PROPOSAL 176
5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.
Reduce the number of shrimp pots that a vessel may fish, as follows:

5 AAC 31.124. Limits of 100 small pots or 75 large pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduction of shrimp pots. The shrimp fishery is a five month season. It has now become a one month or less derby. Derbies are never good for the resource and can lead to dangerous conditions that fishermen have to fish in (weather). It would reduce the daily catch. The managers would be able to more accurately determine catch and when to close the individual fishing districts.

Background: Commercial harvest of shrimp in Southeast Alaska utilizing pot gear began in the late l960s and continued sporadically with low effort until the mid-1980s, peaking in the mid-1990s. In 1995, the CFEC was petitioned to include pot gear for shrimp into the limited entry program. The pot shrimp fishery is now limited entry and there are currently 256 active and interim permits of the 329 originally issued. In 1997, regulations were adopted that significantly affected the Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp fishery. These regulations include the current daily fishing periods, pot sizes, and pot limits. These restrictions had several effects: I) decreased efficiency of the fleet, producing a slower-paced and more orderly fishery; 2) reduced the harvest of small shrimp by limiting fishing hours, leading to longer soak times which allows mesh size to passively sort out smaller shrimp; and 3) provided for gear standardization, allowing fishery performance data to be utilized by managers.

The department supports the concept of establishing regulations that reduce capture of small shrimp. Pot limits are generally locative between small boat and large boat operations. There may be benefits m slowing the pace of the fishery in some regions.

256 active permits
Currently 140 small or 100 large pots

256x140=35840
minus
256x100=25600
    =10240
    /140
    = small pot reduction of 73 pot limits

256x100=25600
minus
256x75=19200
    =6400
    /100
    =large pot reduction of 64 pot limits

73 small pot limits + 64 large pot limits = 137 combined pot limits /2 = 68.5 average pot limits reduced

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund   (HQ-F20-032)
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