

PROPOSAL 78

5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections, and 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.

Add sections for Districts 6, 8, and 10 and provide shrimp fishery guideline harvest ranges for the new areas, as follows:

5 AAC 31.105(f) is amended to read:

(f) District 6: waters of Clarence Strait that are north of a line running from Narrow Point (**55° 47.45' N. lat., 132° 28.57' W. long.**) to Lemesurier Point (**55° 46.02' N. lat., 132° 16.93' W. long.**), to Ernest Point (**55° 51.00' N. lat., 132° 22.21' W. long.**), [AND ENDING AT] **to** the most southerly point on Etolin Island (**55° 54.79' N. lat., 132° 21.24' W. long.**), [WATERS OF] Stikine Strait [THAT ARE] south of the latitude of Round Point (**56° 16.65' N. lat.**), [WATERS OF] Sumner Strait [THAT ARE] west of a line from Point Alexander (**56° 30.54' N. lat., 132° 56.94' W. long.**) to Low Point (**56° 27.18' N. lat., 132° 57.17' W. long.**), and [THAT ARE] east of a line from Point Baker (**56° 21.52' N. lat., 133° 37.58' W. long.**) to Point Barrie (**56° 26.18' N. lat., 133° 39.27' W. long.**), [WATERS OF] Wrangell Narrows [THAT ARE] south and west of a line [RUNNING] from Prolewy Point (**56° 50.12' N. lat., 132° 56.45' W. long.**) to the northern tip of Mitkof Island (**56° 49.38' N. lat., 132° 56.31' W. long.**), and **all** waters of Duncan Canal[.];

(1) Section 6-A: waters north of a line from the tip of Point Colpoys (56° 20.17' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long.) to the tip of Macnamara Point (56° 19.85' N. lat., 133° 04.00' W. long.), west of a line from the tip of Low Point (56° 27.18' N. lat., 132° 57.17' W. long.) to the tip of Point Alexander (56° 30.54' N. lat., 132° 56.94' W. long.) and east of a line from the tip of Point Barrie (56° 26.18' N. lat., 133° 39.27' W. long.) to the tip of Point Baker (56° 21.52' N. lat., 133° 37.58' W. long.);

(2) Section 6-B: waters south of a line from the tip of Point Colpoys (56° 20.17' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long.) to the tip of Macnamara Point (56° 19.85' N. lat., 133° 04.00' W. long.), north and west of a line from the tip of Luck Point (55° 59.04' N. lat., 132° 44.07' W. long.) to the tip of Point Stanhope (56° 00.69' N. lat., 132° 36.46' W. long.) to Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40' N. lat., 132° 41.85' W. long.) to Key Reef Light (56° 09.61' N. lat., 132° 49.78' W. long.) to Nesbitt Reef Light (56° 13.22' N. lat., 132° 51.83' W. long.) to the tip of Point Nesbitt (56° 13.92' N. lat., 132° 52.32' W. long.);

(3) Section 6-C: waters enclosed by a line from Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40' N. lat., 132° 41.85' W. long.) to the westernmost point of Screen Islands (56° 05.60' W. lat., 132° 42.61' W. long.) to the westernmost point of Marsh Island (56° 06.98' N. lat., 132° 43.20' W. long.) to the westernmost point of Steamer Rocks (56° 08.41' N. lat., 132° 43.64' W. long.) to Mariposa Rock Buoy (56° 10.67' N. lat., 132° 44.35' W. long.) to the tip of Point Nesbitt (56° 13.92' N. lat., 132° 52.32' W. long.) to Nesbitt Reef Light to Key Reef Light (56° 13.22' N. lat., 132° 51.83' W. long.) to Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40' N. lat., 132° 41.85' W. long.);

(4) Section 6-D: all other waters of the district.

5 AAC 31.105(h) is amended to read:

(h) District 8: waters of Frederick Sound that are south of a line running from Wood Point (**56° 59.47' N. lat., 132° 56.97' W. long.**) to Beacon Point (**56° 56.36' N. lat., 132° 59.74' W. long.**), [BUT NOT INCLUDING] **excluding** Wrangell Narrows), [WATERS OF] Sumner Strait

[THAT ARE] east of a line [RUNNING] from Point Alexander (56° 30.54' N. lat., 132° 56.94' W. long.) to Low Point (56° 27.18' N. lat., 132° 57.17' W. long.), [WATERS OF] Stikine Strait [THAT ARE] north of the latitude of Round Point (56° 16.65' N. lat.), [WATERS OF] Zimovia Strait [THAT ARE] north of the latitude of Nemo Point (56° 22.97' N. Lat., 132° 24.28' W. long.), and [WATERS OF] Eastern Passage [THAT ARE] west of a line [RUNNING] from Hour Point (56° 27.80' N. lat., 132° 16.63' W. long.) to Babler Point (56° 29.08' W. lat., 132° 17.36' W. long.).

(1) Section 8-A: the waters of the district north of a line from Blaquiere Point (56° 35.06' N. lat., 132° 32.54' W. long.) to Kakwan Point (56° 41.62' N. lat., 132° 13.12' W. long.);

(2) Section 8-B: the waters of the district south of a line from Blaquiere Point (56° 35.06' N. lat., 132° 32.54' W. long.) to Kakwan Point (56° 41.62' N. lat., 132° 13.12' W. long.);

5 AAC 31.105(j) is amended to read:

(j) District 10: [WATERS OF] Frederick Sound, [and of] Stephens Passage, **and contiguous waters** [THAT ARE] north of a line from Beacon Point (56° 56.36' N. lat., 132° 59.74' W. long.) to Wood Point (56° 59.47' N. lat., 132° 56.97' W. long.), east of a line from Point Macartney (57° 01.49' N. lat., 134° 03.51' W. long.) to the southern tip of Elliott Island (57° 15.20' N. lat., 134° 03.72' W. long.), [AND] north of the latitude of the southern tip of Elliott Island (57° 15.20' N. lat., 134° 03.72' W. long.), [WATERS OF] Seymour Canal [THAT ARE] south of 57°37' N. lat., and [WATERS OF STEPHENS PASSAGE THAT ARE] south of a line [RUNNING] from Point League (57° 37.76' N. lat., 133° 40.47' W. long.) to Point Hugh (57° 34.21' N. lat., 133° 48.58' W. long.).

(1) Section 10-A: waters of the district west of line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90' N. lat., 133° 53.40' W. long.) to 57° 12.60' N. lat., 133° 53' W. long., to a point on the line extending from Pinta Point to False Point Pybus (57° 22.10' N. lat., 133° 51.79' W. long.), to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island (57° 18.40' N. lat., 133° 39.28' W. long.) to McDonald Rock light (57° 25.10' N. lat., 133° 52.55' W. long.), to 57° 36' N. lat., 133° 44.76' W. long.;

(2) Section 10-B: waters of the district north of a line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90' N. lat., 133° 53.40' W. long.) to Cape Fanshaw (57° 11.12' N. lat., 133° 35.40' W. long.) and east of line from Pinta Point to 57° 12.60' N. lat., 133° 53' W. long., to a point on the line extending from Pinta Point to False Point Pybus (57° 22.10' N. lat., 133° 51.79' W. long.), to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island (57° 18.40' N. lat., 133° 39.28' W. long.) to McDonald Rock light (57° 25.10' N. lat., 133° 52.55' W. long.), to 57° 36' N. lat., 133°44.76' W. long.;

(3) Section 10-C: waters of the district east of a line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90' N. lat., 133° 53.40' W. long.) to Cape Fanshaw (57° 11.12' N. lat., 133° 35.40' W. long.);

5 AAC 31.115(a)(6) is amended to read:

(6) District 6: [0 – 82,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

(A) Sections 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D combined: 0–60,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

5 AAC 31.115(a)(8) is amended to read:

(8) District 8: [0 – 28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

(A) Sections 8-A and 10-C combined: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

(B) Sections 8-B and 6-A combined: 0–25,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

5 AAC 31.115(a)(10) is amended to read:

(10) District 10: [0 – 58,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

(A) Sections 10-A and 10-B combined: 0–50,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial pot shrimp fishing areas were originally determined using salmon fishing districts and sections. District 8 encompasses two separate water bodies (Frederick Sound and Sumner Strait) that are divided by Mitkof Island. The shrimp stocks in these two water bodies are separate and are closer linked to portions of Districts 6 and 10. This proposal would separate District 8 and combine the separated portions to portions of districts 6 and 10. The result will be all of eastern Frederick Sound will be managed as one area and all of eastern Sumner Strait will be managed as another area, thereby allowing the department to better manage shrimp populations in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-113)

PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 31.110. Shrimp pot fishing seasons and periods for Registration Area A and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Repeal winter commercial shrimp fishery and modify fishing season for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial shrimp fishery to avoid egg bearing shrimp, as follows:

Open the shrimp commercial fishing in April after the shrimp have got eggs hatch.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the commercial shrimp opening from October when most shrimp have eggs.

PROPOSED BY: Nick Yurko

(HQ-F17-001)

PROPOSAL 80

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.

Reduce the maximum number of pots per vessel, limit the number of pots per string and pot spacing, and limit gear to one operation cycle per day in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

Limit shrimp pot gear as follows:

1. Small pots:
 - a. Reduce the maximum limit of small pots from 140 to 100 per license;
 - b. Limit each string to be comprised of 4 pots only, 25 string max;
 - c. Pots must be 15 fathoms apart on a string.

2. Large pots:
 - a. Reduce the maximum limit of large pots from 100 to 75 per license;
 - b. Limits each string to be comprised of 3 pots only, 25 string max;
 - c. Pots must be 20 fathoms apart on a string.
3. In addition to the pot limits described above, single pot deployment would not be allowed;
4. Gear would be limited to one pull per day, from 8am to 4pm.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Standardization and reduction of shrimp pot gear.

Currently the pot shrimp fishery is much like a derby fishery, with most districts open less than one month in order to prevent overfishing. This proposal would provide better control by managers and allow longer openings. Managers would be able to more accurately determine how much linear coverage is being fished in a district at any time.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund

(HQ-F17-088)

PROPOSAL 81

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 31.126. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31. 141. Logbooks.

Allow commercial shrimp pots in the Southeastern Alaska Area to be pulled only one time per day, as follows:

The solution is to limit the number of times a pot can be picked to once a day by adding a new regulation to 5 AAC 31.124. To be successful, several other regulations would need to change. First, limit the number of buoys each boat may have in the water to 20 in 5 AAC 31.126(c). Second, each set of pots must have a buoy on each end with an identifying set number that will be used in the logbook, also in 5 AAC 31.126(c). Third, the time, latitude and longitude when each set is picked and set should be recorded in a daily logbook in ink, which would be a new regulation in 5 AAC 31.124. This would result in boats fishing longer sets and no more than 10 sets per boat. By boats hauling longer sets and documenting when they haul them, enforcement would be easily accomplished. When considering these regulation changes, also consider: 1) only minor changes would occur to gear; 2) the importance of estimating number of pot lifts in ADF&G's attempt to calculate daily production; 3) reduction in fleet efficiency and prolonging the season length; 4) reduction in the occurrence of stock depletion; 5) the possibility of more hours to work gear daily; 6) reduction of the number of undersize shrimp harvested or disturbed; 7) the only other change that could be made to protect small shrimp is to look at a minimum size for retention.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial pot shrimp fishermen are allowed to pick their pots multiple times a day. This practice adversely affects shrimp stocks and managers ability to accurately assess effort levels. The need for a single daily lift of shrimp gear has been discussed with knowledge that short soaks will yield a larger percentage of small shrimp. This practice hurts the long term health of shrimp stocks. The most often stated objection is that a single pick regulation cannot be enforced. However, the Canadian fishery is proof that it can be done.

PROPOSED BY: James E. Smith

(EF-F17-010)

PROPOSAL 82

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close the Section 11-A commercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

Keep unit 11A to personal use shrimp fishing as is.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close commercial shrimp in Unit 11A. There were two fishermen who tried this unit and didn't find good shrimp to keep fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Nick Yurko

(HQ-F17-003)

PROPOSAL 83

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A and 5 AAC 34.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close waters of Section 11-A to commercial fishing for shrimp and red king crab, as follows:

The commercial fishery for red king crab and spot shrimp in 11-A should be abolished.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial fishing in 11-A for red king crab and shrimp. Historic lack of personal use fisheries after a commercial opening

There always was an abundance of crab and shrimp to support a personal use fishery in 11-A. each time there was a commercial opening the stocks were decimated which resulted in very lengthy closures. I commercial fished westward and kodiak for twenty years and realize that it is a wonderful way to make a living-we are only asking for a small piece of these fisheries for personal use-most personal use fisherman are only active for a few months and would barely touch the stocks that have by now rebuilt. The crab and shrimp surveys have been very inconclusive and areas of abundant crab/shrimp are often overlooked. the computer models can easily be wrong and there should be in place a way to log and document our sport effort to help with research. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Gallant

(EF-F17-118)

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close additional waters in District 2 to commercial pot shrimp fishing, as follows:

(4) Shrimp may not be taken: in the waters of Kasaan Bay north and west of a line from the northern most tip of Daisy Island located at 55'28.816"N lat, 132'19.379"W long. northeast to a point on

Kasaan Peninsula located at 55°30.533'N lat, 132°18.191'W, including all waters of Twelve-mile Arm;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? ~~The 2013 October commercial shrimp season for District 2 has left the personal use shrimpers with low shrimp biomass. District 2 is a large area; however the commercial fishing fleet focused their efforts in the waters of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm in 2013 which are adjacent to the communities of Hollis and Kasaan. Both areas were hard to navigate during the fishery from the large amount of commercial gear. After the 2013 commercial season, personal use fishermen had a hard time locating shrimp in the waters of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm. When shrimp was harvested, the numbers of them caught, and continue today in the single digits and small in size. The area used to receive moderate personal use fishing pressure through-out the year from residents of Prince of Wales Island as well as Ketchikan. Prince of Wales has a large population of subsistence / personal use users who rely on the land and ocean to feed their families. The island has a high cost of living with a financially depressed economy. ADF&G held a 2014 commercial shrimp season; however they closed Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm after a period where the commercial fishermen were catching very low numbers for the effort they put in to the fishery. Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm remained closed for the 2015 and 2016 commercial shrimp seasons by emergency order due to a low biomass. The personal use fishermen have exhausted most of their efforts and express they will continue their efforts when the shrimp catch rate equals the financial burden of fuel and operation costs. Currently the shrimp biomass is harvested commercially in October while the female shrimp contain eggs and is marketed to an overseas market. This commercial closure of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm is a small percentage of District 2 which runs the eastern shores of Prince of Wales Island south of Narrow Point and north of the US/Canadian border. This area includes all waters of bays and sounds on Prince of Wales Island on the eastern shore, south of Narrow Point. The large commercial vessels can easily navigate these areas open to commercial shrimping and away from the communities of Hollis and Kasaan who rely on a subsistence lifestyle to exist.

A regulation closure of the area to commercial shrimping would protect a relatively small percentage of District 2 to allow personal use fishermen to utilize the resource. Ketchikan personal use fishermen would benefit from closed commercial shrimp area as buoys in the Kasaan Bay are routinely observed with Ketchikan addresses. The area selected for the closure is in close proximity to the community of Hollis and village of Kasaan. Both places have harbors and boat launches which are utilized by all residents of Prince of Wales Island with small vessels. Commercial vessels would still be able to fish District 2 in waters not directly adjacent to the communities of Hollis and Kasaan.

PROPOSED BY: Hollis Community Council Inc.

(EF-F17-021)
