

PROPOSAL 305

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan.

Prohibit noncommercial shrimp participants from carrying additional shrimp gear, as follows:

Modify 5 AAC 55.055 section (a) (3) as follows:

(3) shrimp may be taken with pots as follows:

(A) only from April 15 through September 15;

(B) no bag, possession, or size limit;

(C) no more than five pots per vessel may be used to take shrimp.

(D) no more than the regulatory number of pots allowed to be used per person and per vessel may be aboard a vessel while participating in the noncommercial shrimp fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The noncommercial shrimp pot fishery is managed in part by a pot limit per vessel set at the beginning of each season based on the GHL. However, shrimpers are allowed to carry "spare pots" in excess of the pot limit aboard their vessel. This allowance for spare pots makes enforcement of the pot limit extremely difficult: a trooper cannot simply board a vessel and count how many pots are aboard when they depart or return to port. Shrimp fishermen in PWS have started exploiting this "spare pot" loophole in order to drastically increase the number of pots fished per vessel. Now vessels are regularly heading out with multiple permit holders aboard and multiple limits of shrimp pots which they call "spares". Once the vessel sets one permit holder's limit worth of shrimp pots, they simply add marked buoys to their "spare pots" for the next permit holder on board and go set those. In this way they are capable of fishing far more gear per boat than was ever intended by the regulations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)

(EF-F24-138)
