

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Establish a spawner index management system for the Southeastern Alaska commercial spot shrimp fishery, as follows:

It is requested that the Board renew policy direction to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) respecting introduction of spawner index management, with clear instructions that test fishing be continued, and carried out thoroughly and properly in adherence with such guidance and agreed protocols.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a spawner index management system for the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery.

For the January, 2012 Southeast shellfish meeting I submitted a proposal under this same title (Proposal 171 / page 148 in the 2012 proposal book) stating:

"A spawner index system such as used in British Columbia is generally recognized to offer the best available in-season management and optimal resource utilization. Spawner index uses a defined ratio of males to females in the catch to determine if the fishery in a given area should remain open or be closed. The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) should direct the department to begin moving toward this kind of system in the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery, with a goal of full implementation by the 2015 board cycle. Interim steps could include testing of the system in selected areas."

This proposal resulted in creation of an industry / management committee to address the issue at that board meeting. Good progress was made. Two test areas were identified, and protocols for proceeding were agreed to. The board ratified the effort and provided regulatory flexibility to exceed guideline harvest level's (GHL) in those areas if spawner indexing indicated fishing could continue beyond the established GHL. The Legislature appropriated funds for the project. ADF&G personnel subsequently traveled to British Columbia to consult with their Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada counterparts on implementation of a spawner index. In sum, everything was in place for a successful multi-year test of spawner index management, which offered the long-term prospect for improved inseason management and better economic results for fishermen.

Unfortunately, in key test instances in both the 2012 and 2013 seasons, a local management biologist elected to close the fishery contrary to the spawner index protocols, thereby compromising the science of the test fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Fisk (EF-C14-156)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Establish management direction to modify commercial pot shrimp fishery GHLs based on indicators of shrimp population size determined by CPUE, size data, and geographic distribution, as follows:

5 AAC 31.145 SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA (REGISTRATION AREA A) POT SHRIMP MANAGEMENT PLAN

a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to provide the department with direction for the management of the spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) and coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*) stocks in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska). The department shall manage the spot and coonstripe shrimp stocks for sustained yield according to the principles specified in the management plan under this section.

(b) The department shall manage

(1) all the districts or portions of districts, in Registration Area A based on the harvest of spot shrimp, except that

(A) District 11 shall be managed based on the harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp; and

(B) Districts 15 and 16 shall be managed based on the harvest of coonstripe shrimp;

(2) the spot and coonstripe shrimp fisheries to

(A) maintain a number of age classes of shrimp to ensure the long-term viability of those stocks and reduce the dependence on annual recruitment;

(B) reduce fishing periods for shrimp stocks during the biologically sensitive periods of the shrimp's life cycle, such as egg hatch, growth, and recruitment, and when shrimp stocks are considered to be poor quality for the market place;

(C) reduce mortality of small shrimp of any species;

(D) maintain an adequate broodstock for the rebuilding of the shrimp stocks, if rebuilding becomes necessary.

(E) harvest levels will move in relation to indicators of the population size. Indicators of population size include but are not limited to CPUE, size data, geographic distribution of shrimp within an area and survey data if available.

(c) Repealed 5/11/2012.

(d) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open a shrimp fishing season from May 15 through July 31 (summer season) in a district where the guideline harvest range was not reached during the season specified in 5 AAC 31.110 (winter season).

(e) The guideline harvest ranges for spot shrimp are specified in 5 AAC 31.115(1) - (10), and (12) - (14), and are based primarily on the average catch of pot shrimp from the 1990-1991 season through the 1994-1995 season.

(f) Repealed 7/18/2003.

(g) There are no specific guideline harvest ranges for coonstripe shrimp, but the allowable harvest of coonstripe shrimp will be based on the average catch of coonstripe shrimp in each district during the 1995-1996 season through the 1999-2000 season. The provisions of this subsection do not apply in Districts 15 and 16.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the Department management is very slow to respond to changes in the shrimp population by increasing or decreasing harvest. This results in lost economic opportunity to fishermen when populations are increasing and results in damage to the stocks when populations are declining. We believe that there are stock indicators of abundance that could be more effectively used such as but not limited to CPUE, size data, geographic distribution of shrimp within an area and survey data when available.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (EF-C14-139)

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Provide additional commercial pot shrimp fishery management flexibility in specific fishing locales in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.115 Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A. (a) **Except as provided for in 5 AAC 31.145 (h), the** [THE] following are the district guideline harvest ranges for the taking of shrimp by pots in Registration Area A:

- (1) District 1: 0 – 164,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (2) District 2: 0 – 120,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (3) District 3:
 - (A) Section 3-A: 0–264,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
 - (B) Sections 3-B and 3-C, combined: 0 – 70,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (4) District 4: 0–28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (5) District 5: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (6) District 6: 0–82,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (7) District 7: 0–104,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (8) District 8: 0–28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (9) District 9: 0–18,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (10) District 10: 0–58,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (11) District 11
 - (A) Sections: 11-A, 11-B, and 11-C, combined: 0–15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp;
 - (B) Section 11-D: 0–30,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (12) District 12:
 - (A) Tenakee Inlet: 0–34,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
 - (B) remainder of District 12: 0–15,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (13) District 13:
 - (A) Sections 13-A and 13-B, combined 0 – 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
 - (B) Section 13-C: 0–50,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (14) District 14: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (15) District 15: 0–20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp;
- (16) District 16: 0–20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.

(b) For the purposes of this section, District 12: Tenakee Inlet includes the waters of District 12 that are west of a line from the easternmost tip of East Point to South Passage Point.

5 AAC 31.145 Southeastern Alaska (Registration Area A) Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

(a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to provide the department with direction for the management of the spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) and coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*) stocks in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska). The department shall manage the spot and coonstripe shrimp stocks for sustained yield according to the principles specified in the management plan under this section.

(b) The department shall manage

(1) all the districts or portions of districts, in Registration Area A based on the harvest of spot shrimp, except that

(A) District 11 shall be managed based on the harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp; and

(B) Districts 15 and 16 shall be managed based on the harvest of coonstripe shrimp;

(2) the spot and coonstripe shrimp fisheries to

(A) maintain a number of age classes of shrimp to ensure the long-term viability of those stocks and reduce the dependence on annual recruitment;

(B) reduce fishing periods for shrimp stocks during the biologically sensitive periods of the shrimp's life cycle, such as egg hatch, growth, and recruitment, and when shrimp stocks are considered to be poor quality for the market place;

(C) reduce mortality of small shrimp of any species;

(D) maintain an adequate broodstock for the rebuilding of the shrimp stocks, if rebuilding becomes necessary.

(c) Repealed 5/11/2012.

(d) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open a shrimp fishing season from May 15 through July 31 (summer season) in a district where the guideline harvest range was not reached during the season specified in 5 AAC 31.110 (winter season).

(e) The guideline harvest ranges for spot shrimp are specified in 5 AAC 31.115(1) – (10), and (12) – (14), and are based primarily on the average catch of pot shrimp from the 1990–1991 season through the 1994–1995 season.

(f) Repealed 7/18/2003.

(g) There are no specific guideline harvest ranges for coonstripe shrimp, but the allowable harvest of coonstripe shrimp will be based on the average catch of coonstripe shrimp in each district during the 1995–1996 season through the 1999–2000 season. The provisions of this subsection do not apply in Districts 15 and 16.

(h) The department may select areas listed in 5 AAC 31.115 to provide inseason management flexibility with management strategies. The department will continue to manage the pot shrimp fishery in these selected areas as specified in 5 AAC 31.145(b).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current guideline harvest range (GHR) needs to be exempted in areas that are using an experimental harvest strategy. While the board adopted amended language at the 2011 board meeting in RC 29, the language was not implemented into regulation. The language adopted allowed for experimental harvest strategies in consultation with industry and the shrimp task force to be implemented.

Industry believes that one of the experimental harvest strategies has promise and would like to expand the strategy into other districts.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (EF-C14-140)

PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections; 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Divide District 1 into three distinct commercial pot shrimp fishing areas, as follows:

District 1 will be divided into three separate shrimp management areas. Area S1 will be all waters of District 1 north and east of a line from Pt. Sykes to Pt. Alava and north and east of a line from Survey Pt. to Camano Pt. Area S2 will be all areas of District 1 south of a line from Camano Pt. to Survey Pt and south of a line from Pt. Alava to Pt. Sykes and north of Foggy Pt, this area will include all waters of George Inlet, Carroll Inlet and Thorne Arm. Area S3 will be all waters of District 1 South and East of Foggy Pt. including all waters of Portland Canal. Each area will be allowed 25,000 pot lifts and will then close.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? District 1 is the largest geographic area used to manage the pot shrimp fishery in Southeast. This area needs to be broken into smaller areas that will allow the department to manage the discrete shrimp populations instead of as one large population. In the recent past this area has closed when some parts of the area had not had any harvesting take place. The department staff is also quite busy during this time of year and there has been a reluctance to vary the current management strategy to allow access to areas that are unfished or to take advantage of areas of abundance within this district.

Implementing the following management plan will allow the fleet to cover the grounds with each area and catch shrimp if they are available, while not allowing fishing to continue on grounds once they have been already fished.

PROPOSED BY: Brennon Eagle (EF-C14-099)

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 31.143. Reporting requirements for commercial shrimp vessels in Registration Area A. Modify commercial pot shrimp fishery reporting requirements for Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.143 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL SHRIMP VESSELS IN REGISTRATION AREA A. (a) Unless otherwise specified by the department, the owner or operator of a commercial shrimp vessel operating pot gear in Registration Area A shall report by telephone or in person to a local representative of the department within two business days of deploying shrimp gear and two business days after ceasing shrimp fishing in any district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, including the following information:

(1) the pounds in whole weight by species of shrimp on board the vessel taken during the fishing period in any district or portion of a district;

(2) other information requested by the department for the purpose of conserving or developing shrimp resources.

(b) In addition to the reporting requirements specified in (a) of this section, the weekly reporting requirements in Registration Area A for vessels commercial shrimp fishing with pots or beam trawls are as follows:

(1) unless other arrangements have been made with a local representative of the department, each week an owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel, or the owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-seller vessel, operating gear in the waters of Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone or in person, the ADF&G area office in the area where shrimp fishing occurs, before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact:

(A) the permit holder's name;

(B) the name and ADF&G license plate number of the shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel;

(C) the following information regarding ADF&G fish tickets:

(i) ADF&G fish ticket number of each fish ticket used since the last contact;

(ii) date of landing on each fish ticket;

(iii) district and statistical area on each fish ticket;

(iv) the number of pot lifts on each fish ticket; (v) days that pots soaked on each fish ticket;

(vi) weight of spot and coon shrimp per fish ticket specifying whether whole or tail weight;

(vii) the size mix of the shrimp that were sorted for sale

(D) date of last delivery;

(E) any other information the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department has identified not having the size information from the pot shrimp fishery in managing the fishery as a problem. The industry has submitted proposals in the past to require reporting of shrimp size mix previously. The department has opposed those proposals previously but when industry suggests ways to manage the fishery differently, we are told they don't have the information to implement the possible strategies. A volunteer program between the department and industry has existed for a while to provide the size mix of shrimp that was sorted for sale and allowed for an experimental management strategy to be implemented in District 7 for the last three years.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

(EF-C14-138)

PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A. Standardize, limit, and reduce commercial shrimp pot gear in Registration Area A, 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 five pots only;
 - 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. Limit each string to be comprised of three pots only;
 - 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 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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 style 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-F14-014)

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 31.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A. Clarify use of other gear during a commercial shrimp season in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.128(b) is amended to read:

(b) In an area open to fishing for shrimp, a vessel operator may not operate more than the number of pots specified in 5 AAC 31.124(e), including [BOTH] commercial shrimp pots and any type of **sport, personal use, or** subsistence pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident commercial shrimp fishermen fishing in areas with a positive customary and traditional use finding are restricted to the number of pots specified in 5 AAC 31.124(e) when setting subsistence shrimp pots while concurrently commercial shrimp fishing, but are not similarly restricted in setting sport or personal use shrimp pots. 5 AAC 31.124(e) restricts the number of shrimp pots that may be set for commercial and subsistence uses, in aggregate, to 140 small pots or 100 large pots. In consideration of subsistence priority and regulatory consistency, sport and personal use shrimp pots should be added to the regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-100)

PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Revise the Southeastern Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan to include an April to October commercial fishery, regionwide, for non-spot shrimp, as follows:

Actual regulatory language and the enforcement and management measures for the fishery should be worked out with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) and members representing the fishery. I highly recommend a summer fishery however; as it generally dodges some reproductive cycles and market conditions are better.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Revise the Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan to include an April to October fishery, region wide, for non-spot prawn shrimp. This would include, but not be limited to coonstripe, humpback and pink shrimp. Spot shrimp are a small percentage of the top grade shrimp available to and easily caught by pots in Southeast Alaska. Pots catch smaller quantities of larger sized and higher quality shrimp than trawlers working on the same species. The current spot prawn seasons are very short and occur during winter, leaving fishers to do clean-ups or put the gear away for 10 months. The extra fishing time on other species should, eventually, markedly increase the value of this fishery. Pot fishermen can easily and cleanly target these other species, even in close proximity to large numbers of spot prawns. Detailed log books along with weekly reporting, or call-ins, facilitate enforcement and provide data to assist management. This fishery has the potential to take pressure off the summer Dungeness crab season also, among other benefits.

PROPOSED BY: Stephen N. Farler (EF-C14-018)
