

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Forrest R. Bowers, Acting Director

Homer Area Office
3298 Douglas Place
Homer, AK 99603



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:
February 26, 2026

CONTACT:

Martin Schuster, Area Management Biologist
Andy Pollak, Asst. Area Management Biologist
(907) 235-8191

Pots and Season Reduced in the Prince William Sound Subsistence Shrimp Pot Fishery Emergency Order # 2-SF-E-02-26

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 2026 Prince William Sound (PWS) noncommercial (sport and subsistence) shrimp pot fishery, as well as the length of the season.

The 2026 season pot limit per person and per vessel has been reduced to two pots and the season has been reduced to May 1–June 8 for all of the Prince William Sound Management Area. The noncommercial shrimp pot fishery is allocated 60% of the total allowable harvest (TAH) limit, while the commercial shrimp pot fishery receives 40%. In 2025, with a noncommercial guideline harvest level (GHL) of 48,388 pounds, the pot limit was reduced to two pots and the season was reduced to May 1–July 31 and the estimated harvest was 54,411 pounds of shrimp. The noncommercial fishery harvest was 5,923 pounds (12%) over the GHL. In 2026, the noncommercial GHL is 29,782 pounds of shrimp (60% of the TAH).

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) met in March 2025 and discussed statewide shellfish, including PWS shrimp. The department presented to the board new information on the surplus production model that estimates the TAH. From the 2026 surplus production model results, the current stock status of Prince William Sound spot shrimp is at 36% of carrying capacity. Based on the triggers set by the BOF in 2025, the commercial shrimp pot fishery is closed for 2026 because the population is below 40% of carrying capacity. For additional information about the commercial shrimp fishery for the PWS area, please see the [commercial fisheries advisory announcements page](#). If the shrimp population were to drop below 20% of carrying capacity in future years, the noncommercial (sport and subsistence) fishery will close.

All fishery participants are required to have a permit with them while shrimping. **The PWS noncommercial shrimp permits will be available online after April 1st and all permit harvest reports are due by June 22, 2026, regardless of whether you went shrimping or not.** Please note, this is a change in the reporting deadline from 30 days to two weeks. Participants may report their harvest online at any time and should note the change in the harvest reporting deadline due to the change in the season length. Also, reporting daily is possible online or on the ADF&G Mobile App and highly encouraged. If shrimpers fail to report their harvest by the reporting deadline, they will be ineligible for a permit in 2027.

For additional information on the PWS subsistence or commercial fishery please contact ADF&G in Homer at 907-235-8191. For additional information on the sport fishery please contact Area Management Biologist Brittany Blain-Roth 907-267-2186 or Assistant Area Management Biologist Donald Arthur at 907-267-2225.

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