

**PROPOSAL 222**

**5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence Shrimp Fishery; 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.660 Personal Use shrimp fishery.**

Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 02.110 is amended to read:

**(6) Shrimp may only be taken May 1 through Feb 28.**

5 AAC 47.020 (16) is amended to read:

(16) shrimp: may **only** be taken from **May 1** [JANUARY 1] – **February 28** [DECEMBER 31] only under a permit issued by the department; a harvest recording form under 5 AAC 75.016 is required; bag and possession limit of three pounds or three quarts; no annual limit.

5 AAC 77.660 (1) is amended to read:

(1) **Season and possession limit**

**(A) Shrimp may only be taken from May 1 through Feb 28.**

**(B)** Except as provided in (7) and (8) of this section, there **are** [IS NO CLOSED SEASON AND] no bag and possession limits;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** March and April compose a biologically sensitive period for pandalid shrimp when eggs mature and hatch. Best fishing practices dictate that fishing during such periods should be avoided to enhance long term stock resilience. For this reason, the regional commercial shrimp pot fishery has had season closures during this time for many years. The magnitude of the regional subsistence, sport, and personal use harvest of spot shrimp was largely unknown until 2018 when permit and harvest reporting was required for these fisheries . Recent harvest data show that collectively these fisheries make up between 19% and 26% of the total annual spot shrimp harvest. Implementing a seasonal closure during this biologically sensitive period is likely to benefit the sustainability of Southeast shrimp pot fisheries and is especially pertinent given recent regional declines in spot shrimp abundance.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-150)

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