

## **PROPOSAL 223**

### **5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence Shrimp Fishery; 5 AAC 47.035; Methods, means, and general provisions - Shellfish; and 5 AAC 77.660. Personal Use Shrimp Fishery.**

Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots.

#### **Proposal:**

Change the wording in the following sections of 5 AAC to change the permitted size of openings in shrimp pot tunnels in the Southeast Alaska Area.

#### **Subsistence Shellfish:**

5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence shrimp fishery

In the subsistence taking of shrimp,

(1) a pot used to take shrimp must have

(A) no more than four tunnel eye openings; a tunnel eye opening may not exceed (15) **16** inches in perimeter;

(B) a bottom perimeter of no more than 153 inches; and

(C) a volume of no more than 25 cubic feet;

#### **Sport Fish:**

5 AAC 47.035 (k)1 Subsistence shrimp fishery

In the subsistence taking of shrimp,

(1) a pot used to take shrimp must have

(A) no more than four tunnel eye openings; a tunnel eye opening may not exceed (15) **16** inches in perimeter;

(B) a bottom perimeter of no more than 153 inches; and

(C) a volume of no more than 25 cubic feet;

#### **Personal Use Shellfish:**

5 AAC 77.660 (5)(5) a pot used to take shrimp under this chapter must have

(A) no more than four tunnel eye openings; no tunnel eye opening may exceed (15) **16** inches in perimeter;

(B) a bottom perimeter of no more than 153 inches; and

(C) a volume of no more than 25 cubic feet;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations discriminate against fishers that harvest shrimp with rigid mesh pots by limiting the area tunnel openings may have compared to non-rigid pots. This is because a circular opening found on non-rigid pots allows for a greater area than a rectangular opening of the same perimeter or circumference commonly found in a rigid pot.

We would like to have the openings allowed in rigid mesh pots closer in size to non-rigid pots. Current regulations allow openings of up to 17.9 square inches for non-rigid pots. Rigid pots are currently limited to 10 square inches if the pot tunnel has standard 1" mesh. Many rigid pots are already manufactured with openings that measure 2" by 6" which equals 16" of perimeter. We are proposing making the perimeter of the opening one inch larger than the current regulation, 16".

This change would allow the opening in a rigid pot to be exactly the same as the biological escape mechanism required for the pots. The funnel openings on non-rigid pots already exceed the escape mechanism size. Therefore, there should not be a concern with increased bycatch with rigid pots.

**The Math:**

**Present regulations:**

Circumference of circle (C) =  $2\pi r$

15" =  $2(3.14)r$

radius = 2.38 inches.

**(The new radius could be up to 2.54".)**

**Maximum area of a (current) non-rigid pot tunnel opening.**

Area of a circle with a 15" perimeter (circumference) (A) =  $\pi r^2$

A =  $3.14(2.38)(2.38) = 17.9$  square inches

**(The new area could be up to 20.25 square inches.)**

**Maximum area of the proposed rigid pot tunnel opening.**

Area of a rectangle = base x height

Proposed size:

A =  $6" \times 2" = 12$  square inches

Perimeter = 16"

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** The EPOW discussed and submitted this proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee

(HQ-F24-027)

\*\*\*\*\*