

**PROPOSAL 175**

**5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.**

Limit the number of shrimp pots that may be deployed on a longline to 10, as follows:

5 AAC 31.124. Limit of no more than 10 shrimp pots per string.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Limit deployment of no more of 10 shrimp pots per string. This would slow the pace of the fishery, and further provide for gear standardization between large boats and small boats.

**Background:**

Commercial harvest of shrimp in Southeast Alaska utilizing pot gear began in the late 1960s and continued sporadically with low effort until the mid-1980s, peaking in the mid-1990s. In 1995, the CFEC was petitioned to include pot gear for shrimp into the limited entry program. The pot shrimp fishery is now limited entry and there are currently 256 active and interim permits of the 329 originally issued. In 1997, regulations were adopted that significantly affected the Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp fishery. These regulations include the current daily fishing periods, pot sizes, and pot limits. These restrictions had several effects: 1) decreased efficiency of the fleet, producing a slower-paced and more orderly fishery; 2) reduced the harvest of small shrimp by limiting fishing hours, leading to longer soak times which allows mesh size to passively sort out smaller shrimp; and 3) provided for gear standardization, allowing fishery performance data to be utilized by managers.

The department supports the concept of establishing regulations that reduce capture of small shrimp. Pot limits are generally allocative between small boat and large boat operations. There may be benefits in slowing the pace of the fishery in some regions.

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Westlund

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