

SUBSISTENCE FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF
FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SF-E-01-17

Issued at: Homer, Alaska

Date: March 24, 2017

Effective Date: April 15, 2017

Expiration Date: September 15, 2017

Unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order decreases the number of shrimp pots allowed to harvest shrimp in the Prince William Sound subsistence shrimp fishery from five pots per person with a maximum of five pots per vessel, to four pots per person with a maximum of four pots per vessel. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m. April 15 through 11:59 p.m. September 15, 2017.

REGULATION:

5 AAC 02.210 Subsistence shrimp fishery.

(6) no more than four pots per person, with no more than four pots per vessel, may be used.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By Delegation to: _____

Elisa Russ
PWS and Cook Inlet
Asst. Area Shellfish Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION: The Prince William Sound (PWS) noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan (5 AAC 55.055) allocates 60% of the total allowable harvest (TAH) of shrimp in the area to noncommercial fisheries. This 60% of the TAH represents the guideline harvest level (GHL) for the sport and subsistence shrimp fisheries.

During the 2016 season, using only four pots, the noncommercial shrimp fishery harvested an estimated 102,786 lb of shrimp and exceeded their GHL by 32,193 lb. Between 2012-2015, an annual average of 3,100 households were issued PWS shrimp permits. In 2016, 3,592 households received shrimp permits, a 14% increase; 2,107 households reported harvesting shrimp, an increase from the 2012-2015 annual average of 1,869 households.

The 2017 estimated TAH is 167,579 pounds of shrimp, providing the noncommercial fisheries with a GHL of 100,000 lb. In an effort to keep the noncommercial allowable harvest within its GHL during the 2017 season, a four pot limit is necessary. The noncommercial GHL will likely be exceeded again if pot limits were to return to five pots. To avoid exceeding the GHL, it is warranted to limit gear for shrimp fishing in PWS to four pots per person with no more than four pots per vessel.

DISTRIBUTION: This emergency order was distributed to those individuals and organizations maintained on a list in the ADF&G Homer Area office, 3298 Douglas Place, Homer, Alaska.

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