



Advisory Announcement
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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-01-24**

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) commercial shrimp pot fishing season will open at 8:00 a.m. April 15, 2024, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 46,809 lb. The fishery will open only in waters designated as Area 3, 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 2024 P09E or P91E interim use permit, which are available from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). There is a cost associated with these permits with permit forms available at [https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/forms2024/Commercial Fishing Permit Application 1](https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/forms2024/Commercial_Fishing_Permit_Application_1). Paper forms are available at Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices in Homer, Cordova, Anchorage, and Soldotna.

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 at the Homer, Cordova, Anchorage, and Soldotna ADF&G offices.

The registration deadline for the PWS shrimp pot fishery is 5:00 p.m. April 1. 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.

Fishery management and other pertinent regulations are found in Chapters 31 and 39 of the **2023-2024 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 encourages the public to contact commercial fisheries staff at the Homer office via phone at 907-235-8191, or E-mail at martin.schuster@alaska.gov, with questions about the fishery, especially those who have not participated previously.

ADF&G conducts an annual longline pot survey on spot shrimp in PWS. The survey results, along with the harvest from the commercial and noncommercial fisheries are used in a model to determine the annual total allowable harvest (TAH). This TAH must exceed 110,000 lb for a commercial fishery to be prosecuted. The figures in this document indicate survey station locations (Figure 2), the average catch per unit effort (CPUE) for all sizes of shrimp and for shrimp with a carapace length greater than 32mm (Figure 3), and the CPUE for both groups for the three different management areas (Figure 4). Survey results indicate that abundance of spot shrimp in PWS has been decreasing since 2020. This trend is apparent in each of the three management areas.

ADF&G will be holding an in-person preseason meeting at the end of March, with meeting dates to be announced. Staff will discuss potential limited entry for future years, this year's fishery, fishery requirements, survey results, log sheets, and answer questions about the upcoming season.

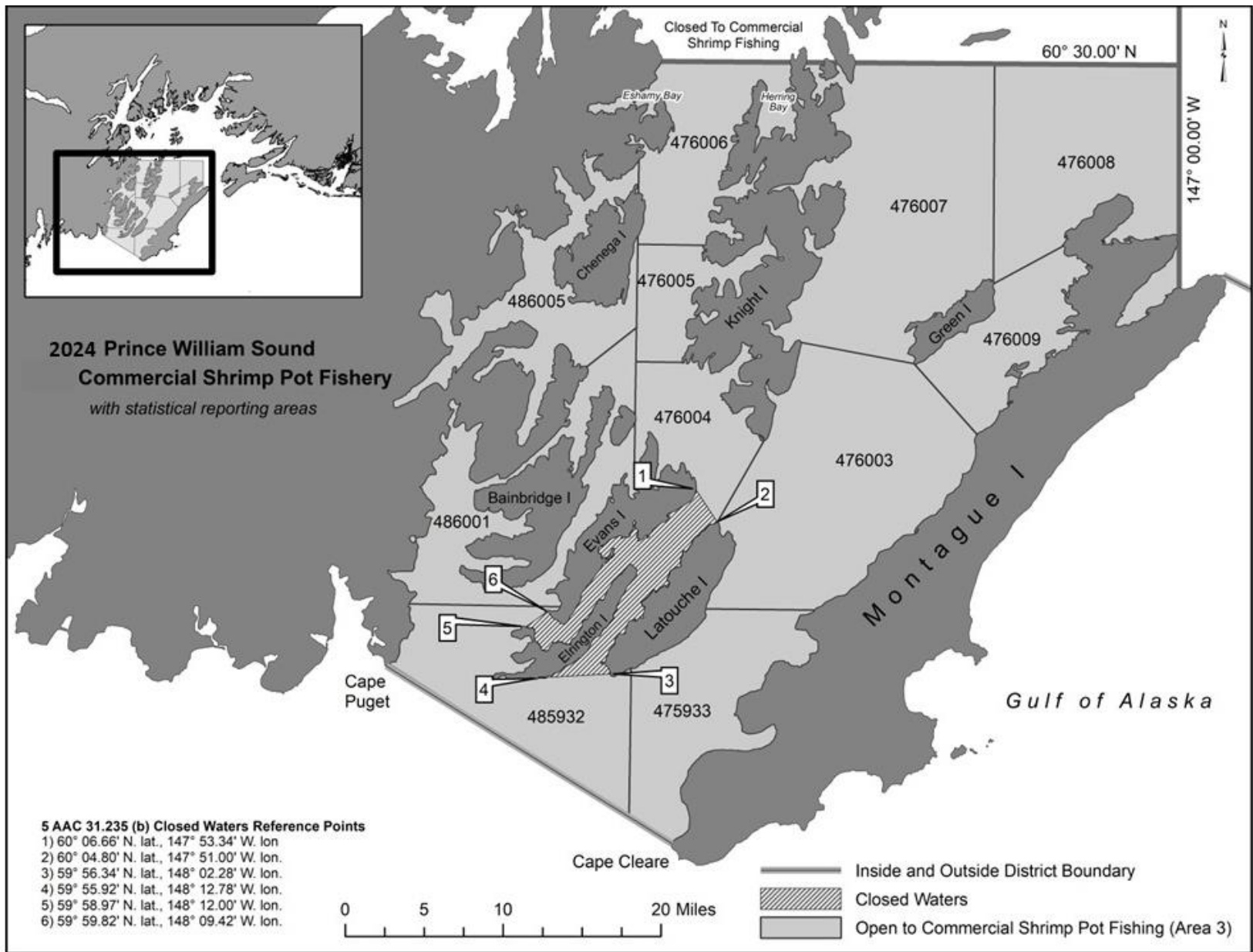


Figure 1.—The 2024 Prince William Sound Area shrimp pot fishery will open in Area 3.

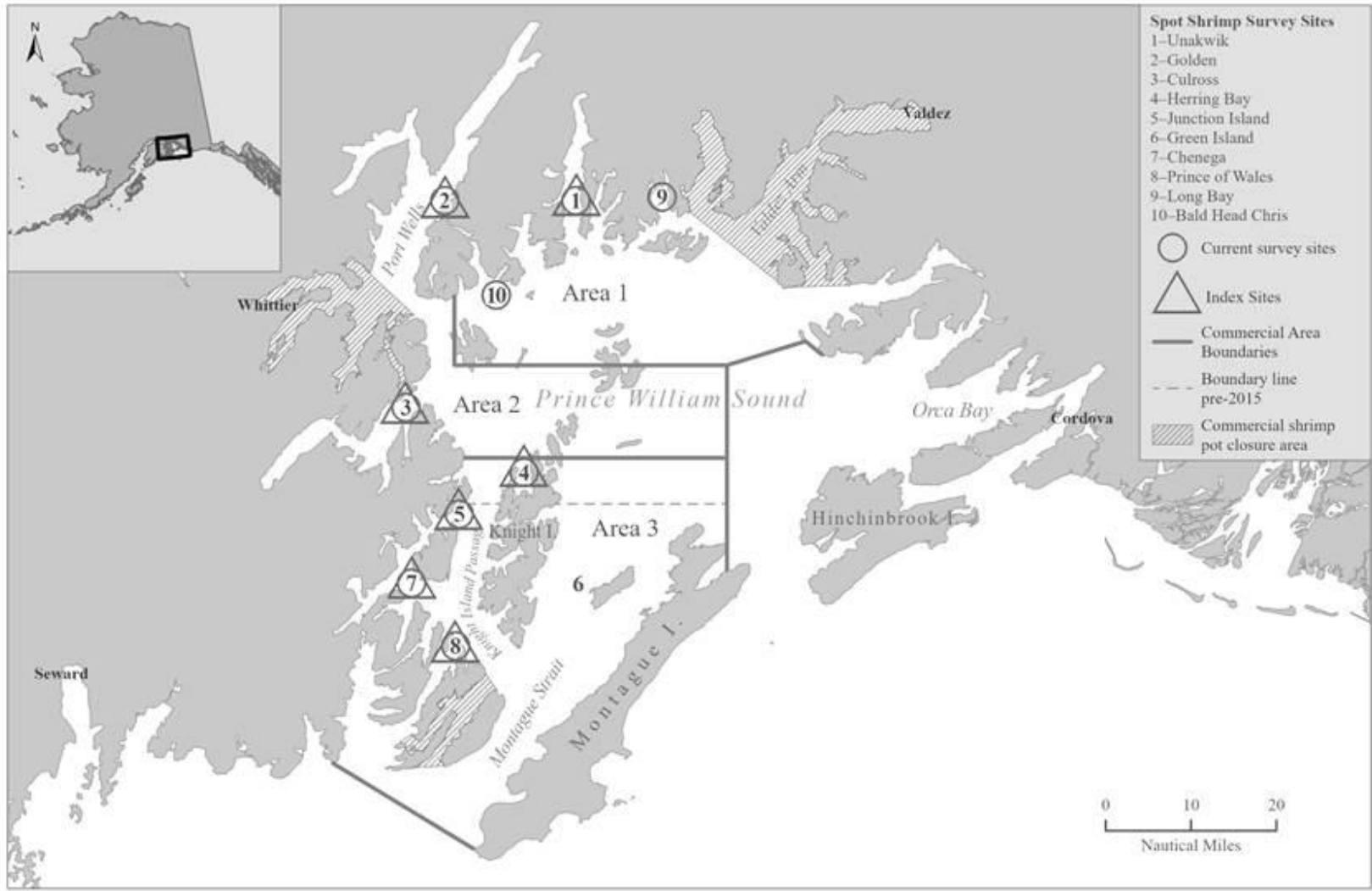


Figure 2.– Shrimp pot survey sites and three commercial management areas in Prince William Sound.

Survey-Wide

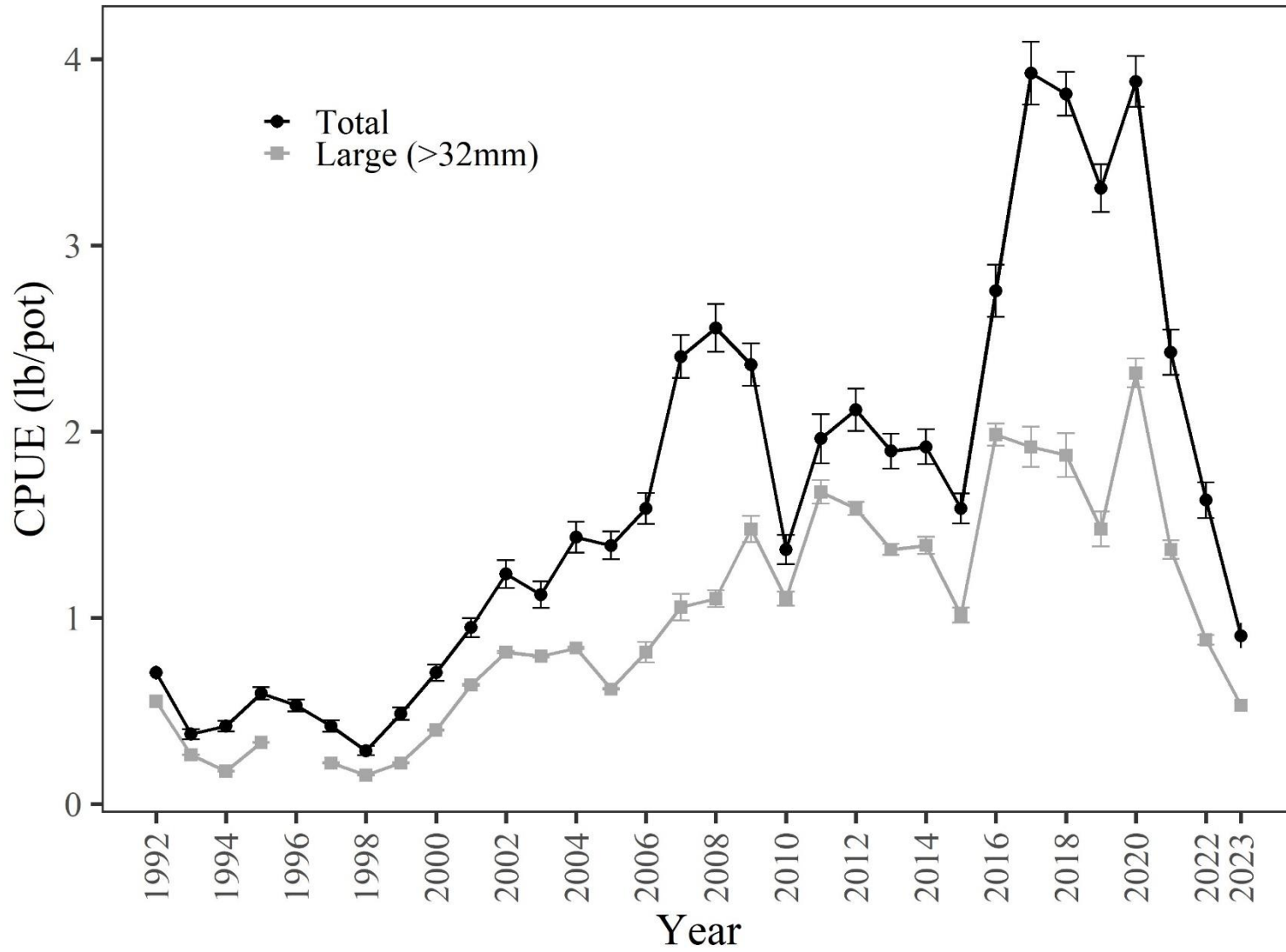


Figure 3.—Prince William Sound spot shrimp survey average catch per unit effort (CPUE) for all spot shrimp and large spot shrimp (equal to or greater than 32 mm in carapace length), 1992–2023.

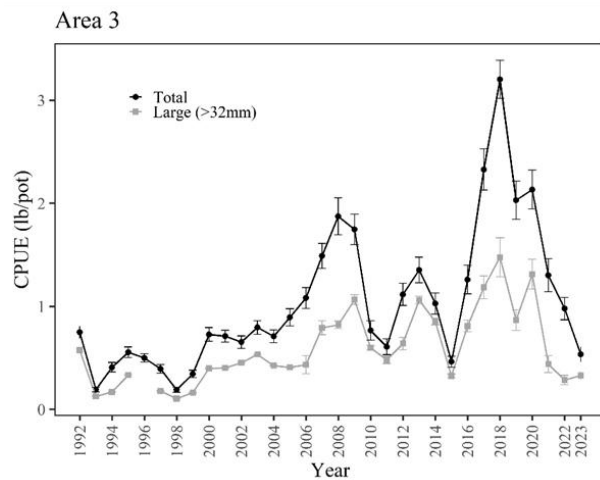
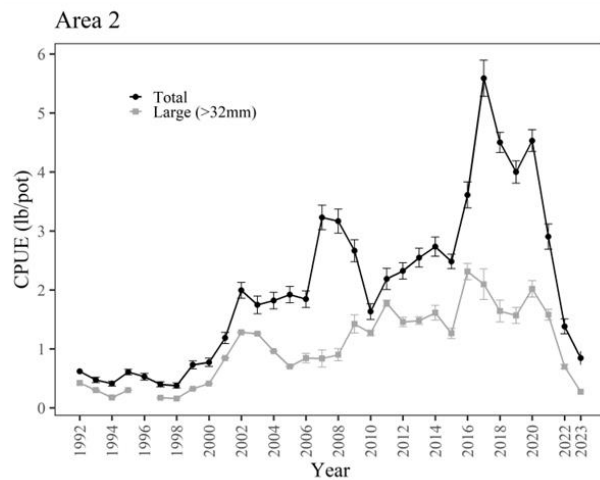
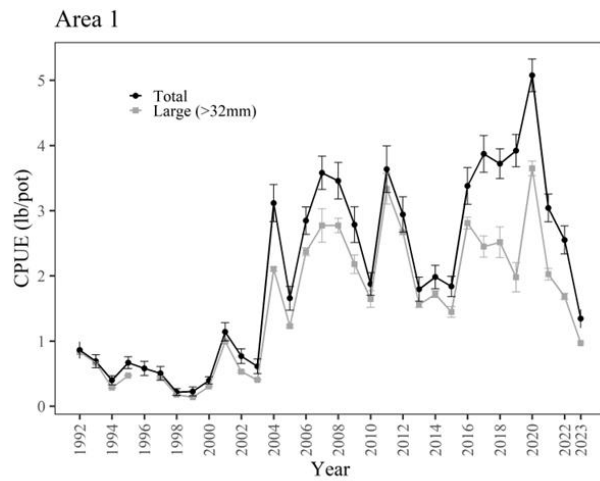


Figure 4.—Prince William Sound spot shrimp survey catch per unit effort (CPUE) for all spot shrimp and large shrimp (>32 mm carapace length) in three management areas 1, 2, and 3, 1992-2023.