

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Region I, Petersburg Area Office
PO Box 667
Petersburg, AK 99833



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: April 12, 2023

CONTACT: Troy Thynes
Region I Management Coordinator
troy.thynes@alaska.gov
(907) 772-3801

SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL SHRIMP POT FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

2023/2024 Fishing Season and Fishing Periods

The 2023/2024 shrimp pot fishing season will open at 8:00 a.m., Monday, May 15, 2023, in those shrimp pot fishing areas listed below and will close at 4:00 p.m., Monday, July 31, 2023, unless closed earlier by emergency order (5 AAC 31.110). Areas will close when guideline harvest levels (GHLs) have been reached or are expected to be reached by the time of the closure. Shrimp pot fishing areas where the GHLs have not been reached by July 31, 2023, may be reopened on October 1, 2023, for a fall/winter season. The fall/winter shrimp pot fishing season will close by regulation on February 28, 2024.

The department will issue weekly fishery updates, usually on Thursday afternoons, to update fishers on the progress of the fishery. Advisory announcements stating shrimp pot fishing area closures will be issued separately. Shrimp pot fishers should be aware that fishing time in certain shrimp pot fishing areas may be very limited and may close on short notice, depending on harvest rates and effort levels. Fishers should also be aware that entire shrimp pot fishing areas or portions of those areas may close if the department has conservation concerns. If harvest rates are low or sharply declining as the season progresses, areas may be closed before the GHL has been reached to prevent excessive harvests.

Closures will be announced through the department's advisory announcement system where permit holders are advised to subscribe to an email list or frequently check for advisory announcements, including the closing of shrimp pot fishing areas. Advisory Announcements can be found online at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

There are some areas that will close on short notice and may first be announced by department personnel from the fishing grounds via VHF. In addition, the department may request the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and/or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to announce closures over their marine information broadcast. However, this will not be the case for all shrimp fishing areas and the department cannot guarantee that the closure will be announced via the USCG and NOAA marine information broadcasts.

Operation of shrimp fishing gear may only occur during daily fishing periods from 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. [5 AAC 31.124.(e)(5)]. This means that pots may only be hauled or deployed during this eight-hour period each day.

Shrimp Pot Fishing Areas

Shrimp pot fishing areas with distinct GHLs as indicated in 5 AAC 31.115 *Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A* are comprised of entire districts, sections of a district or multiple districts, or areas within a district. Descriptions of shrimp pot fishing districts and sections can be found in 5 AAC 31.105 *Description of Registration Area A districts and sections*. **Shrimp pot fishing areas that are a portion of a district or section are described in the area specific text below.** General reference maps of commercial shrimp pot fishing areas can be found at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.shellfish#maps>

Waters closed to shrimp pot fishing are included in 5AAC 31.136 *Closed waters in Registration Area A*.

2021/22 season summary and GHLS for the 2023/2024 season in pounds of whole shrimp.

Area	2021/2022 Closure Date	Days Open in 2021/2022	10-year Average Harvest	2021/2022 Harvest	2023/2024 GHL
District 1	Oct 15	15	62,450	53,162	50,000
District 2	Oct 15	15	48,930	33,270	40,000
Section 3-A	Oct 11	11	119,026	139,470	114,000
Sections 3-B/C	Oct 28	28	31,011	17,977	20,000
District 4	July 31	228	17,326	9,940	20,000
District 5	July 31	228	3,900	Confidential	12,000
Sections 6-B/C/D	Oct 8	8	34,004	4,714	15,000
District 7	Oct 10	10	82,560	91,190	74,300
Sections 8-A/10-C	Oct 13	13	9,709	14,424	12,000
Sections 8-B/6-A	Oct 14	14	11,399	14,598	15,000
District 9	Oct 5	5	12,346	11,124	10,000
Sections 10-A/B	Oct 8	8	41,331	51,091	35,000
Sections 11-A/B/C	n/a	n/a	5,756	Closed	4,000
Section 11-D	n/a	n/a	13,700	Closed	Closed
District 12-Tenakee	n/a	n/a	8,765	Closed	Closed
District 12-Remainder	Oct 8	8	7,906	5,686	Closed
Sections 13-A/B	Oct 7	7	16,249	14,457	15,000
Section 13-C	n/a	n/a	23,973	Closed	Closed
District 14	n/a	n/a	7,399	Closed	7,500
District 15-East	Oct 22	22	6,309	5,358	3,500
District 15 Remainder	May 27	41	4,809	Confidential	7,500
District 16	n/a	n/a	10,922	Closed	12,000

Notes on Table: Bold type indicates GHL has changed from the previous season.

The department has completed an annual review of available shrimp stock status information for each area with a distinct GHL and will manage the 2023/2024 season for GHLS identified in the table above. The preseason combined regional GHL for the 2023/2024 season is **466,800 pounds** of whole shrimp.

Management Approach and GHLS for 2023/2024 Season

For a detailed description of GHL determinations for each shrimp pot fishing area, management approach for the 2023/24 season, and general overview of the shrimp pot fishery please review the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) management memo found on the ADF&G website at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.shellfish#management>

Southeast Alaska shrimp pot fishery management practices will be similar to those implemented for the 2021/22 season. Information from preseason surveys will be considered to adjust GHLS and/or fishing areas. If preseason survey information suggests that GHLS should be adjusted, the slow up and fast down approach will be utilized. Increases in GHLS will be a maximum of 45% or up to the upper end of the Guideline Harvest Range (GHR). Decreases in GHL will be a maximum of 45%; if data indicates larger decrements are necessary, the area may be closed for the season. If adjustments are warranted, the adjusted GHL may be announced prior to the start of the season. Inseason adjustments may be made in Districts 1, 2, and 7. **For inseason management to work effectively and to continue to be used or used in more areas, the department needs timely and accurate reporting of harvest on a weekly basis or as otherwise required.** In addition, with annual harvest levels becoming smaller and more difficult to manage within the Juneau Management Area, most areas here will be opened on a staggered 2 to three-year rotational basis to provide some annual opportunity in the area.

District 1: will open with a GHL of 50,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Inseason management adjustments may be used based on fishery performance indicators. Inseason adjustment will not exceed 30% of the base GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the GHL is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance data is below baseline levels and continued harvest may result in a detriment to the overall health of the stock. Inseason adjustments will be based on commercial CPUE and distribution of effort. The recent 10-year average harvest is 62,800 pounds. The 2021/22 season's harvest was 53,200 pounds, and the season closed October 15, 2021. **District 1 is expected to close on or before June 5, 2023.**

District 2: will open with a GHL of 40,000 pounds of spot shrimp. During the 2019/20 season, portions of Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm opened with no preset closure date and this management regime will continue for 2023/24. **The waters of Twelve-Mile Arm will remain closed south of the latitude of Outer Point at 55°31.24' N lat.** Inseason management adjustments may be used based on fishery performance indicators. Inseason adjustment will not exceed 25% of the base GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the GHL is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below baseline levels and continued harvest may result in a detriment to the overall health of the stock. Inseason adjustments will be based on results commercial CPUE and distribution of effort. The recent 10-year average harvest is 44,300 pounds. The 2021/22 season's harvest was 33,300 pounds and the season closed October 8, 2021. **District 2 is expected to close on or before June 5, 2023.**

Section 3-A: will open with a GHL of 114,000 pounds of spot shrimp. The preseason survey has shown stock health in Hetta Inlet remains low; **Hetta Inlet will continue to be closed north of the latitude of Hetta Point at 55°10.40' N lat.** The recent 10-year average harvest is 123,200 pounds. The 2021/22 season's harvest was 139,500 pounds and the season closed October 11, 2021. **Section 3-A is expected to close on or before June 5, 2023.**

Sections 3-B/C: will open with a GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Given the potential impact on harvest and effort in Sections 3-B/C immediately after Section 3-A closes, there may be an announced closure shortly after the closure of Section 3-A to not exceed the GHL. The recent 10-year average harvest is 28,800 pounds. The 2021/22 season's harvest was 18,000 pounds and the season closed October 26, 2021. **Section 3-B/C is expected to close on or before June 15, 2023.**

District 4: will open with a GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp. The recent 10-year average harvest is 15,000 pounds. The district closed February 28, 2022, and reopened for the spring/summer season. The 2021/22 season's harvest was 10,000 pounds and the season closed by regulation on July 31, 2022. **District 4 is expected to close on or before July 31, 2023, and may reopen for the fall season.**

District 5: will open with a GHL of 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp. District 5 closed by regulation on July 31, 2022. The total harvest for the 2021/22 season was confidential. **District 5 is expected to close on or before July 31, 2023, and may reopen for the fall season.**

Sections 6-B/C/D: will open with a fixed season length of 8 days and will close May 22, 2023. However, if inseason harvest reports indicate that additional fishing time is warranted the season may be extended; notice of a fishery extension may occur as late as 6:00 p.m. on May 21, 2023. Fishers in Sections 6-B/C/D should be aware of new reporting requirements listed below. In the 2021/22 season, the district was opened for a fixed season of 8 days, and it was anticipated that harvests might approach 15,000 pounds with average levels of effort. The actual harvest was 4,700 pounds. The season closed October 8, 2021. The recent 10-year average harvest is 34,000 pounds.

District 7: will open with a base GHL of 74,300 pounds of spot shrimp and may be adjusted in season. Inseason adjustment will not exceed 45% of the base GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the GHL is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below baseline levels and continued harvest may result in a detriment to the overall health of the stock. Inseason adjustments have ranged from no increase to a 30% increase. **Fishers in District 7 should be aware of new reporting requirements listed below.** The 10-year average harvest is 79,500 pounds. The 2021/22 season's harvest was 91,200 pounds and the district closed October 10, 2021. Given the unknowns of the spring season, it is difficult to predict a closure date for the district at this time, but if harvest rates are similar to the fall fishery **District 7 may close on or before June 1, 2023.**

Sections 8-A/10-C: will open with a GHL of 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Sections 8-A and 10-C were combined into a new management area adopted by the Board of Fisheries (BOF) in 2018 with a GHR of 0–20,000 pounds. The recent 10-year average harvest is 9,300 pounds. In the 2021/22 season, this area closed October 13, 2021, with a harvest of 14,400 pounds. **Sections 8-A/10-C are expected to close on or before the first week of June 2023.**

Sections 8-B/6-A: will open with a GHL of 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Sections 6-A and 8-B were combined into a new management area adopted by the BOF in 2018 with a GHR of 0–25,000 pounds. The recent 10-year average harvest is 10,800 pounds. In 2021, the area closed October 14 with a harvest of 14,600 pounds. **Sections 8-B/6-A are expected to close on or before the first week of June 2023.**

District 9: will open with a GHL of 10,000 pounds. District 9 will close on May 19, 2023. However, if inseason harvest reports indicate that additional fishing time is warranted to harvest the GHL, the season may be extended; notice of a fishery extension may occur as late as 6:00 p.m. on May 18, 2023. The recent 10-year average harvest is 12,300 pounds. The 2021/22 harvest was 11,100 pounds and the season closed October 5, 2021.

Sections 10-A/B: will open with a GHL of 35,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Sections 10-A and 10-B were combined into a new management area adopted by the BOF in 2018 with a combined GHR of 0–50,000 pounds. The recent 10-year average harvest is 40,200 pounds. The 2021/22 harvest was 51,000 pounds and the area closed October 8, 2021. **Fishers in Sections 10-A/B should be aware of new reporting requirements listed below. Sections 10-A/B are expected to close on or before May 25, 2023.**

Sections 11-A/B/C (District 11-Remainder): will reopen with a GHL of 4,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp. Due to declining trends in commercial CPUE and indications of serial depletion, commercial, personal use, and sport shrimp pot fisheries in **Section 11-A** were closed in 2013 and **will remain closed to rebuild stocks.** Sections 11-A/B/C had a GHL reduced from 7,500 pounds from the 2012/13 season through the 2016/17 season to 4,000 pounds in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons due to declining commercial CPUE and most of the fishing concentrated in a small area that was closed in those last 2 seasons. Sections 11-A/B/C were closed from the 2019/20 through 2021/22 seasons. Sections 11-B/C will reopen, and it is anticipated that Sections 11-A/B/C openings will remain on a multiple-year rotational strategy.

Section 11-D (District 11-Seymour Canal): will remain closed. Results of the third consecutive annual survey that will be conducted here in 2023 will help establish a baseline to inform future management decisions.

District 12 – Tenakee Inlet (12-T): will remain closed. The 2022 survey showed continued decrease of small size class shrimp CPUE and a significant decrease in large size class shrimp CPUE from the 2021 results. Overall CPUE from the 2022 survey is at the lowest level yet and there appears to be a recruitment failure with minimal small size class shrimp observed. The personal use and sport shrimp pot fisheries closed effective March 17, 2023. The survey will monitor the health of the shrimp population and inform future fishing opportunities.

District 12 – Remainder (12-R): will be closed. It is anticipated that 12-R openings will remain on a multiple-year rotational strategy.

Sections 13-A/B: will open with a GHL of 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp. The recent 10-year average harvest is 16,250 pounds. The 2021/22 harvest was 14,500 pounds and the season closed October 7, 2021. **Sections 13-A/B are expected to close on or before May 21, 2023.**

Section 13-C: will remain closed. Due to poor stock health metrics from the survey (especially from an apparent decline in the number of small shrimp), Section 13-C was closed for the 2021/22 season and will remain closed through the 2023/24 season.

District 14: will reopen with a GHL of 7,500 pounds. District 14 openings have been on a two-year rotational strategy since opening in the 2016/17 season after a three-year closure. In the 2020/21 season, overall commercial fishery CPUE improved substantially from the 2018/19 season, and it is anticipated that District 14 will remain in the same alternate year opening cycle.

District 15: Prior to 2022, The *Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 31.145) specified a 0–20,000-pound GHR for coonstripe shrimp for District 15. Traditional core fishing areas (Chilkat, Chilkoot, Lutak, and Taiya Inlets) faced stock health concerns in the mid-2000s. In response, the district was closed for 3 seasons (2006/07–2008/09). The district reopened for the 2009/10 season under a new spatial management strategy that involved managing District 15 as 2 separate areas each with specific management targets. This alternative management strategy was utilized from the 2009/10 season through the 2021/22 season and has supported a more viable and sustainable fishery in District 15. As a result, a proposal was put forth to separate the district into 2 separate fishing areas with distinct GHLs. This management strategy was adopted into regulation at the Alaska BOF meeting in 2022. The new GHRs are 0 to 10,000 pounds for both District-15 East and District 15-Remainder.

District 15-East: will open with a GHL of 3,500 pounds of coonstripe shrimp in Taiya Inlet only. Due to continued stock health concerns, Lutak and Chilkoot Inlets will remain closed through the 2023/24 season. District 15-East will only open in Taiya Inlet north of the latitude of Taiya Point at 59°17.27' N lat. The 10-year average harvest is 6,300 pounds. The 2021/22 harvest was 5,400 pounds and the season closed October 22, 2021. **District 15-East is expected to close on or before June 8, 2023.**

District 15-Remainder: will open with a GHL of 7,500 pounds of coonstripe shrimp. The remainder of District 15 includes all waters of Chilkat Inlet and waters of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of Ayiklutu Point at 59°04.93' N lat, 135°18.48' W long and north of the latitude of Little Island Light at 58°32.41' N lat. The traditional core fishing area occurs in Chilkat Inlet and the 10-year average harvest is 4,800 pounds. The 2021/22 season's harvest is confidential. The 2021/22 season closed by regulation on February 28, 2022, reopened by emergency order for the spring/summer season on May 15, and closed for the season on May 27, 2022. **District 15 is expected to close on or before July 31, 2023.**

District 16: will reopen with a GHL of 12,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp. District 16 had been closed from the 2019/20 season through the 2021/22 season due to declining commercial CPUE in the alternating seasons it was open in 2016/17 and 2018/19. The GHL was reduced by 20% (from 15,000 pounds in 2018/19) and it is anticipated that openings will remain on a multiple-year rotational strategy.

Vessel Registration, Shrimp Pot Identification Tags, and Catcher–Processor Logbook Program

All vessels shrimp pot fishing must be registered with the department prior to fishing. Permit holders can register at any of the Southeast Alaska area offices Monday through Friday during normal working hours. For this season, permit holders may contact area offices to register or unregister via email. During the 2023/2024 season, pot tags will not be required. **Catcher–processor vessels participating in the Southeast Alaska shrimp pot fishery will be required to complete a daily logbook.** Logbooks will be available at Southeast Alaska area offices. Details of the logbook program are described later in this advisory announcement.

Reporting Requirements

All commercial shrimp pot fishers are required to notify the department within 2 days of deploying gear and within 2 business days after ceasing fishing in a district, or portion of a district with a distinct GHL.

Catcher–processors (including direct-marketers) and catcher–sellers are required to report to the department by **noon Wednesday** of each week, unless otherwise indicated. Due to the fishery beginning on Monday, the **first week's reports will be due by noon, Thursday, May 18, 2023.**

At a minimum, **catcher–processors** are required to report **daily** fish ticket information including:

- fishing vessel name;
- permit holder name;
- statistical area(s) fished;
- pots hauled;
- pounds of shrimp by species (whole and/or tails); and
- pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot shrimp.

At a minimum, **catcher–sellers** are required to report fish ticket information including:

- fishing vessel name;
- permit holder name;
- statistical area(s) fished;
- pots hauled; and
- pounds of shrimp by species (whole and/or tails).

In Sections 6-B/C/D, District 7, and Sections 10-A/B, catcher–processors and catcher–sellers will be required to **report catch information to the department each Thursday and Monday.**

Fishers are advised that it would be most efficient to contact the office responsible for each area:

- Districts 1–4: Ketchikan at (907) 225-5195;
- Districts 5–8 and 10: Petersburg at (907) 772-3801;
- Districts 11, 14, and 16: Juneau at (907) 465-4250;
- Districts 9 and 13: Sitka at (907) 747-6688; and
- District 15: Haines at (907) 766-2830.

Reports can also be delivered to the department via email: DFGSEspotshrimpinfo@alaska.gov.

The department is asking all catcher boats (those boats selling directly to a shore-based processor) in District 7 to participate in a voluntary logbook program. Details of the voluntary logbook program will be discussed at the time of registration.

General Fish Ticket Reporting Requirements

All fishers must complete a fish ticket at the time of landing. It is important to include the statistical area information (example: 107-10, lower Ernest Sound) to identify where the harvest occurred. Multiple statistical areas can be entered on a single fish ticket and fishers should account for the harvest from each statistical area. A separate fish ticket is required for each district or fishing area that has a GHL (5 AAC 31.143 [c]).

The shrimp fish ticket has a box in the heading to record the number of pot lifts specific to that ticket. To obtain accurate CPUE information, the department is requiring that information concerning the number of pot lifts is recorded on each fish ticket. The daily number of pots lifted should be written on the top of the fish ticket in the effort box. The effort column in the body of the ticket should be left blank. For example, if 100 pots are fished twice a day, the number of pot lifts should read 200 for that day. All fish tickets must be imprinted with a valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) card and completed at the time of delivery. The department also requests that fishers fill in the number of days actually fished (days gear was in the water) each time they pick their gear.

All shrimp catcher–processors are required to complete a **separate fish ticket for each day fished for each district or portion of a district with a distinct GHL.** Fish tickets must be submitted to the department within 7 days of the closure of a district or portion of a district with a distinct GHL. **Shrimp catcher–processors must contact the department before fishing in a new district/area with a distinct GHL.**

All catcher–sellers shall complete a fish ticket or tickets before any shrimp are removed from the vessel indicating the weight of the shrimp on board by species.

Catcher–Processor Logbook Program

Regulations (5 AAC 31.141 and 5 AAC 31.143[b][1][E]) adopted at the 2015 BOF meeting, require all vessels participating in the Southeast Alaska shrimp pot fishery to complete a daily logbook if they process their catch onboard the vessel (catcher–processor vessels). All catcher–processor vessels will be required to keep logbooks regardless of the product type (whole or tails) they process. Logbooks and instructions will be available at all area offices. Catcher–processors will be required to complete a logbook registration form when registering for the fishery which will include gear information and the size category breakdown used onboard. Daily logbooks will include pounds caught by size category, species, product

type, location, date, and corresponding ticket number. Logbooks will be required to be turned in with the corresponding fish tickets when switching between districts or portions of a district with a distinct GHL, no later than 7 days after a closure.

Octopus Bycatch

A management plan has been adopted [5 AAC 38.150] and **a commissioner's permit is not required to retain and sell octopus bycatch.** The regulation allows for retention of octopus up to 35% of the whole weight of spot shrimp harvested and provides for a maximum harvest level of 35,000 pounds of octopus for Area A. The department will close the fishery to further retention of octopus by emergency order if the maximum level is reached. **All octopus sold or retained for personal use must be recorded on a fish ticket.**

Shrimp Pot Fishing Offshore

Offshore waters are included in Districts 4, 13, and 16; the boundary lines of which are described in 5 AAC 31.105 (d), (m), and (p). The offshore area includes the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United States. The EEZ extends 200 nautical miles offshore from the defined fish districts (Presidential Proclamation 5030). Fishers who wish to fish in offshore waters may do so only if those districts are open. Shrimp harvested in these areas will be part of existing GHLs for those districts. Fishers who wish to fish in these areas must have a Southeast Alaska commercial shrimp pot fishery CFEC permit card.

General Information

The information contained in this advisory announcement is intended as a summary of important regulations. Participants in the Southeast Alaska shrimp pot fishery are reminded to obtain and review a copy of the *2022–2023 Statewide Commercial Fishing Regulation Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish* booklet.

Fishery Management Contacts

For information on the commercial shrimp pot fishery, contact the Area Management Biologists.

Ketchikan

Fishing Areas: Districts 1, 2, and 4; Section 3-A and Sections 3-B/C

Phone: 225-5195

Contacts: Bo Meredith, Justin Breese, or Whitney Crittenden

Petersburg

Fishing Areas: Districts 5 and 7; Sections 6-B/C/D, 8-A/10-C, 8-B/6-A, and 10-A/B

Phone: 772-3801

Contacts: Paul Salomone, Katie Taylor, or Tom Kowalske

Sitka

Fishing Areas: District 9; Sections 13-A/B and 13-C

Phone: 747-6688

Contacts: Aaron Dupuis or Jason Jones

Juneau

Fishing Areas: Districts 14 and 16; Sections 11-A/B/C

Phone: 465-4250

Contacts: Scott Forbes or Ray Vinzant

Haines

Fishing Area: District 15

Phone: 766-2830

Contacts: Nicole Zeiser or Shelby Flemming

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&G</i>	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220