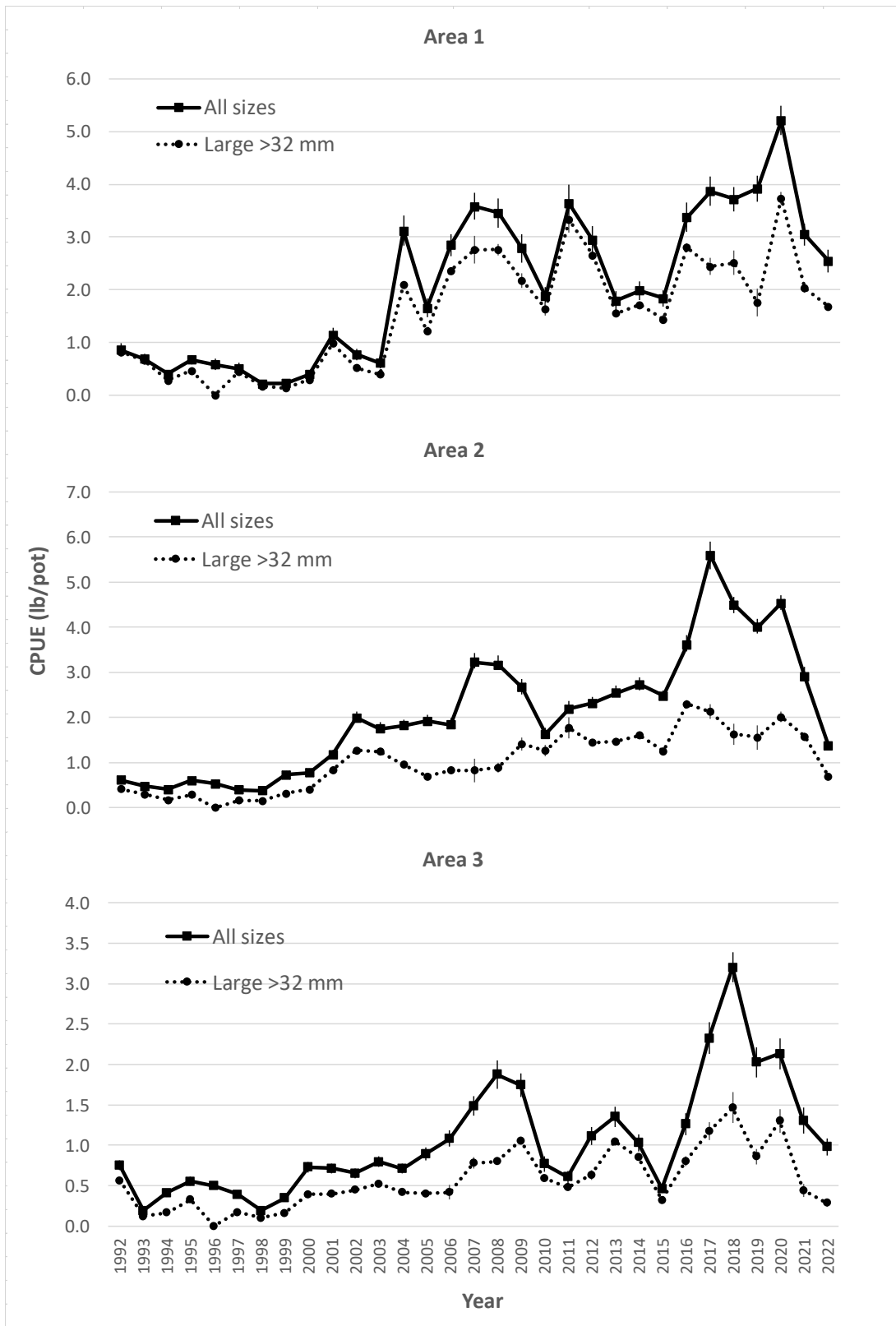


Figure 4.—Prince William Sound spot shrimp survey average catch per unit effort (CPUE) for all spot shrimp and large shrimp (>32 mm carapace length) in three management areas 1, 2, and 3, 1992-2022.