

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: March 7, 2023

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Prince William Sound Area Subsistence Shrimp Pot Fishery Number of Pots Reduced Emergency Order 2-SF-E-04-23

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is reducing the number of pots allowed to be used per person and per vessel in the 2023 Prince William Sound (PWS) noncommercial (sport and subsistence) shrimp pot fishery. This regulatory restriction is effective from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 15 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 15, 2023.

The pot limit per person and per vessel has been reduced to three pots; however, of those three pots only two pots can be set in areas of historically high effort including areas near the Port of Valdez, near the Port of Whittier, and in portions of Port Wells and Culross Passage (see map below). These areas make up the majority of the harvest in PWS and in these areas, pots will be limited to only two pots per person and per vessel. Fishery participants that want to use three pots will have to travel further from the two roadside ports in PWS (Valdez and Whittier; see map below). A map will also be provided with each permit for reference. Additionally, spare pots may be carried onboard a vessel participating in the noncommercial fishery. The noncommercial shrimp pot fishery is allocated 60% of the total allowable harvest (TAH) while the commercial shrimp pot fishery receives 40%. In 2022, with a noncommercial guideline harvest level (GHL) of 100,300 pounds, the pot limit was reduced to two pots near the Port of Valdez and Whittier and three pots for the outer areas for the entire season and the estimated harvest was 84,949 pounds of shrimp. The noncommercial fishery harvest was 15,351 pounds below the GHL. In 2023, the noncommercial GHL is 94,700 pounds of shrimp.

The PWS noncommercial shrimp permits will be available online after March 15th. All fishery participants are required to have a permit with them while participating in the fishery. In addition, all permit harvest reports are due by Friday, October 15, 2023, regardless of whether you fished. Participants may report their harvest online at any time, even if you are not finished for the season. The total season's harvest, by individual set, must be reported by the due date. Please look closely at the permit for additional details about pot limits and areas where only two pots are allowed.

In March 2022, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted the Failure to Report process for the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery recognizing the importance of the harvest reporting for this fishery. If permit holders fail to report their harvest by the October 15 reporting deadline, they could be denied a permit in the following season.

In 2023, the commercial fishery will be prosecuted in Area 2, which includes Port Wells and Port Nellie Juan. For more information on the commercial fishery, please refer to AA01-SF-E-23.

For additional information about the PWS noncommercial shrimp pot fishery, please contact Brittany Blain-Roth in Anchorage at (907) 267-2265 and for subsistence and commercial shrimp pot fisheries, please contact Jan Rumble (907-321-1569) or the Homer office (907-235-8191).

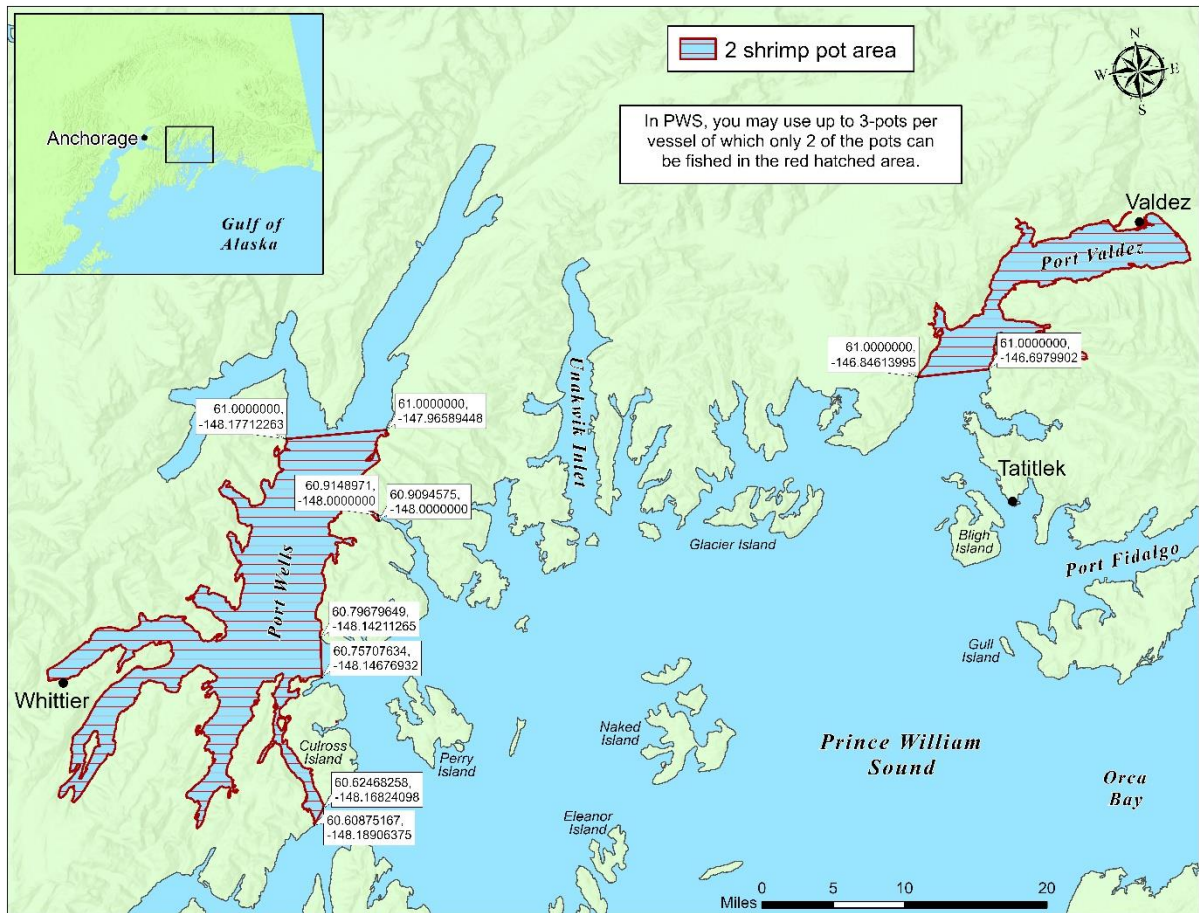


Figure 1. 2023 Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp pot fishery and pot limits.