

**PROPOSAL 243**

5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E.

**Amend commercial shrimp pot fishery closed waters boundaries, as follows:**

Move NE closure line endpoint from Flent Point to Point Freemantle, allowing fishing in statistical area 476035 while maintaining the Valdez Arm closure to commercial shrimp pot fishing as intended.

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(b) The following waters are closed to the taking of shrimp with pot gear:

(2) waters north of a line from **near Point Freemantle at 60 56.30' N. lat., 147 00.00' W. long.** [FLENT POINT AT 60\_ 56.52' N. lat., 147\_ 08.34' W. long.] to a point on Bligh Island at 60\_ 48.96' N. lat., 146\_ 48.96' W. long.,

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Align area closure boundary with statistical reporting area. Recent climate change has opened water historically covered in glacier ice, allowing fishing in previously inaccessible areas. This also aligns the Valdez Arm closure area with the Eastern PWS commercial pot shrimp fishery boundary.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brett Wilbanks

(EF-F20-030)

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