

PROPOSAL 309

5 AAC 31.510. Fishing Seasons for Registration Area J.

Change season dates for Registration Area J commercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

In Registration Area J, shrimp may only be taken from **April 1 through December 31** [JUNE 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28] and only under the terms of a permit issued by the department. In the permit, the department may specify

- (1) fishing area;
- (2) logbook requirements;
- (3) biological sample collection requirements;
- (4) reporting requirements;
- (5) time-period specific harvest limits (trip limits); and
- (6) any other conditions that the department determines as necessary for conservation or management of the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses a season timing issue for the commercial shrimp fishery in Registration Area J to improve market development, safety, and diversification opportunity. The current fishing season begins at the same time as the salmon fishery, so the small boat fleet that participates in salmon is only able to participate in this shrimp fishery in the fall and winter months with more inclement weather. Moving the start and stop dates forward allows for smaller boats that are busy in the summer months to explore this experimental fishery when the weather is better resulting in increased safety conditions and seasonal opportunity. Furthermore, the current season timing in regulation focuses harvest of shrimp when they are often full of eggs. Developing markets have indicated more demand for shrimp with no or fewer eggs due to meat retention issues, so this proposal change would assist in meeting that demand by working in harmony with processor interest.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Christopher Johnson

(HQ-F24-055)
