



## Advisory Announcement

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## SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL POT SHRIMP FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

### 2020/2021 Fishing Season and Fishing Periods

All fishing districts and areas will open at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, October 1, 2020, and will close at 4:00 p.m., Sunday, February 28, 2021, unless closed earlier by emergency order [5 AAC 31.110]. Areas will close when guideline harvest levels (GHLs) have been reached or are expected to be reached by the time of the closure. Shrimp fishing districts or areas where the GHLs have not been reached by February 28, 2021, may be reopened on May 15, 2021, for a summer season. The summer pot shrimp fishing season will close by regulation on July 31, 2021.

The department will issue weekly fishery updates, usually on Thursday afternoons, to update fishermen on the progress of the fishery. Advisory announcements stating area closures will be issued separately. Pot shrimp fishermen should be aware that fishing time in certain districts, or areas, may be very limited and may close on short notice, depending on harvest rates and effort levels. Fishermen should also be aware that entire areas with distinct GHLs or portions of those areas may close if the department has specific conservation concerns. If harvest rates are low or sharply declining as the season progresses, areas may be closed before the GHL has been reached to prevent excessive harvests.

Closures will be announced through the department's advisory announcement system where permit holders are advised to frequently check for advisory announcements, including closing shrimp fishing districts or areas: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>. There are some areas that will close on short notice and may first be announced by department personnel from the fishing grounds via VHF. In addition, the department may request the USCG and/or NOAA to announce closures over their marine information broadcast. However, this will not be the case for all shrimp fishing areas and the department cannot guarantee that the closure will be announced via the USCG and NOAA marine information broadcasts.

Operation of shrimp fishing gear may only occur during daily fishing periods from 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. [5 AAC 31.124.(e)(5)]. This means that pots may only be hauled or deployed during this eight-hour period each day.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted new shrimp management areas into regulation at the January 2018 meeting. New areas are Sections 6-B/C/D, Sections 8-A/10-C, Sections 8-B/6-A and Sections 10-A/B. Descriptions of these areas can be found in 5 AAC 31.105. See the Chapter 31 Shrimp Fishery link in the Alaska Administrative Code database in table at bottom of webpage: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

The following provides an overview of regulations and general information affecting the management of the 2020/2021 commercial pot shrimp fishery.

### Vessel Registration, Shrimp Pot Identification Tags, and Catcher–Processor Logbook Program

All vessels pot shrimp fishing must be registered with the department prior to fishing. Permit holders can register at any of the Southeast Alaska area offices Monday through Friday during normal working hours. For this season, permit holders may call area offices to register or unregister. During the 2020/2021 season, pot tags will not be required. **Regulations (5 AAC 31.141) were adopted at the 2015 BOF meeting that require all catcher–processor vessels participating in the**

**Southeast Alaska pot shrimp fishery to complete a daily logbook.** Logbooks will be available at Southeast Alaska area offices. Details of the logbook program are described later in this advisory announcement.

Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) for the 2020/2021 season in pounds of whole shrimp.

District/Area	2019/2020 Closure Date	Days Open in 2019/2020	10-year Average Harvest	2019/2020 Harvest	2020/2021 GHL
District 1	Oct. 14	14	60,100	57,163	50,000
District 2	Oct. 11	12	52,400	42,447	<b>40,000</b>
Section 3-A	Oct. 15	15	114,900	128,215	114,000
Sections 3-B/C	Oct. 28	28	34,100	23,682	30,000
District 4	July 31	228	18,000	17,956	20,000
District 5	July 31	228	6,399	Confidential	12,000
Sections 6-B/C/D	Oct. 19	19	36,110	29,048	42,900
District 7	Oct. 12	12	77,451	85,162	74,300
Sections 8-B/6-A	Oct. 18	18	10,514	16,808	15,000
Sections 8-A/10-C	Oct. 21	21	9,970	12,737	12,000
District 9	Oct. 10	10	13,500	11,300	6,500
Sections 10-A/B	Oct. 9	9	38,934	62,041	35,000
District 11-Seymour	Oct. 8	8	14,754	9,314	<b>Closed</b>
District 11-Remainder	n/a	n/a	5,226	Closed	Closed
District 12-Tenakee	Oct. 2	2	9,539	11,984	<b>10,000</b>
District 12-Remainder	Oct. 17	17	8,167	10,282	<b>Closed</b>
Sections 13-A/B	Oct. 13	13	15,500	15,800	15,000
Section 13-C	Oct. 7	7	24,400	13,400	<b>Closed</b>
District 14	n/a	n/a	7,040	Closed	<b>7,500</b>
District 15	July 3	227	5,223	13,614	11,000
District 16	n/a	n/a	11,747	Closed	Closed

*Notes on Table:* Bold type indicates GHL has changed from the previous season.

The department has recently completed an annual review of available shrimp stock status information for each area with a distinct GHL and will manage the 2020/2021 season for GHLs identified in the table above. The preseason combined regional GHL for the 2020/2021 season is **495,200 pounds** of whole shrimp.

#### Basis of Pot Shrimp GHLs, expected season lengths, and Management Approach for 2020/2021 Season

Several changes to Southeast management practices will be implemented for the 2020/21 season. The first is incorporate information from preseason surveys to consider adjustment to GHLs and/or fishing areas for the current season. This will be a change from past practices of keeping GHLs in place for a minimum of three seasons. If preseason survey information suggests that GHLs should be adjusted, the slow up and fast down approach will be utilized. Increases in GHLs will be a maximum of 45% or up to the upper end of the Guideline Harvest Range (GHR). Decreases in GHL will be a maximum of 45%; if data indicates larger decrements are necessary, the area may be closed for the season. If adjustments are warranted, the adjusted GHL may be announced prior to the start of the season.

Another change in management strategy will be to rotate several fishing areas in northern Southeast on a three-year rotation to provide more consistent opportunity for north end shrimp fishermen. In 1995, districts were assigned GHLs based on historical harvests. Districts that did not have a significant historical record of shrimp harvest were assigned an exploratory GHR of 0 to 20,000 pounds. This applied to all Juneau management area districts; 11, 12, 14, and 16. With this change and increased participation in the pot shrimp fishery, harvests increased substantially in these areas. Over time, fishing at the

upper end of the GHR proved unsustainable. Since the mid to late 2000s, catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) and harvests in these districts began to decline and increasingly conservative management measures were taken including GHl reductions and commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries closures. With annual harvest levels becoming smaller and more difficult to manage, most areas within the Juneau Management Area will be opened on a staggered rotational basis to provide harvest opportunity on an annual basis.

Inseason management for Northern Clarence Strait and District 7 will continue in 2020/21. Northern Clarence Strait and District 7 will have “base GHls” of 42,900 pounds and 74,300 pounds; adjustments will be made to the base GHls inseason using a combination of survey and fishery data. In addition, inseason adjustments may be made in Districts 1 and 2 as outlined in the Districts 1 and 2 management sections; increases in GHls will be a maximum of 45% or up to the upper end of the GHR. Decreases in GHl will be a maximum of 45%; if data indicates larger decrements are necessary, the area may be closed for the season. **For inseason management to work effectively and to continue to be used or used in more areas, the department needs timely and accurate reporting of harvest on a weekly basis or as required.**

**District 1:** The GHl will remain at **50,000 pounds** of spot shrimp. For the 2006/07 season, the GHl was reduced from 164,000 to 98,400 pounds due to declining harvest rates and increasing season length observed during the previous five seasons. The GHl was reduced for the 2008/09 season to 78,700 pounds and again in 2009/10 to 50,000 pounds with a preset closure. Due to improving stock health, the GHl was increased to 64,000 pounds in 2015/16. There were several negative stock health indicators during the 2018/19 season that resulted in management actions taken for the 2019/20 season. The continued decrease in the preseason survey harvest rate of all size classes of shrimp with no positive indicators justified a predetermined closure of October 7, 2019 in Back Behm Canal, and a reduction in the districtwide GHl to alleviate additional harvest pressure in the remainder of the district. The overall District 1 shrimp stock showed improvements in stock health in the 2019/20 season. The 2019/20 districtwide commercial CPUE increased significantly from the 2018/19 season and was the second highest since the 2000/01 season. The commercial CPUE in Back Behm Canal increased significantly and more importantly the 2019/20 preseason survey showed a significant increase in the catch of small size class shrimp, <30 mm, suggesting a significant recruitment event in the area. The preset closure date for Back Behm will **NOT** be in effect for the 2020/21 season. **Inseason management adjustments may be used to react to fishery performance indicators.** Inseason adjustment will not exceed 20% of the base GHl. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the GHl is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below historical levels for a healthy stock. In season adjustments will be based on results of the preseason survey, commercial CPUE, and distribution of effort. The recent 10-year average harvest is 60,100 pounds. The 2019/20 harvest was 57,163 pounds and the season closed October 14, 2019. **District 1 is expected to close on or before October 20, 2020.**

**District 2:** The GHl will increase to **40,000 pounds** of spot shrimp. The GHl in District 2 was reduced in the 2009/10 season from 86,000 pounds to 65,000 pounds due to excessive exploitation rates, declining CPUE, and a decrease in mean carapace length (CL). For the 2014/15 season, negative survey indicators prompted a reduction in GHl to 52,000 pounds. Based on extremely poor preseason survey results, Kasaan Bay was closed prior to the 2015/16 season and the GHl was reduced to 42,000 pounds. In the 2016/17 season, the continued stock decline in Kasaan Bay and Cholmondeley Sound prompted a further reduction in GHl to 29,400 pounds. District 2 fisheries have responded positively to recent management actions. Districtwide commercial CPUE reached a historic low in 2015/2016 and has since increased where it exceeded the baseline in 2019/20. During the 2019/2020 season, portions of Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm opened with no preset closure date and this management regime will continue for 2020/21. **The waters of Twelve-Mile Arm will remain closed south of the latitude of Outer Point at 55°31.24' N lat.** **Inseason management adjustments may be used to react to fishery performance indicators.** **Inseason adjustment will not exceed 20% of the base GHl.** Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the GHl is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below historical levels for a healthy stock. In season adjustments will be based on results of the preseason survey, commercial CPUE, and distribution of effort. The recent 10-year average harvest is 52,400 pounds. The 2019/20 harvest was 42,447 pounds and the season closed October 12, 2019. **District 2 is expected to close on or before October 20, 2020.**

**Section 3-A:** The GHl will remain at **114,000 pounds** of spot shrimp. For the 2000/01 season, the Section 3-A GHl was increased from 200,000 to 264,000 pounds. The GHl was reduced to 198,000 pounds in the 2004/05 season due to a consistent decline in average shrimp size and fishery harvest rates. From 2004/05 through the 2007/08 seasons, the shrimp population was stable with an average harvest of 198,000 pounds. However, to increase the health and productivity of the Section 3-A shrimp stock, the GHl was reduced to 158,400 pounds in 2008/09. After two years at this GHl, there were no

signs of improvement from the fishery or the department survey and the average harvest for these two years was 128,000 pounds. The lack of positive indicators in either the biological samples or the commercial fishery led to a GHL reduction to 95,000 pounds for the 2010/11 season and was increased to the current GHL of 114,000 pounds beginning in the 2015/16 season. The 2019/20 section wide commercial CPUE increased over the previous season. The healthy stock status for Section 3-A was not reflected specifically in Hetta Inlet which saw a drop in all indicators. The preseason survey has shown sharp declines in harvest rate and CL in upper Hetta Inlet, which is prompting a localized closure in the upper portion of the inlet. **Hetta Inlet will be closed north of the latitude of Hetta Point at 55°10.40' N lat.** The overall stock status for the rest of Section 3-A is good, with section wide CPUE at its all-time high. This allows the GHL to remain the same despite the closure of Hetta Inlet. The recent 10-year average harvest is 114,900 pounds. The 2019/20 harvest was 128,215 pounds and the season closed October 15, 2019. **Section 3-A is expected to close on or before October 11, 2020.**

**Sections 3-B/C:** The GHL will remain at 30,000 pounds of spot shrimp. For the 2007/08 season, the GHL was reduced from 50,000 to 40,000 pounds due to a decline in mean CL and CPUE. For the 2010/11 season, the GHL was reduced to 30,000 pounds based on decreasing CPUE. In Sections 3-B/C, there is no survey and limited biological sampling. The area wide commercial CPUE remains at its lowest level since standardization was possible and is significantly below average. Given the nature of how effort and harvest can spike dramatically in Sections 3-B/C immediately after Section 3-A closes there may be an announced closure shortly after the closure of Section 3-A to not exceed the GHL. The recent 10-year average harvest is 33,900 pounds. The 2019/20 season harvest was 23,682 pounds and the season closed October 28, 2019. **Section 3-B/C is expected to close on or before October 20, 2020.**

**District 4:** The GHL will remain at 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Data is very limited in District 4. No survey is conducted and the fishery has not been sampled. Effort and harvest have been sporadic throughout the history of the fishery. Fishery performance and logbooks are the only data from District 4 that can be used as an indicator of stock health. Commercial CPUE remains stable and commercial logbook data show a high harvest rate of large class shrimp. The recent 10-year average harvest is approximately 18,000 pounds. The district closed February 28, 2020 and reopened for the spring/summer season. The 2019/20 season harvest was 17,956 pounds. **District 4 is expected to close on February 28, 2021 and may reopen for the summer season.**

**District 5:** The GHL will remain at 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp. The GHL for District 5 was 20,000 pounds from the 1995/96 season until the 2015/16 season, when it was reduced to 12,000 pounds. The recent 10-year average harvest is 6,400 pounds with a range of 17,000 pounds in the 2009/10 season to less than 1,000 pounds reported for the 2019/20 season. No biological data is available for this area and a survey is not conducted. District 5 closed by regulation on July 31, 2020. The total harvest is confidential for the 2019/20 season. **District 5 is expected to close on or before February 28, 2021 and may reopen for the summer season.**

**Sections 6-B/C/D:** The GHL will be adjusted inseason with an initial base GHL of 42,900 pounds of spot shrimp. Inseason adjustment will not exceed 45% of the base GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the GHL is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below historical levels for a healthy stock. Sections 6-B/C/D is a new management area adopted by the BOF in 2018 with a GHR of 0 - 60,000 pounds. The 2020/21 season will be the third season this has been a distinct area. This area has historically been the core fishing area of District 6. The GHL for District 6 has ranged from 82,000 pounds in the 2005/06 season to 24,000 pounds in 2011/12 season. Following meetings with industry in 2012, the department devised an experimental management plan to use inseason fishery data to adjust the GHLS in Districts 6 and 7. Inseason adjustment is based on catcher–processor CPUE and logbook data and CL data obtained from on-the-grounds sampling. These inseason management criteria have been used for the past seven seasons. Since the start of inseason management, most years have experienced an increase in GHL. The 2016/17 season had the highest increase of 40% to 44,800 pounds with the final harvest of 41,000 pounds. The lowest adjustment occurred in the 2014/15 season when the GHL was decreased by 35% to 20,800 pounds. More recently, the 2017/18 season GHL was increased by 20% to 51,480 pounds with a final harvest of 56,000 pounds. The 2018/19 season GHL was decreased by 20% to 34,300 pounds and the final harvest was 38,200 pounds after closing October 19, 2018. For the 2019/20 season the initial GHL was decreased by 30% to 30,000 pounds and the final harvest was 29,048 pounds. The season closed October 19, 2019. The recent 10-year average harvest is 36,000 pounds. **Sections 6-B/C/D are expected to close on or before October 20, 2019.**

**District 7:** The GHL will be adjusted inseason with an initial base GHL of 74,300 pounds of spot shrimp. Inseason adjustment will not exceed 45% of the base GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the GHL is

reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below historical levels for healthy stocks. The GHL for District 7 has ranged from 104,000 pounds in the 2000/01 season to 54,600 pounds in 2010/11. Following meetings with industry in 2012, the department devised an experimental management plan to use inseason fishery data to adjust the GHLs in Districts 6 and 7. The adjustment in District 7 is based on catcher–processor CPUE and logbook data, CL data obtained from on-the-grounds sampling, and initial preseason survey results. These inseason management criteria have been used for the past eight seasons. Base GHL was 63,700 pounds for the 2012/13, 2013/14, and 2014/15 seasons. Initial GHL for the 2015/16 season was increased to 74,300 pounds to allow the upper end of the GHR to be reached with inseason adjustments. Inseason adjustments have ranged from no increase to a 30% increase. The 10-year average harvest is 77,500 pounds. The 2019/20 season harvest was 85,200 pounds and the district closed October 12, 2019. **District 7 is expected to close on or before October 15, 2020.**

**Sections 8-A/10-C:** The GHL will remain at 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Sections 8-A and 10-C were combined into a new management area adopted by the BOF in 2018 with a GHR of 0 - 20,000 pounds. The 2020/21 season will be the third season this has been a distinct area. Commercial catch data is difficult to interpret as effort in this area can vary considerably from year to year. Most of the effort occurs after other areas close for the season. Additionally, effort in Section 10-C has been low and sporadic in recent years. Commercial CPUE increased to historical levels in the 2019/20 season. The recent 10-year average harvest is 10,000 pounds. This area closed October 21, 2019, with a harvest of 12,700 pounds. **Sections 8-A/10-C are expected to close on or before October 21, 2020.**

**Sections 8-B/6-A:** The GHL will remain at 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Sections 6-A and 8-B were combined into a new management area adopted by the BOF in 2018 with a GHR of 0 - 25,000 pounds. The 2020/21 season will be the third season this has been a distinct area. CPUE has been generally increasing for the past five seasons. The recent 10-year average harvest is 10,500 pounds. In 2019, the area closed October 18 with a harvest of 16,800 pounds. **Sections 8-B/6-A are expected to close on or before October 20, 2020.**

**District 9:** The GHL will remain at 6,500 pounds. The GHL in District 9 has changed four times since the 1998/99 season. It was increased 20% from 15,000 to 18,000 pounds in the 2000/01 fishing season, where it remained until the 2011/12 season when it was reduced to 14,000 pounds. In response to continued declining CPUE values, the GHL was reduced by 20% to 11,000 pounds. The area composition of the harvest is variable, but most harvest comes from Eliza Harbor and Southeast Baranof Island. There were no landings from Keku Strait or Western Kuiu Island during the 2011/12 to 2019/20 fishing seasons. The only data available for this district is commercial CPUE. Commercial CPUE declined severely in 2018/19 but rebounded in 2019/20. District wide CPUE has been below historical levels for thirteen consecutive seasons. CPUE is at historical levels in Eliza Harbor. This will be the third year a 40% reduction in GHL has been in place. If inseason catch rates indicate steep declines in the shrimp population as observed during the 2019/20 season, a small area closure may be necessary. The recent 10-year average harvest is 13,500 pounds. The 2019/20 harvest was 11,300 pounds and the season closed October 10. **District 9 is expected to close on or before October 10, 2020.**

**Sections 10-A/B:** The GHL will be remain at 35,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Sections 10-A and 10-B were adopted by BOF in 2018 with a combined GHR of 0 - 50,000 pounds. The 2020/21 season will be the third season this has been a distinct area. This area has historically been the core fishing area of District 10. The GHL in District 10 increased from 30,000 to 35,000 pounds for the 2000/01 season and to 48,000 pounds in the 2004/05 season. The GHL was reduced to 36,000 pounds for the 2013/14 season and to 29,000 pounds for the 2016/17 season. Commercial harvest information indicated shrimp populations declined sharply during the 2011/12 and 2012/13 seasons and again during the 2014/15 season. The commercial CPUE increased to above historical levels in 2019/20. The recent 10-year average harvest is 38,900 pounds. The 2019/20 harvest was 62,000 pounds and the area closed October 9, 2019. **Sections 10-A/B are expected to close on or before October 10, 2020.**

**District 11-Seymour Canal (11-S): will be closed.** A GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp was established for all of District 11 in 1995. In 2012, the BOF established separate GHRs of 0 to 30,000 pounds of spot shrimp for Seymour Canal (11-S) and 0 to 15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp for the remainder of the District (11-R). In the 2011/12 and 2012/13 seasons, an experimental inseason management approach modeled on the spawner index (SI) method utilized in British Columbia, Canada was investigated in 11-S, but managers felt that with the small extent of the fishing area and rapid pace of the fishery, the SI approach was not suitable and reverted to the preseason GHL approach in the 2013/14 season. Based on declines in commercial CPUE and the observed contraction of the area fished, the GHL for 11-S was

reduced to 15,000 pounds for the 2013/14 season and was further reduced to 12,000 pounds for the 2014/15 through 2018/19 seasons. With continuing declines in CPUE and further contraction of the fishing grounds the GHL was reduced to 10,000 pounds in the 2019/20 season. Commercial CPUE decreased from the previous season to the lowest seen since the 2001/02 season with fishery performance suggesting further reduction in the spatial extent of the shrimp biomass. It is anticipated 11-S will reopen in the 2021/22 season with a two or three-year rotational strategy.

**District 11-Remainder (11-R): will remain closed.** A GHL of 7,500 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp was established for 11-R for the 2012/13 season. Due to the observed decreases in commercial CPUE in Section 11-A combined with an analysis of Division of Sport Fish creel data indicating the sport and personal use harvest was at least equal to the commercial harvests, Section 11-A was closed to all shrimping to rebuild stock health in 2013 and has remained closed. A department survey of the area has been conducted in the winters of 2018, 2019, and 2020 with the results pointing to a stock experiencing recruitment failures for multiple years and the area remains closed to preserve the existing spawning stock. A 7,500-pound GHL was in place for Sections 11-B and 11-C through the 2016/17 season with nearly all the harvest coming from Endicott Arm in Section 11-C. Declining CPUE and concerns of serial depletion led to the closure of Endicott Arm and a reduction in the GHL to 4,000 pounds for the remainder of 11-R. The 2018/19 season's CPUE decreased from the previous season, with the harvest coming from the same limited area. 11-R has exhibited serial depletion of the spot shrimp resource with the sequential closures of Section 11-A in 2013, Endicott Arm in 2017, and the entirety of Section 11-C due to declines in commercial CPUE and harvest in 2019. It is anticipated portions of 11-R will reopen in the 2022/23 season with a three-year rotational strategy.

**District 12 – Tenakee Inlet (12-T):** The GHL **will increase to 10,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** A GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp was established for all of District 12 in 1995. In the 2000/01 season, the entire 20,000-pound GHL for the district was taken from Tenakee Inlet and for the 2001/02 season, Tenakee Inlet was separated from the remainder of the district (12-R) and given its own GHL of 20,000 pounds. 12-R was given a 15,000-pound GHL. The Tenakee Inlet GHL was increased to 28,000 pounds for the 2005/06 season. With declining CPUE in department preseason surveys, the GHL for Tenakee was reduced to 17,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season and was further reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2010/11 season. Following the 2011 preseason survey, a stock collapse was evident, and Tenakee Inlet was closed to commercial harvest. With continuing declines in the preseason survey performance, Tenakee Inlet was closed to sport and personal use harvest in 2012. Survey data has shown stock recovery in the western portion of Tenakee Inlet over the past six years and catch rates of large shrimp were above baseline in 2019 for the first time since 2010. Additionally, the size structure of the stock showed a robust age class distribution. A set two-day commercial fishery in 2018 with an area closure west of Long Bay to provide some refugia attracted one boat whose harvest is confidential. Tenakee Inlet was opened in 2019 with a 7,500-pound GHL. With six boats on the grounds, managers set the season for two days with the fishery occurring in the same area as the preseason survey. Harvest was 11,980 pounds of spot shrimp. With no survey or commercial harvest data from the eastern portion of Tenakee Inlet, it is unknown to what extent the entire inlet has rebounded. A conservative management approach will be utilized as the shrimp population rebuilds throughout the inlet. Due to complications with securing housing for management staff it is possible department representatives will not be present on the grounds during the fishery. Based on the 2019 fishery performance it is anticipated the fishery will be fast paced. Tenakee Inlet will be opened for **two days with the waters west of 135°34.50' W long closed.** Possible adjustments to season length will depend on the preseason survey performance and fishery registration information, and any changes will be announced in a standalone Advisory Announcement. Tenakee Inlet will not be included in the rotational fishery management strategy in the Juneau Area.

**District 12 – Remainder (12-R): will be closed.** The 15,000-pound GHL of spot shrimp for 12-R was reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season, and due to declining commercial CPUE and fishermen concerns the area was closed to rebuild the stock from the 2012/13 season through the 2014/15 season. 12-R was reopened in the 2016/17 season with a reduced GHL of 7,500 pounds with CPUE unchanged and was closed again for the 2016/17 through 2018/19 seasons and reopened in 2019 with a GHL of 7,500 pounds and a harvest of 10,300 pounds of spot shrimp. Kelp Bay saw improved commercial CPUE and harvest with fishermen noting a decreasing size of shrimp over the course of the season. Freshwater Bay performed well but had not had any commercial effort for seven years prior to the 2019/20 season. There was no effort in the Point Couverden area. With concern that much of the 2019/20 season harvest is due to biomass accrued over the closed/unfished period, 12-R is anticipated to reopen in the 2021/22 season with an increased GHL and three-year rotational harvest strategy.

**Sections 13-A/B:** The GHL will remain at 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Sections 13-A/B were divided from Section 13-C with a GHL of 15,300 pounds of spot shrimp beginning with the 2000/01 season. The GHL has not been modified since its inception. Fishery performance is the only information available for an indicator of stock health. Section wide commercial CPUE increased from last season and is slightly above historical levels. The recent 10-year average harvest is 15,500 pounds. The 2019/20 harvest was 15,800 pounds and the season closed October 13. **Sections 13 A/B are expected to close on or before October 15, 2020.**

**Section 13-C: will be closed.** The GHL for Section 13-C was reduced from 42,000 to 34,000 pounds for the 2007/08 season, to 30,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season, to 26,000 pounds for the 2012/13 season, and to 16,000 pounds prior to the 2017/18 season. In the more productive Hoonah Sound portion of Section 13-C, annual surveys were conducted from 1998 through 2014 and 2017 through 2019. Results from the preseason surveys conducted from 2017 through 2019 indicated poor stock health in Hoonah Sound. The catch rates of small class shrimp are near the lowest levels in the history of the survey; the catch rates of large class shrimp declined again in 2019 and are at the second lowest level on record. In response to the poor survey results observed in 2019, the Hoonah Sound portion of Section 13-C was closed after two days of fishing on October 2. The remainder of 13-C was closed on October 7. The 2019 section wide commercial CPUE decreased slightly from the previous season and remains below historical levels. Both the subsistence and sport shrimp fisheries in Hoonah Sound were closed for the 2020 season beginning March 1. The recent 10-year average harvest is 24,400 pounds. The 2019/20 total harvest was 13,400 pounds of spot shrimp (approximately 4,900 pounds of spot shrimp were harvested in Hoonah Sound) and the season closed October 7.

**District 14: will reopen with a GHL of 7,500 pounds.** A GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp was established for District 14 in 1995. With declining fishery performance, the GHL was reduced to 15,000 pounds for the 2006/07 season and further reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season. The fishery was closed for three seasons to rebuild the stock and was reopened for the 2012/13 season with a GHL of 10,000 pounds. With fishery performance unchanged, District 14 was again closed for three seasons. The district reopened for the 2016/17 season with a reduced GHL of 7,500 pounds and an alternate-year rotational harvest strategy. The 2018/19 season CPUE increased slightly from the 2016/17 season and total harvest declined by 16%. For the 2018/19 season, the spot shrimp harvest was 5,500 pounds and the fishery was open for 151 days. Catch rates will be closely monitored in the 2020/21 season and the district may be closed before the GHL is achieved. After the 2020/21 season, it is anticipated that District 14 will reopen in the 2023/24 season in a three-year rotational harvest strategy.

**District 15:** The districtwide GHL will remain at 11,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp which will again be split between the East side and the remainder of District 15. **District 15 East will have a GHL of 3,500 pounds and the remainder will have a GHL of 7,500 pounds.** The District 15 East areas encompass Lutak, Chilkoot, and Taiya inlets. **Chilkoot and Lutak inlets in District 15 East will close for the 2020/21 season.** The remainder of District 15 includes Chilkat Inlet and waters south of the latitude of Seduction Point and north of the latitude of Little Island Light. The District 15 GHL has been managed as two separate areas each with a specific GHL since 2009 following a 3-year districtwide closure. Splitting the GHL between two areas has been used as an alternative management strategy and is not currently in regulation. District 15 (Eastern side) was managed for a GHL of 7,500 pounds since reopening in 2009 until the 2018/19 season when the GHL was reduced to a 3,500 pounds. In addition, Chilkoot and Lutak inlets were closed due to stock health concerns in those areas leaving Taiya Inlet the only open area. Commercial CPUE in Taiya Inlet increased during the 2018/2019 season and again in the 2019/20 season. Chilkoot and Lutak inlets opened for the 2019/20 season, but fishery performance remained poor. The 2019/20 harvest was 3,600 pounds and the season closed November 6. The remainder of District 15 has been managed for a GHL of 7,500 pounds since reopening for the 2009/10 season. Harvests have averaged 3,400 pounds since reopening. Commercial CPUE dropped precipitously in the 2015/16 season to the lowest on record. There was no harvest during the 2016/17 season. The 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons' CPUE has been at historical levels, but carapace length decreased. The 2019/2020 CPUE increased to the highest level in seven seasons. District 15 remainder closed by regulation on February 28, 2020, then reopened for the spring/summer season. The fishery closed for the season on July 3 and the 2019/2020 harvest is confidential.

**District 16: will remain closed.** A GHL of 20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp was established for District 16 in 1995. With declining fishery performance, the GHL was reduced to 15,000 pounds for the 2004/05 season and with continued declines was closed for three seasons to rebuild stocks. The fishery was reopened in 2008/09 with a 15,000-pound GHL of spot and coonstripe shrimp and an alternate-year rotational harvest strategy was established. This district was the first in the

region to employ the alternate-year rotational harvest strategy to reduce impacts on the stock. This fishery was opened for the sixth time in its biennial schedule in 2018 and CPUE of all shrimp decreased to levels that prompted the initial three-year closure in the 2005/06 season. District 16 will remain closed until 2022/23 when fisheries will reopen in a three-year rotational harvest strategy.

### Reporting Requirements

All commercial shrimp fishermen are required to notify the department within two days of deploying gear and within two business days after ceasing fishing in a district, or portion of a district with a distinct GHL.

All shrimp catcher-processors (including direct-marketers) and shrimp catcher-sellers, but not shrimp fishermen who make deliveries to shorebased or floating processors, are required to report to the department specified information by noon on Wednesday of each week. Fishermen are advised that it would be most efficient to contact the office responsible for each area: Districts 1–4: Ketchikan; Districts 5–8 and 10: Petersburg; Districts 12-T and 14: Juneau; Districts 9 and 13: Sitka; and District 15: Haines.

All shrimp catcher-processors are required to complete a separate fish ticket for each day fished for each district or portion of a district with a distinct GHL. Fish tickets must be submitted to the department within 7 days of the closure of a district or portion of a district with a distinct GHL. Shrimp catcher-processors must contact the department before fishing in a new district/area with a distinct GHL.

The department relies on detailed information provided by fish tickets and fisherman contacts to effectively track effort and harvest in the fishery. The department requires this information to make timely management decisions each week regarding the status of the fishery. **Catcher-sellers will be required to report catches weekly in District 1, District 2, Section 3-A, Sections 3-B/C, District 4, District 9, Sections 13-A/B, District 14, and District 15.** The department is not requiring weekly reporting from **catcher-sellers** fishing in Districts 5, 7, 12-T, and Sections 6-B/C/D, 8-B/6-A, and 8-A/10-C. Sections 10-A/B and District 12-T are excluded from this requirement for catcher-sellers due to the expected short duration of the seasons and on-the-grounds management in these areas. Districts 5 and 7, and Sections 6-B/C/D, 8-B/6-A, and 8-A/10-C are excluded from this requirement for catcher-sellers due to the relatively fewer numbers of catcher-sellers generally fishing in these districts and there is sufficient time to accurately manage for GHLs set for these areas.

**Weekly reporting requirements for all catcher-processors and catcher-sellers in those areas listed above will begin 8:00 a.m., Monday, October 5, 2020.** To facilitate reporting requirements, the department will provide reporting forms at ADF&G area offices.

### General Fish Ticket Reporting Requirements

Fishermen, catcher-processors, and catcher-sellers selling to a processor must furnish factual information for the completion of fish tickets at the time of landing. It is important to include the statistical subdistrict information (example: 107-10, lower Ernest Sound) to identify where the harvest occurred. Multiple statistical subdistricts can be entered on a single fish ticket and fishermen should account for the harvest from each subdistrict. A separate fish ticket is required for each district or area that has a GHL [5 AAC 31.143 (c)].

The shrimp fish ticket has a box in the heading to record the number of pot lifts specific to that ticket. In order to obtain accurate CPUE information, the department is requiring that information concerning the number of pot lifts is recorded on each fish ticket. The daily number of pots lifted should be written on the top of the fish ticket in the effort box on these new tickets. The effort column in the body of the ticket should be left blank. For example, if 100 pots are fished twice a day, the number of pot lifts should read 200 for that day. All fish tickets must be imprinted with a valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) card and completed at the time of delivery. The department also requests that fishermen fill in the number of days actually fished (days gear was in the water) each time they pick their gear.



### Catcher–Processor Logbook Program

Regulations (5 AAC 31.141 and 5 AAC 31.143(b)(1)(E)), adopted at the 2015 BOF meeting, require all vessels participating in the Southeast Alaska pot shrimp fishery to complete a daily logbook if they process their catch onboard the vessel (catcher–processor vessels). All catcher–processor vessels will be required to keep logbooks regardless of the product type (whole or tails) they process. Logbooks and instructions will be available at all area offices. Catcher–processors will be required to complete a logbook registration form when registering for the fishery which will include gear information and the size category breakdown used onboard. Daily logbooks will include pounds caught by size category, species, product type, location, date, and corresponding ticket number. Logbooks will be required to be turned in with the corresponding fish tickets when switching between districts or portions of a district with a distinct GHL, no later than seven days after a closure.

**Reporting daily logbook information will not be required during weekly call-in periods except in District 7 and Sections 6-B/C/D. In these areas, catcher–processors will be required to report their daily harvest in pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot shrimp.**

### Closed Waters

Fishermen should note that some waters of Southeast Alaska are closed to commercial harvest of shrimp. Those areas are described in 5 AAC 31.136. CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION AREA A in the 2020–2021 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations. In addition, the waters of Tenakee Inlet west of 135°34.5' W long, are closed by Emergency Order.

### Octopus Bycatch

A management plan has been adopted [5 AAC 38.150] and a commissioner's permit is not required to retain and sell octopus bycatch. The regulation allows for retention of octopus up to 35% of the whole weight of spot shrimp harvested and provides for a maximum harvest level of 35,000 pounds of octopus for Area A. The department will close the fishery to further retention of octopus by emergency order if the maximum level is reached. All octopus sold or retained for personal use must be recorded on a fish ticket.

### Pot Shrimp Fishing Offshore

Offshore waters are included in Districts 4, 13, and 16; the boundary lines of which are described in 5 AAC 31.105 (d), (m), and (p). The offshore area includes the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United States. The EEZ extends 200 nautical miles offshore from the defined fish districts (Presidential Proclamation 5030). Fishermen who wish to fish in offshore waters may do so only if those districts are open. Shrimp harvested in these areas will be part of existing GHLs for those districts. Fishermen who wish to fish in these areas must have a Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery CFEC permit card.

### General Information

The information contained in this advisory announcement is intended as a summary of important regulations. Participants in the Southeast Alaska shrimp pot fishery are reminded to obtain and review a copy of the 2020–2021 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations booklet to make sure that they are familiar with and understand all pertinent regulations.

Fishery Management Contacts

For information on the commercial pot shrimp fishery, contact the Area Management Biologists:

Ketchikan

Fishing Areas: Districts 1, 2, and 4; Section 3-A and Sections 3-B/C

Phone: 225-5195

Contacts: Bo Meredith, Justin Breese, or Whitney Crittenden

Petersburg

Fishing Areas: Districts 5 and 7; Sections 6-B/C/D, Sections 8-B/6-A, Sections 8-B/10-C, and Sections 10-A/B

Phone: 772-3801 Petersburg

Contacts: Paul Salomone, Katie Taylor, or Tom Kowalske

Sitka

Fishing Areas: District 9; Sections 13-A/B and 13-C

Phone: 747-6688

Contacts: Aaron Dupuis or Jason Jones

Juneau

Fishing Areas: Districts 12-T and 14

Phone: 465-4250

Contacts: Dave Harris or Scott Forbes

Haines

Fishing Area: District 15

Phone: 766-2830

Contacts: Nicole Zeiser or Shane Ransbury

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&amp;G</i>	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220