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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Area Shrimp Pot Fishery Second Fishing Period Emergency Order 2-SF-E-06-20

The first period of the Prince William Sound (PWS) commercial shrimp pot season opened at 8:00 am April 15 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 68,100 lb and closed at 8:00 p.m. April 26. The preliminary estimated harvest from vessel call-in reports is 44,719 lb of whole shrimp harvested by 60 vessels. Estimated effort was 22,540 pot lifts with an average catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 1.98 lb of whole shrimp per pot. Approximately 25,429 lb or 37% of the total GHL was harvested from statistical area 486034. Participants are reminded that only 50% of the GHL may be harvested in any one statistical area (5 AAC 31.214).

The second period of the PWS commercial shrimp pot season will open at 8:00 a.m. Monday, May 4. In order to remain under 50% of the harvest in any one statistical area, Statistical Area 486034 will close Thursday, May 7 at 8:00 p.m. All other statistical areas will remain open until Saturday, May 9 at 8 p.m. The department will closely monitor the harvest through call-in reports and fish tickets. Gear limits remain at a maximum of 30 shrimp pots per vessel. Hours of gear operation will remain at 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The area open to commercial fishing is Area 2 (Figure 1). Participants should monitor news releases and the call-in line for potential statistical area **closures** or **extensions**.

It is critical that participating fishermen call the reporting line with pre-trip and landing reports at (907) 226-3474 in order for the department to monitor harvest. The information to be reported is detailed in the registration packet all registrants received. Reporting requirements must be followed exactly and enforcement action will result for non-compliance. Reporting is required by regulation (5 AAC 31.245(c) and 5 AAC 31.245(b)).

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 available online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>. Contact ADF&G at (907) 235-8191 for further information.

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
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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/>.

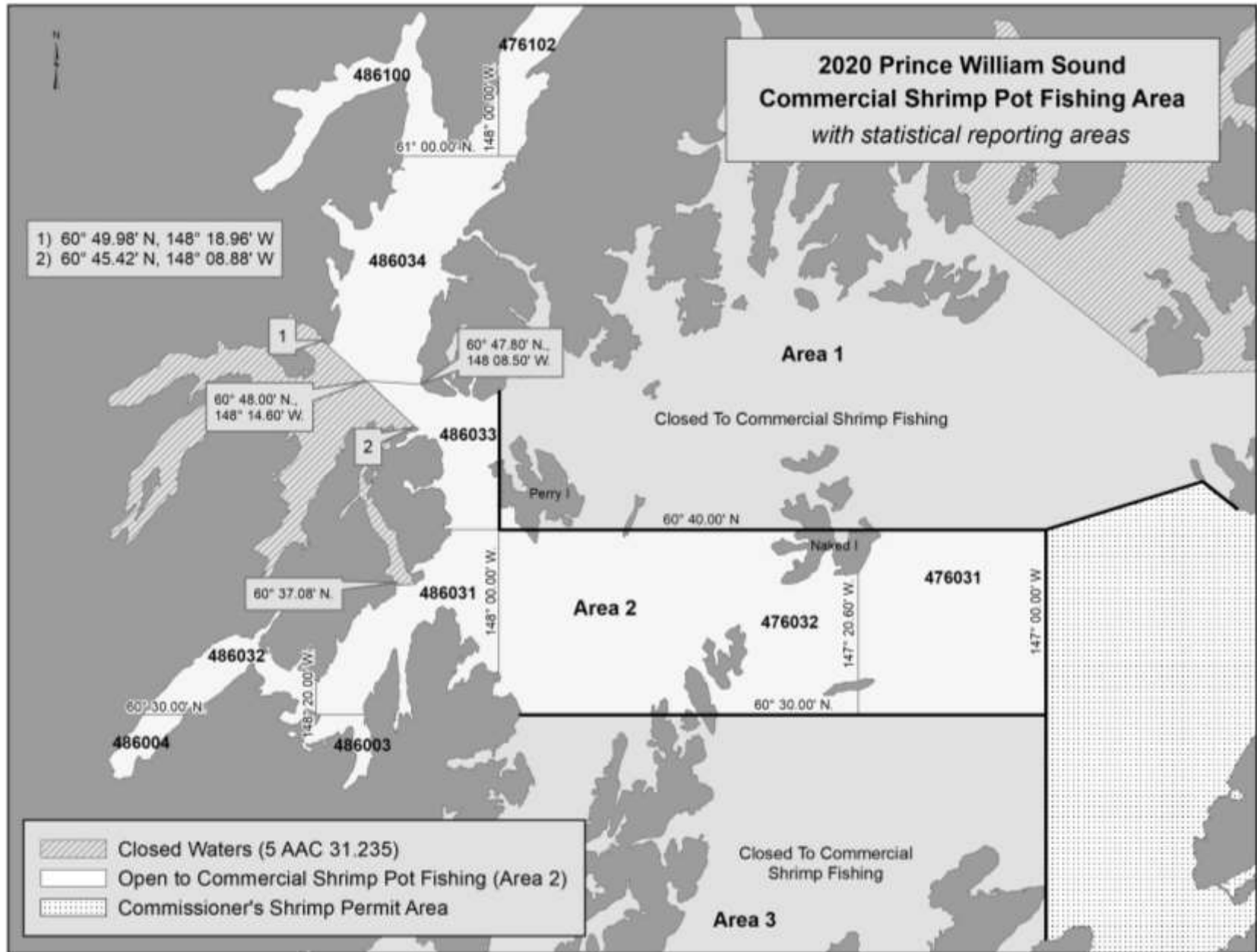


Figure 1.—2020 Prince William Sound Area shrimp pot fishery Area 2.