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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Area Shrimp Pot Fishery Emergency Order 2-SF-E-05-20

SEASON, AREA, AND GEAR

Registration for the Prince William Sound (PWS) Area E commercial shrimp pot fishery closed at 5:00 p.m. April 1 with 93 vessels registered. The guideline harvest level (GHL) is 68,100 lb. The first PWS commercial shrimp pot fishing period will open at 8:00 a.m. April 15 and close at 8:00 p.m. April 26. Gear limits are initially set at a **maximum of 30 shrimp pots per vessel**. Fishing hours during this initial period are extended by emergency order **from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The announcement of future fishing periods will be dependent upon prompt catch reporting and harvest levels.

The area open to commercial fishing is designated Area 2 and includes waters described in 5 AAC 31.210 (a)(2) (Figure 1). Waters within this area closed to commercial shrimping with pot gear are described in regulation 5 AAC 31.235(b).

Shrimp pot gear may only be deployed and retrieved between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. during the open fishing period and may not be stored in the water or deployed prior to the opening of the season. A vessel operator may not have more than the legal limit of pot gear in aggregate, on board the vessel or in the water at any time. Shrimp pots deployed on a longline with six or more pots, must have a buoy attached to each end of the longline (5 AAC 31.226(c)). Pot tags are not required.

After a fishing period or season closure, shrimp pots may be stored in saltwater only if all bait and bait containers have been removed and all doors have been secured fully open and for no more than seven days (5 AAC 31.052). All shrimp pots must have a biodegradable escape mechanism as described in 5 AAC 39.145.

OTHER INFORMATION

Fishermen are reminded of the inseason **reporting and landing requirements** specified on the registration form, in forms supplied in the registration packet, and in regulation 5 AAC 31.245.

All commercial shrimp pot vessels must call the reporting line at (907) 226-3474 (226-FISH) no earlier than 24 hours before fishing for each trip and provide the following pre-trip reporting information: CFEC permit holder name, vessel name and ADF&G number of the registered vessel, the number of pots intended to be operated from the vessel, statistical area the operator of the vessel is intending to fish, and intended length of the trip (see pre-trip information form in registration packet).

Additionally, **before landing shrimp**, all participating commercial shrimp pot vessels must call the reporting line at (907) 226-3474 (**226-FISH**) and report CFEC permit holder name, vessel name and ADF&G number, statistical areas fished, and for each statistical area: the number of pots pulled, harvest of spot shrimp, coonstripe shrimp, and other shrimp in pounds, specify tail or whole weight, date of landing, and fish ticket number (please follow Harvest Reporting Form in registration packet).

Fish tickets and logbook pages are required to be submitted to the department within seven days of landing, per regulations 5 AAC 39.130 and 5 AAC 31.245.

The PWS shrimp pot fishery is managed through the Homer office. Contact ADF&G at (907) 235-8191 to arrange alternate reporting requirements during the early season (e.g. text); otherwise, follow the reporting instructions on the shrimp registration form. Use the shrimp pre-trip and harvest reporting forms supplied in the registration packet as a reference when calling the reporting line at (907) 226-3474 to ensure a complete report.

All commercially harvested shrimp, whether sold or retained for personal use, must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket (5 AAC 39.130). A vessel operator intending to land shrimp outside of the registration area must contact the department (907-235-8191) prior to departing Registration Area E and specify the amount of shrimp by weight on board the vessel. A vessel registered for the fishery may not have shrimp on board the vessel after 72 hours following the closure of the fishing period or season (5 AAC 31.031).

The department will be managing the fishery inseason to restrict harvest to no more than 50 percent of the GHL from any one statistical area (5 AAC 31.214). Inseason measures may include adjusting pot limits, fishing hours, and/or statistical area closures in order to remain within this limit. A vessel used to tender shrimp must register with the department prior to operating in the fishery. **Tenders may not have shrimp gear or equipment onboard and may not be used to fish for shrimp (5 AAC 31.033).**

A person or vessel that has registered for the commercial shrimp pot fishery may not participate in sport, personal use, or subsistence fishing for shrimp unless the person ceases commercial fishing and the commercial registration for the vessel is canceled by the department (5 AAC 31.227). Other regulations may apply; the requirements of this section are in addition to the requirements of 5 AAC 31.053. Other pertinent fishery regulations are listed in Chapters 31 and 39 of the **2019-2021 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations** booklet available at department offices in Anchorage, Cordova, and Homer or at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

COVID-19

On 3/18/20, the City of Whittier put into effect “Temporary Operation Rules and Procedures Regarding the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency”. Please visit the website www.whittieralaska.gov for the full document. Rule 11 is relevant to commercial fishing activities out of Whittier:

Rule 11. Tunnel Access. Tunnel access will be limited to travel required by federal or state law or via agreement with the State of Alaska and federal government, their departments, public corporations, agencies, and/or representatives and by the following individuals: (C) Individuals entering Whittier to participate in commercial or sport fishing or hunting. These individuals must travel directly from the tunnel to the vessel or location on or at which the activities will occur. These travelers will not be able to access any buildings located within the City except for the grocery store.

COVID-19 (continued)

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, and 12, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

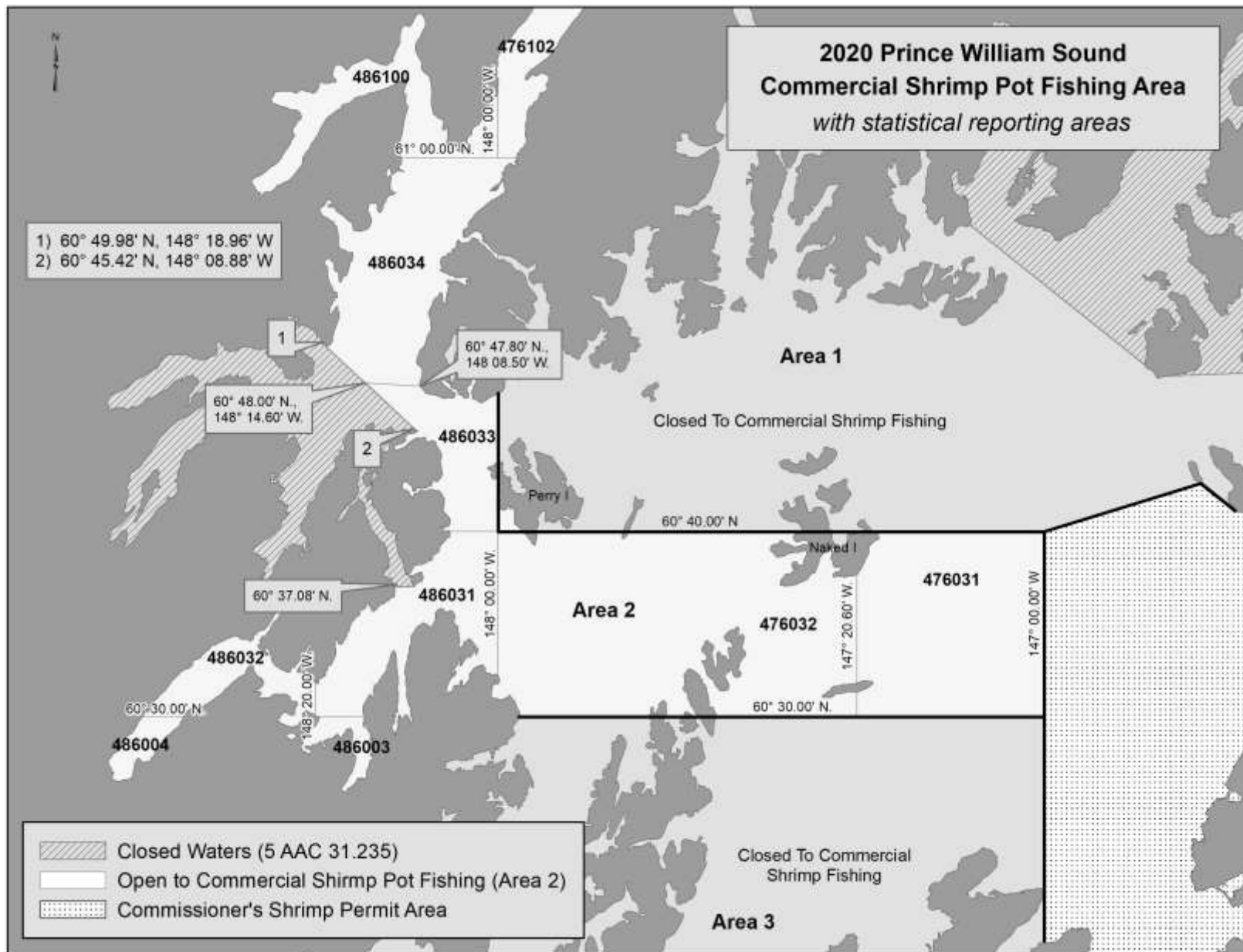


Figure 1.–2020 Prince William Sound Area shrimp pot fishery Area 2.