

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery. Establish a harvest reporting permit for sport and personal use shrimp fisheries in waters of Section 11-A, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(e) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska Area.

(e) In the waters of District 11, as described in 5 AAC 33.200(k),

...

(3) if sport fishing for shrimp in the waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A, a harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.016.

5 AAC 77.660 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery. In the personal use taking of shrimp,

...

(7) in the waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A, shrimp may be taken only under the authority of a permit issued under 5 AAC 77.015; only one permit may be issued to a household each year; a permit holder shall record harvest information on forms provided by the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Due to low shrimp abundance as indicated by declining commercial fishery catch per unit of effort in Section 11-A, the commercial fishery was closed in 2013 to allow the shrimp stock to rebuild. In addition, the department closed the sport and personal use shrimp fisheries in Section 11-A by emergency order on July 1, 2013. There are limited personal use and sport fishery harvest data available for this area; however, creel census data from 2003–2007 indicate that combined sport and personal use fishery harvests were equal to commercial harvests during that time. This proposal seeks to improve effort and harvest information for sport and personal use shrimp fisheries in Section 11-A when these fisheries are reopened.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-099)

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Establish a spawner index management system for the Southeastern Alaska commercial spot shrimp fishery, as follows:

It is requested that the Board renew policy direction to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) respecting introduction of spawner index management, with clear instructions that test fishing be continued, and carried out thoroughly and properly in adherence with such guidance and agreed protocols.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a spawner index management system for the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery.

For the January, 2012 Southeast shellfish meeting I submitted a proposal under this same title (Proposal 171 / page 148 in the 2012 proposal book) stating:

"A spawner index system such as used in British Columbia is generally recognized to offer the best available in-season management and optimal resource utilization. Spawner index uses a defined ratio of males to females in the catch to determine if the fishery in a given area should remain open or be closed. The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) should direct the department to begin moving toward this kind of system in the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery, with a goal of full implementation by the 2015 board cycle. Interim steps could include testing of the system in selected areas."

This proposal resulted in creation of an industry / management committee to address the issue at that board meeting. Good progress was made. Two test areas were identified, and protocols for proceeding were agreed to. The board ratified the effort and provided regulatory flexibility to exceed guideline harvest level's (GHL) in those areas if spawner indexing indicated fishing could continue beyond the established GHL. The Legislature appropriated funds for the project. ADF&G personnel subsequently traveled to British Columbia to consult with their Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada counterparts on implementation of a spawner index. In sum, everything was in place for a successful multi-year test of spawner index management, which offered the long-term prospect for improved inseason management and better economic results for fishermen.

Unfortunately, in key test instances in both the 2012 and 2013 seasons, a local management biologist elected to close the fishery contrary to the spawner index protocols, thereby compromising the science of the test fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Fisk (EF-C14-156)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Establish management direction to modify commercial pot shrimp fishery GHLs based on indicators of shrimp population size determined by CPUE, size data, and geographic distribution, as follows:

5 AAC 31.145 SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA (REGISTRATION AREA A) POT SHRIMP MANAGEMENT PLAN

a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to provide the department with direction for the management of the spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) and coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*) stocks in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska). The department shall manage the spot and coonstripe shrimp stocks for sustained yield according to the principles specified in the management plan under this section.

(b) The department shall manage

(1) all the districts or portions of districts, in Registration Area A based on the harvest of spot shrimp, except that

(A) District 11 shall be managed based on the harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp;
and

- (B) Districts 15 and 16 shall be managed based on the harvest of coonstripe shrimp;
- (2) the spot and coonstripe shrimp fisheries to
 - (A) maintain a number of age classes of shrimp to ensure the long-term viability of those stocks and reduce the dependence on annual recruitment;
 - (B) reduce fishing periods for shrimp stocks during the biologically sensitive periods of the shrimp's life cycle, such as egg hatch, growth, and recruitment, and when shrimp stocks are considered to be poor quality for the market place;
 - (C) reduce mortality of small shrimp of any species;
 - (D) maintain an adequate broodstock for the rebuilding of the shrimp stocks, if rebuilding becomes necessary.

(E) harvest levels will move in relation to indicators of the population size. Indicators of population size include but are not limited to CPUE, size data, geographic distribution of shrimp within an area and survey data if available.

(c) Repealed 5/11/2012.

(d) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open a shrimp fishing season from May 15 through July 31 (summer season) in a district where the guideline harvest range was not reached during the season specified in 5 AAC 31.110 (winter season).

(e) The guideline harvest ranges for spot shrimp are specified in 5 AAC 31.115(1) - (10), and (12) – (14), and are based primarily on the average catch of pot shrimp from the 1990-1991 season through the 1994-1995 season.

(f) Repealed 7/18/2003.

(g) There are no specific guideline harvest ranges for coonstripe shrimp, but the allowable harvest of coonstripe shrimp will be based on the average catch of coonstripe shrimp in each district during the 1995–1996 season through the 1999–2000 season. The provisions of this subsection do not apply in Districts 15 and 16.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the Department management is very slow to respond to changes in the shrimp population by increasing or decreasing harvest. This results in lost economic opportunity to fishermen when populations are increasing and results in damage to the stocks when populations are declining. We believe that there are stock indicators of abundance that could be more effectively used such as but not limited to CPUE, size data, geographic distribution of shrimp within an area and survey data when available.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (EF-C14-139)

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Provide additional commercial pot shrimp fishery management flexibility in specific fishing locales in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.115 Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A. (a) **Except as provided for in 5 AAC 31.145 (h), the** [THE] following are the district guideline harvest ranges for the taking of shrimp by pots in Registration Area A:

- (1) District 1: 0 – 164,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

- (2) District 2: 0 – 120,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (3) District 3:
 - (A) Section 3-A: 0–264,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
 - (B) Sections 3-B and 3-C, combined: 0 – 70,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (4) District 4: 0–28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (5) District 5: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (6) District 6: 0–82,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (7) District 7: 0–104,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (8) District 8: 0–28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (9) District 9: 0–18,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (10) District 10: 0–58,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (11) District 11
 - (A) Sections: 11-A, 11-B, and 11-C, combined: 0–15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp;
 - (B) Section 11-D: 0–30,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (12) District 12:
 - (A) Tenakee Inlet: 0–34,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
 - (B) remainder of District 12: 0–15,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (13) District 13:
 - (A) Sections 13-A and 13-B, combined 0 – 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
 - (B) Section 13-C: 0–50,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (14) District 14: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (15) District 15: 0–20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp;
- (16) District 16: 0–20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.

(b) For the purposes of this section, District 12: Tenakee Inlet includes the waters of District 12 that are west of a line from the easternmost tip of East Point to South Passage Point.

5 AAC 31.145 Southeastern Alaska (Registration Area A) Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

(a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to provide the department with direction for the management of the spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) and coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*) stocks in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska). The department shall manage the spot and coonstripe shrimp stocks for sustained yield according to the principles specified in the management plan under this section.

(b) The department shall manage

(1) all the districts or portions of districts, in Registration Area A based on the harvest of spot shrimp, except that

(A) District 11 shall be managed based on the harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp;
and

(B) Districts 15 and 16 shall be managed based on the harvest of coonstripe shrimp;

(2) the spot and coonstripe shrimp fisheries to

(A) maintain a number of age classes of shrimp to ensure the long-term viability of those stocks and reduce the dependence on annual recruitment;

(B) reduce fishing periods for shrimp stocks during the biologically sensitive periods of the shrimp's life cycle, such as egg hatch, growth, and recruitment, and when shrimp stocks are considered to be poor quality for the market place;

(C) reduce mortality of small shrimp of any species;

(D) maintain an adequate broodstock for the rebuilding of the shrimp stocks, if rebuilding becomes necessary.

(c) Repealed 5/11/2012.

(d) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open a shrimp fishing season from May 15 through July 31 (summer season) in a district where the guideline harvest range was not reached during the season specified in 5 AAC 31.110 (winter season).

(e) The guideline harvest ranges for spot shrimp are specified in 5 AAC 31.115(1) – (10), and (12) – (14), and are based primarily on the average catch of pot shrimp from the 1990–1991 season through the 1994–1995 season.

(f) Repealed 7/18/2003.

(g) There are no specific guideline harvest ranges for coonstripe shrimp, but the allowable harvest of coonstripe shrimp will be based on the average catch of coonstripe shrimp in each district during the 1995–1996 season through the 1999–2000 season. The provisions of this subsection do not apply in Districts 15 and 16.

(h) The department may select areas listed in 5 AAC 31.115 to provide inseason management flexibility with management strategies. The department will continue to manage the pot shrimp fishery in these selected areas as specified in 5 AAC 31.145(b).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current guideline harvest range (GHR) needs to be exempted in areas that are using an experimental harvest strategy. While the board adopted amended language at the 2011 board meeting in RC 29, the language was not implemented into regulation. The language adopted allowed for experimental harvest strategies in consultation with industry and the shrimp task force to be implemented. Industry believes that one of the experimental harvest strategies has promise and would like to expand the strategy into other districts.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (EF-C14-140)

PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections; 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Divide District 1 into three distinct commercial pot shrimp fishing areas, as follows:

District 1 will be divided into three separate shrimp management areas. Area S1 will be all waters of District 1 north and east of a line from Pt. Sykes to Pt. Alava and north and east of a line from Survey Pt. to Camano Pt. Area S2 will be all areas of District 1 south of a line from Camano Pt. to Survey Pt and south of a line from Pt. Alava to Pt. Sykes and north of Foggy Pt, this area will include all waters of George Inlet, Carroll Inlet and Thorne Arm. Area S3 will be all waters of District 1 South and East of Foggy Pt. including all waters of Portland Canal. Each area will be allowed 25,000 pot lifts and will then close.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? District 1 is the largest geographic area used to manage the pot shrimp fishery in Southeast. This area needs to be broken into smaller areas that will allow the department to manage the discrete shrimp populations instead of as one large population. In the recent past this area has closed when some

parts of the area had not had any harvesting take place. The department staff is also quite busy during this time of year and there has been a reluctance to vary the current management strategy to allow access to areas that are unfished or to take advantage of areas of abundance within this district.

Implementing the following management plan will allow the fleet to cover the grounds with each area and catch shrimp if they are available, while not allowing fishing to continue on grounds once they have been already fished.

PROPOSED BY: Brennon Eagle (EF-C14-099)

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 31.143. Reporting requirements for commercial shrimp vessels in Registration Area A. Modify commercial pot shrimp fishery reporting requirements for Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.143 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL SHRIMP VESSELS IN REGISTRATION AREA A. (a) Unless otherwise specified by the department, the owner or operator of a commercial shrimp vessel operating pot gear in Registration Area A shall report by telephone or in person to a local representative of the department within two business days of deploying shrimp gear and two business days after ceasing shrimp fishing in any district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, including the following information:

(1) the pounds in whole weight by species of shrimp on board the vessel taken during the fishing period in any district or portion of a district;

(2) other information requested by the department for the purpose of conserving or developing shrimp resources.

(b) In addition to the reporting requirements specified in (a) of this section, the weekly reporting requirements in Registration Area A for vessels commercial shrimp fishing with pots or beam trawls are as follows:

(1) unless other arrangements have been made with a local representative of the department, each week an owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel, or the owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-seller vessel, operating gear in the waters of Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone or in person, the ADF&G area office in the area where shrimp fishing occurs, before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact:

(A) the permit holder's name;

(B) the name and ADF&G license plate number of the shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel;

(C) the following information regarding ADF&G fish tickets:

(i) ADF&G fish ticket number of each fish ticket used since the last contact;

(ii) date of landing on each fish ticket;

(iii) district and statistical area on each fish ticket;

(iv) the number of pot lifts on each fish ticket; (v) days that pots soaked on each fish ticket;

(vi) weight of spot and coon shrimp per fish ticket specifying whether whole or tail weight;

(vii) the size mix of the shrimp that were sorted for sale

(D) date of last delivery;

(E) any other information the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department has identified not having the size information from the pot shrimp fishery in managing the fishery as a problem. The industry has submitted proposals in the past to require reporting of shrimp size mix previously. The department has opposed those proposals previously but when industry suggests ways to manage the fishery differently, we are told they don't have the information to implement the possible strategies. A volunteer program between the department and industry has existed for a while to provide the size mix of shrimp that was sorted for sale and allowed for an experimental management strategy to be implemented in District 7 for the last three years.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (EF-C14-138)

PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.
Standardize, limit, and reduce commercial shrimp pot gear in Registration Area A, as follows:

Limit shrimp pot gear as follows:

1. Small pots:
 - a. Reduce the maximum limit of small pots from 140 to 100 per license;
 - b. Limit each string to be comprised of five pots only;
 - c. Pots must be 15 fathoms apart on a string.
2. Large pots:
 - a. Reduce the maximum limit of large pots from 100 to 75 per license;
 - b. Limit each string to be comprised of three pots only;
 - c. Pots must be 20 fathoms apart on a string.
3. In addition to the pot limits described above, single-pot deployment would not be allowed.
4. Gear would be limited to one pull per day, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Standardization and reduction of shrimp pot gear.

Currently the pot shrimp fishery is much like a derby style fishery, with most districts open less than one month in order to prevent overfishing. This proposal would provide better control by managers and allow longer openings. Managers would be able to more accurately determine how much linear coverage is being fished in a district at any time.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund (HQ-F14-014)

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 31.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A. Clarify use of other gear during a commercial shrimp season in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.128(b) is amended to read:

(b) In an area open to fishing for shrimp, a vessel operator may not operate more than the number of pots specified in 5 AAC 31.124(e), including [BOTH] commercial shrimp pots and any type of sport, personal use, or subsistence pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident commercial shrimp fishermen fishing in areas with a positive customary and traditional use finding are restricted to the number of pots specified in 5 AAC 31.124(e) when setting subsistence shrimp pots while concurrently commercial shrimp fishing, but are not similarly restricted in setting sport or personal use shrimp pots. 5 AAC 31.124(e) restricts the number of shrimp pots that may be set for commercial and subsistence uses, in aggregate, to 140 small pots or 100 large pots. In consideration of subsistence priority and regulatory consistency, sport and personal use shrimp pots should be added to the regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-100)

PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Revise the Southeastern Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan to include an April to October commercial fishery, regionwide, for non-spot shrimp, as follows:

Actual regulatory language and the enforcement and management measures for the fishery should be worked out with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) and members representing the fishery. I highly recommend a summer fishery however; as it generally dodges some reproductive cycles and market conditions are better.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Revise the Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan to include an April to October fishery, region wide, for non-spot prawn shrimp. This would include, but not be limited to coonstripe, humpback and pink shrimp. Spot shrimp are a small percentage of the top grade shrimp available to and easily caught by pots in Southeast Alaska. Pots catch smaller quantities of larger sized and higher quality shrimp than trawlers working on the same species. The current spot prawn seasons are very short and occur during winter, leaving fishers to do clean-ups or put the gear away for 10 months. The extra fishing time on other species should, eventually, markedly increase the value of this fishery. Pot fishermen can easily and cleanly target these other species, even in close proximity to large numbers of spot prawns. Detailed log books along with weekly reporting, or call-ins, facilitate enforcement and provide data to assist management. This fishery has the potential to take pressure off the summer Dungeness crab season also, among other benefits.

PROPOSED BY: Stephen N. Farler (EF-C14-018)

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 31.161. Shrimp trawl fishing seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area D; 5 AAC 31.166. Shrimp trawl guideline harvest range for Registration Area D; and 5 AAC 31.170. Lawful gear for Registration Area D. Remove otter trawl as legal trawl gear in commercial shrimp trawl fishery in Registration Area D, as follows:

Recommend that the original shrimp trawl regulation be reenacted but excluding the otter trawl fishery as an acceptable gear type.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open the Yakutat area to the shrimp beam trawl commercial fishery. We emphasize that this opening be for beam trawl fishery only. This fishery has shown a minimal impact on all non-targeted marine species. By freezing on board the fishing vessel and possibly storing in on land facilities, we feel the shrimp beam trawl fishery will have a positive socioeconomic impact on the Yakutat area.

PROPOSED BY: Paul D. Prevatt and Jess Sims (HQ-F14-058)

PROPOSAL 103 - 5 AAC 31.125. Lawful shrimp trawl gear for Registration Area A. Establish maximum vessel length for beam trawl shrimp fishery in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.005 REGISTRATION AREAS ESTABLISHED; REGISTRATION OF VESSELS should be revised as follows:

- (a) unchanged
- (b) unchanged

(c) The maximum allowable length of commercial shrimp trawl vessels in Registration Area A shall not exceed 65 feet length overall, provided that vessels that exceed that length and have been duly registered to trawl for shrimp in Area A in at least three years since 2000 may continue to be registered for the fishery. Any replacement of such a vessel shall comply with the 65 foot length limitation. This length limitation shall not apply to floating processors as defined in 5 AAC 39.130 (k) (9) or tenders for shrimp as defined in 5 AAC 31.033.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish size limit on vessels in Southeast Alaska Beam Trawl Shrimp Fishery

There is currently no size limit on vessels that can be employed in the Southeast Alaska Beam Trawl Shrimp Fishery. However, the board has acted indirectly in the past to effectively limit the size and type of vessel that could be employed. When it prohibited the use of otter trawls in 1997, making beam trawls the only permissible gear; the board's goal was to prevent the introduction of large, factory-type vessels typical in other areas. The concern was that such large vessels constituted a threat to sustainable management of the fishery and to the economic stability of a long-established small boat fishery. Otter trawls were viewed as synonymous with such large vessels. Hence, banning otter trawls was seen as a way to prevent large vessels entering and over-capitalizing the fishery. Also cited were concerns about environmental

impacts, particularly with bycatch. The small-scale and slow towing speeds of traditional Southeast Alaska beam trawl gear were seen as relatively environmentally benign.

However, all beam trawling is not inherently small-scale and environmentally friendly. Large beam trawlers are used extensively in the North Sea. Powerful vessels in excess of 100 feet, with 1,000 to 3,000 horsepower, tow very heavy gear at speeds of six to seven knots. Nothing in current regulation prevents introduction of similar large-scale, potentially very destructive technology in the Southeast Alaska Shrimp Trawl Fishery.

Large vessels are not required for successful prosecution and re-development of the Southeast Alaska Shrimp Fishery, including development of significant onboard value adding capability. This has been demonstrated by smaller vessels already in the fishery. (For example, one vessel, owned and operated out of Wrangell has been a very successful and consistent producer, doing top quality, carefully graded, frozen at sea shrimp for many years.) The State of Alaska has a 65' limit for small-scale catcher processor vessels under Department of Environment Conservation (DEC) Direct Market Vessel License. It is proposed that 65' be established as the maximum length overall (LOA) for shrimp beam trawl vessels in Area A, using the same measurement rules applied to salmon seine vessels. There are some beam trawlers that currently exceed this length, but most are smaller. It is suggested that those that exceed 65' be "grandfathered in" if they have been in the fleet for some time.

Failure to institute a reasonable vessel size limit leaves the door open to possible introduction of much larger vessels as interest in the fishery renews. This could lead to a classic over-capitalization "arms race" in which existing, small-scale Alaskan shrimp fishermen would be at a severe disadvantage. Individual fishermen and the regional economy could suffer. Instituting the proposed vessel size limit would put reasonable development sideboards in place to complement and protect limited entry rules and conservative biological management already in place.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Fisk (EF-C14-144)

PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 31.125. Lawful shrimp trawl gear for Registration Area A.
Modify beam trawl gear specifications for Registration Area A, as follows:

Draft new regulation language:

5 AAC 31.125 LAWFUL SHRIMP TRAWL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA A.

(a) unchanged

(b) unchanged

(c) The maximum size of beam that may be employed may not exceed 60 feet in length. Multiple trawls may be used provided that the aggregate length of all beams employed shall not exceed 60 feet in total length.

(d) The maximum weight of the beam trawl gear employed shall not exceed 3,000 pounds, not including nets and towing warps. Those items to be included in calculation of this weight limit are the beam itself, D-rings, staves or other devices providing vertical opening, shoes or

other bottom contact devices, braces, bridles and connecting hardware, footrope and roller gear, and any weights, including chain, attached to or suspended from the foregoing gear and / or the towing warp. Multiple trawls may be used provided the aggregate weight of all beams as described above shall not exceed 3,000 pounds in total weight.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Limit total beam length, regulate total beam weight, eliminate single net requirement.

5 AAC 31.125 Lawful shrimp trawl gear for Registration Area A, subsection (c) states “a registered shrimp vessel may not have at any time more than two trawl nets on board the vessel. However, only one trawl may be in the water at any time.” Other than the mesh size restrictions provided in sub-section (b), this is the only regulation defining beam trawl gear in the Southeast Alaska beam trawl shrimp fishery. The purpose of the existing regulation is to limit the amount of gear that can be fished, thereby limiting the catching power of vessels — the idea being to both slow down the pace of the fishery and level the playing field amongst the various participating vessels.

The vessels that have traditionally participated in the Southeast Alaska beam trawl fishery have been limited in practical terms to beams of about 60' in length. Above this size the rigs simply become too ponderous to handle safely or efficiently. Moreover, design of the gear and traditional rigging resulted in gear that was most effective only at rather slow towing speeds of 1 to 1.5 knots per hour. The net result of traditional practice and the “only one trawl in the water at any time” regulation has been to place a reasonable catching power limitation on vessels in the beam trawl shrimp fishery. Further, the slow towing speeds of traditional gear had a positive environmental effect of limiting bycatch and bottom disturbance. Species like halibut and salmon can easily avoid small, slow moving traditional Southeast Alaska beam trawl gear. However, technology is currently available that would meet the technical requirements of existing regulations, but which would entirely upset the desirable overall balance of catching power, resource availability, and environmental protection that should be maintained.

At the same time, there have been advances in net and rigging technology that could have positive environmental and operating safety benefits, but which are not available to Alaska fishermen under the current regulation. Accordingly, it is proposed that 5 AAC 31.125 (c) be replaced with new subsections that will maintain current catching power and environmental compatibility while allowing fishermen to design and use safer, less expensive and even more environmentally friendly beam trawl gear, as follows:

1. The overall length of beam trawls will be specified, with the maximum total beam length not to exceed 60' (This limit accommodates all beam trawls known to have been in use in the last 10-12 years);
2. The total weight of beams in use shall not exceed 3,000 pounds, not including the net(s). The weight limit will apply to the beams themselves, the D-rings, shoes or staves, the footrope, and any weights attached to those structures or suspended from towing warps, bridles, Delta plates, etc. that weight down the overall trawl and make it easier to maintain bottom contact;

3. The number of beam trawls fished will no longer be limited, provided that the aggregate length of all the beams in use may not exceed the total beam length limit of 60', or the total allowable weight of 3,000 pounds. In other words a fisherman would be able to fish a single 60' trawl with a beam weight of 3,000 pounds, or two 30', 1,500 pound trawls, or even three 20', 1,000 pound trawls if he so chose.

The catching power of a trawl net is determined by its mouth opening and the speed with which it is towed over the ground. Mouth opening is principally a function of horizontal and dimension. The proposed maximum 60' of beam obviously limits the total horizontal opening. (Vertical opening is generally less critical, and the general hydrodynamics of nets prevents this dimension getting "out of bounds" in any practical sense.)

The proposed limitation on the weight of the beam structures and footrope will act to limit towing speed to that which has been typical for Southeast Alaska. This is critical because, all other things being equal, a net towed at 3 knots will have twice the catching capability of one towed at 1.5 knots, simply by dint of covering twice the ground in the same time. Greater weight allows bottom contact to be maintained at higher towing speeds. It should be noted that beam trawl technology currently in use in the North Sea off Holland, Belgium and Denmark is marked by very powerful vessels towing very, very heavy gear at speeds of 6 to 7 knots. Nothing in our current regulations prevents the introduction of similar gear to the Southeast Alaska Beam Trawl Shrimp Fishery. Not only would such gear completely upset the existing catching power equilibrium in the fleet, it would have potentially very profound, negative environmental impacts in terms of bottom disruption and increased bycatch. The proposed 3,000 pound beam weight limit will accommodate even the most "beefy" of traditional Southeast Alaska gear, while effectively barring the introduction of extremely heavy, destructive gear.

With the overall length and weight of beam thus limited, there is no reason to limit the number of rigs employed so long as they do not, in aggregate exceed those limits. However, there are good safety and environmental reasons why multiple rigs should be allowed provided that, in aggregate they stay within the overall beam length and weight limits. A single 60', 3,000 pound beam with netting, floats, etc. can easily exceed 4,000 pounds in total weight. Add in a good catch of 2,000 to 3,000 pounds, and you have a large, ponderous and potentially dangerous mass of gear and shrimp. Traditional single rigged Southeast Alaska beam trawls are most often towed from a block mounted on the vessel's boom, and are recovered over the side. This method creates stability issues that limit the weather in which vessels can safely fish. And the high towing point is believed to be implicated in at least one vessel capsizing and loss of life in recent times.

Allowing vessels to double rig (or even triple rig) would result in lower towing points, hence greater stability, and would more than halve the weight of the individual trawls, making them easier and safer for the crew to handle. Two 30' trawls require about half the total netting needed for a single 60' trawl, meaning less initial expense, less drag, hence less fuel used while towing, and less material used. This same principle can also be applied by rigging two smaller nets on an individual beam. This is called duplex rigging. Obviously, these advantages cannot be obtained under the existing, outmoded single net rule.

What would happen if no action is taken? Not giving fishermen the option to use multiple trawls will mean significant economic, safety and environmental benefits will be foregone, and needed technological innovation in the fishery will be stifled. But, if multiple rigs are permitted without also regulating total beam length and weight, the opportunity to use multiple nets will likely be used only to increase the total amount of gear deployed and upset the existing catching power balance in the fleet. This would be felt most by smaller vessel operators. By the same token, allowing multiple rigs with the suggested limitations will not hurt or disadvantage operators who wish to continue using traditional single rigged trawls. But, regulating total beam length and weight is necessary even if multiple rigs are not permitted, as nothing in current regulation prevents introduction of very large and heavy gear that is both environmentally undesirable and destructive of the traditional catching power balance amongst vessels in the fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Fisk

(EF-C14-153)

PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 31.143. Reporting requirements for commercial shrimp vessels in Registration Area A. Clarify commercial beam trawl registration location as ADF&G office specified by the department, as follows:

5 AAC 31.143 is amended to read:

(b) In addition to the reporting requirements specified in (a) of this section, the weekly reporting requirements in Registration Area A for vessels commercial shrimp fishing with pots or beam trawls are as follows:

...

(2) each week an owner or operator of a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor vessel operating gear in the waters of Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone or in person, the ADF&G **office specified by the department** [AREA OFFICE IN PETERSBURG] before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact:

...

(c) The fish ticket requirements for commercial shrimp pot and beam trawl vessels in Registration Area A are as follows:

...

(2) an owner or operator of a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor vessel shall complete a separate fish ticket for each day fished for each district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, and in which shrimp are harvested and processed on board the vessel; fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days of closure of a district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level; a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor who has stopped fishing in a district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level shall contact, by telephone or in person, the **ADF&G office specified by the department** [LOCAL ADF&G AREA OFFICE IN PETERSBURG] and report the information specified in this paragraph before fishing in a new district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation currently requires beam trawl shrimp catcher processors to contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Petersburg area office for their weekly call, and when changing districts. The fishery is no longer managed out of the Petersburg area office, thus maintaining a requirement for communications to be with this office causes unneeded confusion. The proposed language would allow the department to designate a single contact point preseason.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-098)

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 31.XXX. Shrimp beam trawl fishery task force. Establish a shrimp beam trawl fishery task force, as follows:

Recommendation: Establish a Southeast Alaska Shrimp Beam Trawl Task Force and direct it to examine:

- i.) Economic revitalization of the Area A shrimp beam trawl fishery, including support for both the catcher (for peeling) and catcher processor sectors, and promotion of value maximization and full utilization of the resource; and
- ii) All rules currently applicable to the fishery for efficacy, and with recommending changes, additions or deletions to such rules to benefit fleet economics, safety and resource conservation. Given the industry’s dire economic straits, the board should provide for rule changes and implementation of Task Force recommendations within the 3-year cycle so as not to delay or forestall vitally needed changes.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 31.111. Shrimp Beam Trawl Fishing Seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area A. etc. Establish a Shrimp Beam Trawl Task Force

For the January, 2012 Southeast shellfish meeting in Petersburg I submitted a proposal under this same title (Proposal 177 / page 154 in the 2012 proposal book) stating:

“The board should establish a Beam Trawl Task Force tasked with:

- i) Economic revitalization of the Area A shrimp beam trawl fishery, including support for both the catcher (for peeling) and catcher processor sectors, and promotion of value maximization and full utilization of the resource; and
- ii) Examining all rules currently applicable to the fisher for efficacy, and with recommending changes, additions or deletions to such rules to benefit fleet economics, safety and resource conservation. Given the industry’s dire economic straits, the board should provide for rule changes and implementation of Task Force recommendations within the three year cycle so as not to delay or forestall vitally needed changes.”

In framing the issue for the board I noted that the shrimp trawl fishery — while in trouble — was a venerable contributor to the regional economy, with nearly a century of biologically sustainable economic output. In 2010 only 4 of 27 permits were fished, and landings were down to less than

3% of the prior 15-year average. Many of the problems faced by the industry were due to fierce international economic competition, but I also noted failure to innovate and an economic model — supported by existing fishery management — built around the lowest value product forms.

In 2012 the board recognized the problems facing the industry, but elected not to put a formal task force in place, instead it directing the department to work in “normal channels” with industry to identify possible management improvements.

Shrimp beam trawl landings bounced back somewhat in 2011, with some 414,000 pounds taken as a result of some buying interest by an out of state peeler. However, they slumped again in 2012 to 233,000 pounds — less than 10% of the mid-point guide harvest range (GHR). Participation remained very low, with only 6 fishermen making landings, and the value of permits dropped to an all-time low of just \$12,900, considerably less than a third of the 2001 value of \$43,800. In sum, the fishery remains in dire economic shape, with no in-region processor, a few fishermen struggling along with meager direct markets, and most just “sitting it out”, hoping for better condition.

Could a task force have helped? The answer is “yes”. A task force could have catalyzed renewed interest. It could have worked on regulatory issues of importance to long-term regeneration of the fishery. (I have introduced proposals on two such issues – vessel size and easing a gear restriction — for consideration at the 2015 Southeast Shellfish meeting. But many others, like mesh sizes, additional open areas, etc. could benefit from industry/management deliberation.) The existence of a task force could even have helped the industry raise needed funds. (Just recently a NOAA S-K grant application to help fund industry marketing, product development and organization failed in large measure because it could not be linked to an existing management improvement effort. The application was sponsored by Southeast Conference, on behalf of the industry, but the existence of a Board of Fisheries empowered task force would have greatly strengthened its rationale.)

PROPOSED BY: Greg Fisk (EF-C14-178)

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close a portion of District 8 near Petersburg to commercial pot shrimp fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 31.136 CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION AREA A. Shrimp may not be taken

(6) with trawls and pots in the waters of Frederick Sound from Point Frederick to a point northeast of the Sukoi Islands of 56° 54.467' N latitude and 132° 54.324' W longitude and along 56° 54.467' N latitude to a point on Kupreanof Island, and that portion of Wrangell Narrows north of the latitude of Green Point.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intensity of the commercial pot fishery and the duration of the trawl shrimp fishery immediately adjacent to the City of Petersburg reduces the opportunities and availability of spot prawns, pink shrimp, coonstripe shrimp, and to a lesser degree sidestripe shrimp to personal use users. A small

commercial closure around the community will provide for the personal use of shrimp that are currently reduced by commercial harvests and seasons in the area.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Burrell

(EF-C14-070)

PROPOSAL 108 – 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Clarify weekly commercial fishing periods for sea cucumbers, as follows:

5 AAC 38.140(b) and (d) are amended to read:

(b) Sea cucumbers may be taken from October 1 through March 31. Fishing periods will be as follows:

(1) [THE] fishing [PERIODS IN OCTOBER] will occur during periods set by the commissioner by emergency order; the **weekly fishing period** [PERIODS] will be on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; **beginning in November, fishing periods may be extended by emergency order to obtain the guideline harvest level;**

(2) [THE FISHING PERIODS FROM NOVEMBER THROUGH MARCH WILL OCCUR DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ON MONDAY AND ONE-HALF OF THE DAYLIGHT HOURS ON TUESDAY EACH WEEK DURING PERIODS SET BY THE COMMISSIONER BY EMERGENCY ORDER, EXCEPT THAT] during the week of Thanksgiving, **the fishing period** [PERIODS] will occur **on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** [DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ON SUNDAY AND ONE-HALF OF THE DAYLIGHT HOURS ON MONDAY; THESE FISHING PERIODS MAY BE EXTENDED BY EMERGENCY ORDER TO OBTAIN THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL].

...

(d) Except as specified in (1) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may not land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during any **weekly** fishing period established by the department. Harvest limits may be repealed by emergency order if guideline harvest levels have not been reached. **Open fishing times occurring on Monday and Tuesday each week, or on Sunday and Monday during the week of Thanksgiving, are considered one open period.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Language in the sea cucumber management plan defining a fishing period is unclear and confusing. Open fishing times that occur on Monday and Tuesday (or Sunday and Monday during the week of Thanksgiving) are not clearly defined as one fishing period. This is important since there is a 2,000 pound trip limit for each fishing period established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department). There is general understanding among users, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and the department that fishery openings occurring on Monday and Tuesday are considered one fishing period and the trip limit applies accordingly. Clarification of the weekly fishing period will remove any confusion that exists.

All fishery openings are being described by starting and ending times, in place of “daylight hours” from November through March, to reflect actual practice.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-101)

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.
Reduce commercial sea cucumber fishing periods in October and establish specific fishing times in November, as follows:

5 AAC 38.140 Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. (a)

(1) the fishing periods in October will occur during periods set by the commissioner, by emergency order; the fishing periods will be on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **The fishing periods starting in November will occur during periods set by the commissioner, by emergency order, the fishing periods will be on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the sea cucumber fishery from 1 1/2 days to one day per week during the month of October. This may help extend the season. The fishing time beginning in November would go back to 1 1/2 days per week.

PROPOSED BY: Phil Doherty (EF-C14-059)

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.
Allow increased trip limit and permit stacking in commercial sea cucumber fishery, follows:

5 AAC 38.140 Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan

(d) Except as specified in (l) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may not land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumber during any fishing period established by the department **except if they are operated a stacked permit which will allow them to harvest an additional 50% of the established harvest limit.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The sea cucumber fishery is facing a declining resource due to an increasing sea otter population. Sea otters will severely reduce if not eliminate sea cucumbers in a harvest area once they become established in that area. Sea cucumber divers are looking at reducing the amount of effort on the fishing grounds as areas are eliminated from harvest and the remaining fishing grounds become more crowded. Sea cucumber divers are managed on a 2,000 pound trip limit per open period. Sea cucumber divers would like to be able to stack permits with the second permit only being allowed 50% of the harvest limit. That is if a diver buys a second transferable permit then if the established harvest limit is 2,000 pounds the diver could harvest 3,000 pounds.

This should not affect the department’s abilities to correctly manage the fishery. They would need to know how many stacked permits are available to fish in making their weekly harvest calculations.

This may also slow the fishery down which may help the market price.

PROPOSED BY: Phil Doherty (EF-C14-057)

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. Allow department to set trip limits on geoduck harvest based on market conditions, as follows:

5AAC 38.142 Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan

(k) The commissioner may establish the maximum amount of geoducks that may be harvested during a fishing period. If the commissioner determines that a rate of delivering geoducks will contribute to conservation, law enforcement, waste reduction, or assist the development of the fishery, **or if market conditions warrant a reduction in the fishery**, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, a fishing period in a designated area, and reopen a fishing period in the same area for which the commissioner designates a rate of delivery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to be able to use trip limits at times in the geoduck clam fishery to limit the harvest to meet marketing demands. While 5AAC 38.142 (k) allows for trip limits to "assist the development of the fishery" it is unclear and perhaps allocative for ADF&G to impose trip limits if SARDFA's Geoduck Committee recommends it. The department has allowed trip limits in the past due to marketing problems, but only when 100% of the Geoduck Committee recommends it.

SARDFA would like to allow the department, working cooperatively with SARDFA's Geoduck Committee, to use trip limits when a majority of the Geoduck Committee votes to impose a trip limit.

PROPOSED BY: Phil Doherty (EF-C14-056)

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. Establish a weekly trip limit of 1,000 pounds of geoduck clams for each CFEC permit holder with no more than two permit holders on a vessel, as follows:

Establish a weekly trip limit of 1,000 pounds of geoduck clams per valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) geoduck permit holder.

During an open fishing period, no more than two individuals, each of whom possess a CFEC geoduck clam permit, may operate diving gear and land commercially harvested geoduck clams from a vessel that is licensed or registered to commercially fish for geoduck clams.

No vessel that is licensed or registered to commercially fish for geoduck clams may land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of geoduck clams per week.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue for the Board of Fisheries to address is the "derby-style" geoduck clam fishery in Southeast Alaska. This manner of fishing greatly contributes to a depressed fisherman price and substantially increases diving risks by concentrating vessels and divers in small areas for limited time openings. This has resulted in greater than normal fishing risks, i.e. diver entanglements, vessel confrontations and low fishing prices.

PROPOSED BY: Cornelis Bakker (EF-C14-167)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 02.15X. Closed waters in Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area. 5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. 5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 34.15X. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 35.15X. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 38.1XX. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeastern Alaska Area. 5 AAC 77.6XX. Closed waters in the Southeastern Alaska Area. *This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.* Prohibit fishing, around Cache Island, for bottomfish, crab, and shrimp by all users, as follows:

Create a micro marine conservation zone around Cache Island, Naha Bay Southeast Alaska; where all bottom fishing, crabbing and shrimping will be prohibited by all groups. The no fish zone will extend from shore out to 300 feet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Help depleted bottom fish rebound and relieve stress of over fishing for bottom fish species and shellfish.

Micro marine conservation zones have been successfully created around the globe and have enabled fish populations to rebound successfully from the stresses of over fishing. Rather than regulate the single species of fishes; micro conservation zones help to restore and sustain an entire ecosystem and their inhabitants. In setting aside a small area; the conservation zone will have little effect on user groups. But their impact on the fish populations will be significant over time and will benefit areas beyond the conservation zone. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough set aside all the islands from Clover Pass to Naha Bay as preservation islands where no development is allowed. We are taking it one step further and creating the water around Cache Island as a conservation zone. They work together.

PROPOSED BY: Naha Conservation (EF-C14-187)
