

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Homer Area Office
3298 Douglas Place
Homer, AK 99603



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: April 14, 2020

CONTACT: Jan Rumble and Elisa Russ
Shellfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 235-8191

Prince William Sound Area Commercial Shrimp Trawl Fishery Season and Registration

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS; Registration Area E) trawl fishery for sidestripe shrimp will open April 15 with guideline harvest levels (GHLs) set at 66,000 lb for the Wells Section, 33,000 lb for the combined Central and Southwest Sections, and 14,000 lb for the Northwest Section (Figure 1).

To participate, individuals must possess a 2020 P07E or P17E interim use permit available from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) and a PWS vessel registration. CFEC permit available at http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/forms/Commercial_Fishing_Permit_Application.pdf or call area offices for assistance. Please call the Homer office (907-235-8191) to register by email or fax and to get log sheets and deadloss sample reporting forms.

Shrimp trawls must meet the requirements in 5 AAC 31.225, which specifies codend mesh size and orientation and a fish excluder device to reduce bycatch of non-target species. Timely reporting of shrimp landings is critical to the successful management of this fishery. **Fishermen are required to telephone the department at (907) 424-7215 within 24 hours of a landing and provide catch reports.** All fish tickets, accompanied by completed log sheets, with deadloss sample information, must be received in the Cordova, Anchorage, or Homer office within seven days of landing. Fishermen must collect unsorted shrimp samples from each trip, and from each section, if more than one section was fished during the trip, in order to calculate deadloss.

Fishery management and other pertinent regulations are found in Chapters 31 and 39 of the 2019-2021 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations, available online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>. Prospective fishery participants should thoroughly review the regulatory requirements for this fishery and contact the department in Homer with questions.

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.

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/>.

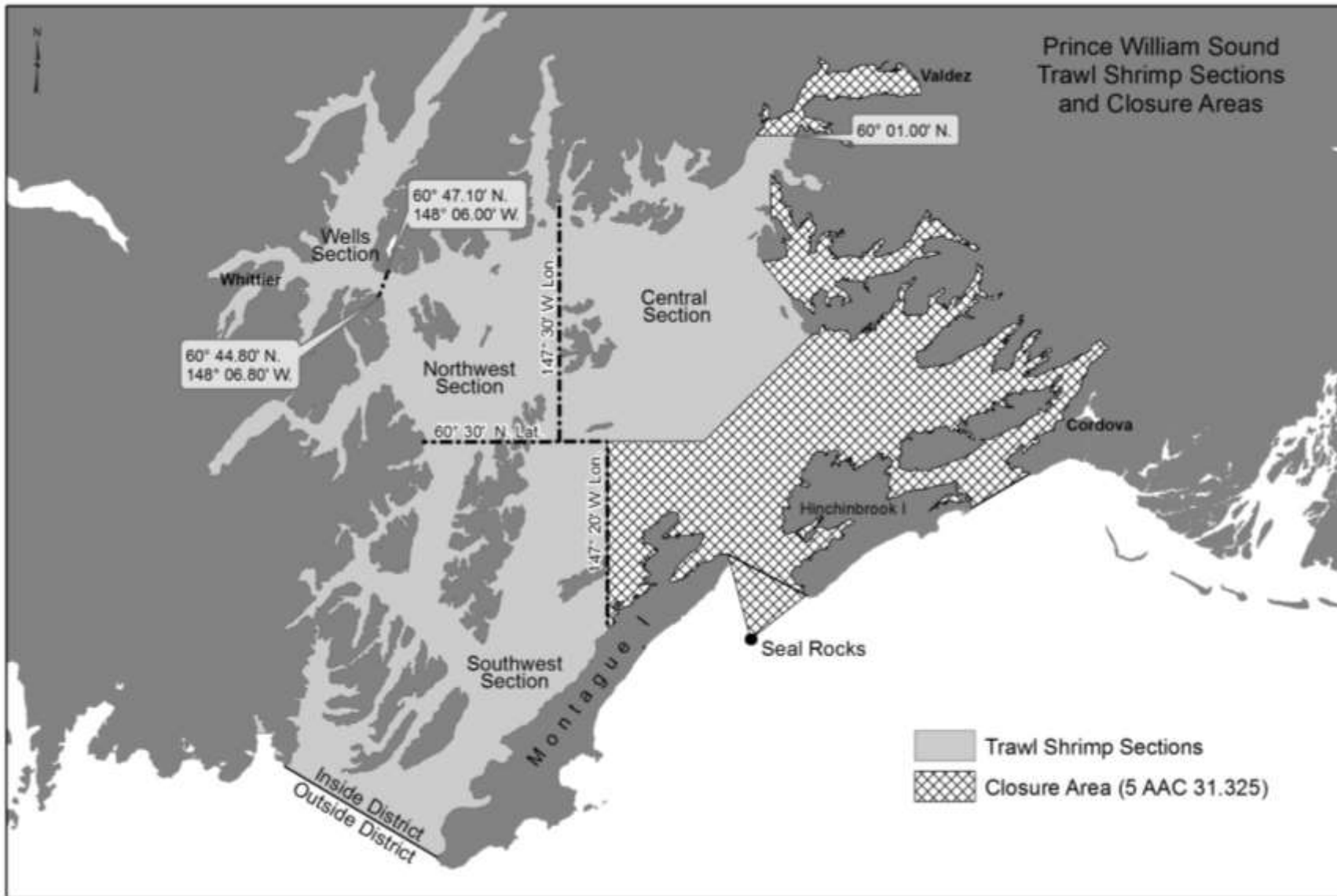


Figure 1. 2020 Prince William Sound commercial shrimp trawl fishing sections and trawl closure area.

-end-