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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: April 5, 2024*

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### Prince William Sound Area Shrimp Pot Fishery Emergency Order 2-SF-E-03-24

#### Season, Area, and Gear

Registration for the Prince William Sound (PWS) Area E commercial shrimp pot fishery closed at 5:00 p.m. April 1<sup>st</sup> with 96 vessels registered. The guideline harvest level (GHL) is 46,809 lb. The first PWS commercial shrimp pot fishing period will open at 8:00 a.m. April 15 and close at 8:00 p.m. April 29. Gear limits are initially set at a **maximum of 35 shrimp pots per vessel**. Fishing hours during this initial period are extended by emergency order **from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The announcement of future fishing periods will be dependent upon prompt catch reporting and harvest levels.

The area open to commercial fishing is designated Area 3 and includes waters described in 5 AAC 31.210 (a)(2) (Figure 1). Waters within this area closed to commercial shrimping with pot gear are described in regulation 5 AAC 31.235(b).

Pots may not be stored in the water or deployed prior to the opening of the season. A vessel operator may not have more than the legal limit of pot gear in aggregate, on board the vessel or in the water at any time. Shrimp pots deployed on a longline with six or more pots, must have a buoy attached to each end of the longline (5 AAC 31.226(c)).

After a fishing period or season closure, shrimp pots may be stored in saltwater. However, pots may not be stored for more than seven days, and all bait and bait containers must be removed with pot doors secured fully open (5 AAC 31.052). All shrimp pots must have a biodegradable escape mechanism as described in 5 AAC 39.145.

#### Reporting Requirements

All commercial shrimp pot fishers are reminded of the inseason **reporting and landing requirements** specified on the registration form, in **forms supplied in the registration packet**, and in regulation 5 AAC 31.245. Call the reporting line at **(907) 226-3474**. If you require alternate call in or text arrangements, please contact Martin Schuster at **(501) 288-9818**.

**All participants** must check in to the fishery no earlier than **24 hours prior to fishing** for each trip and report:

- CFEC permit holder name;
- Vessel name and ADF&G number;
- Number of pots intended to be fished;
- Statistical area intended to be fished;

- Intended length of trip.

**All participants** must call the reporting line before landing shrimp and additionally **catcher-processors** must call the reporting line daily. **All participants** must report:

- CFEC permit holder name;
- Vessel name and ADF&G number;
- Statistical areas fished and for each statistical area fished:
  - Number of pots pulled;
  - Harvest in pounds of spot, coonstripe;
  - Specify tail or head weight;
  - Date of landing;
  - Fish ticket number.

If delivering to a tender you must ensure that harvest is called in, each delivery to a tender is a landing.

A vessel used to tender shrimp must register with the department prior to operating in the fishery. **Tenders may not have shrimp gear or equipment onboard and may not be used to fish for shrimp (5 AAC 31.033).**

### **Other Requirements**

All commercially harvested shrimp, whether sold or retained for personal use, must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket (5 AAC 39.130). A vessel operator intending to land shrimp outside of the registration area must contact the department (907-235-8191) prior to departing Registration Area E and specify the amount of shrimp by weight on board the vessel. A vessel registered for the fishery may not have shrimp on board the vessel after 72 hours following the closure of the fishing period or season (5 AAC 31.031).

The department will be managing the fishery inseason to restrict harvest to no more than 50 percent of the GHL from any one statistical area (5 AAC 31.214). Inseason measures may include adjusting pot limits, fishing hours, and/or statistical area closures in order to remain within this limit.

A person or vessel that has registered for the commercial shrimp pot fishery may not participate in sport, personal use, or subsistence fishing for shrimp unless the person ceases commercial fishing and the commercial registration for the vessel is canceled by the department (5 AAC 31.227). Other regulations may apply; the requirements of this section are in addition to the requirements of 5 AAC 31.053. Other pertinent fishery regulations are listed in Chapters 31 and 39 of the **2022-2023 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations** booklet available at department offices in Anchorage, Cordova, and Homer or at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

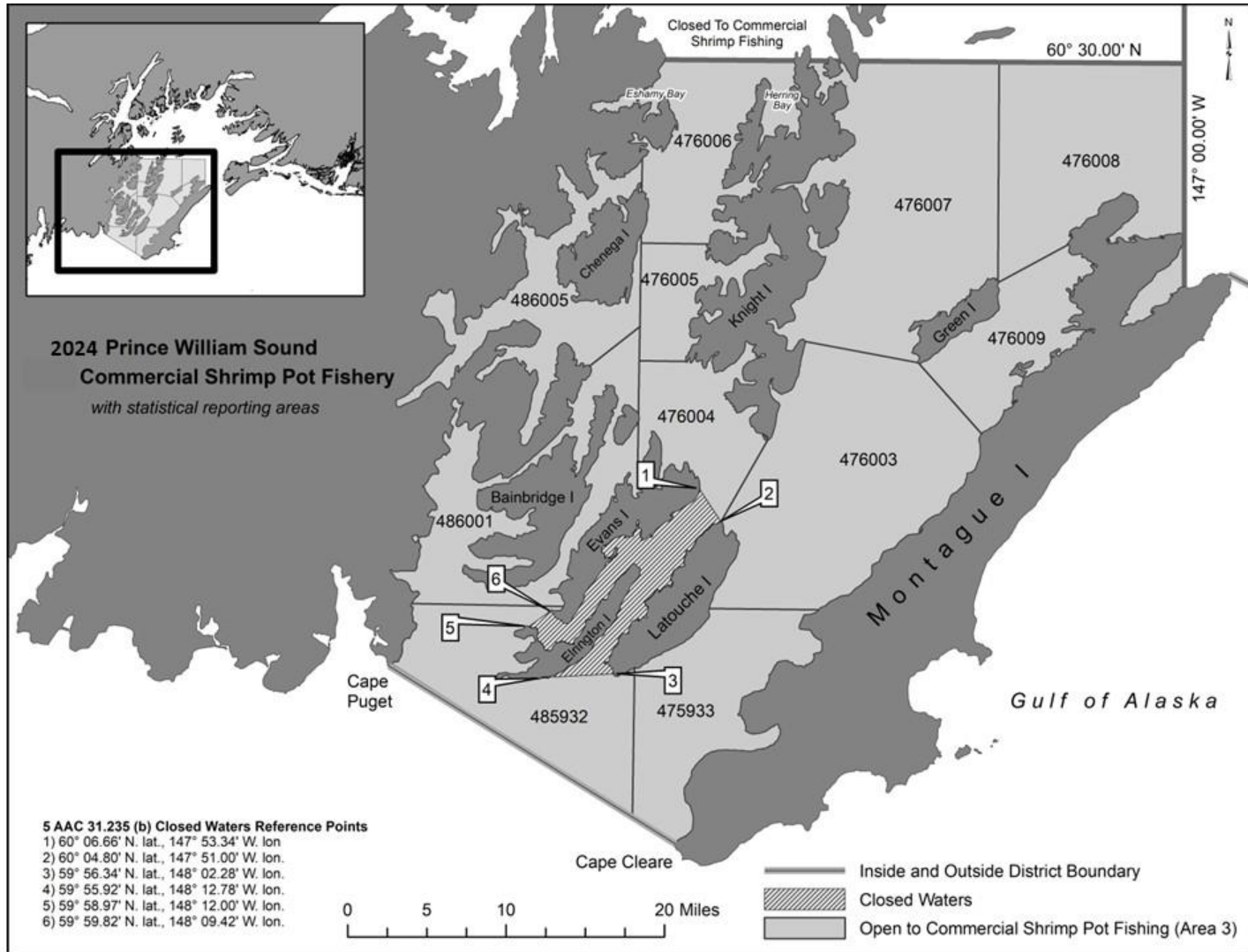


Figure 1.–2024 Prince William Sound Area shrimp pot fishery Area 3.