

SEAFA SE POT SHRIMP SURVEY – FALL 2023

The full survey and all responses and comments can be viewed at SEAFA's website www.seafa.org or to go directly to <https://seafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023.-9.23-SE-POT-SHRIMP-SURVEY-RESPONSES-1.10.24.pdf>

- 19% response rate (42 returned of 224 mailed surveys)
- 30 respondents fished the 2023 spring pot shrimp fishery – 2 were new permit holders but had been crew members for over 10 years
- How Long fishing: 5 fished 1-5 year; 4 fished 6-10 years; 17 over 10 years
- 14 froze on board – 16 did not
- 14 felt their market had been affected by change in season (12 no change)
- Multiple comments received on the question did distribution of shrimp change by depth or location.
- Shell & Flesh quality: 2 better; 13 comparable and 13 worse
 - Softer shells and flesh; eggs were too developed – they had eyeballs; won't sell chalky shrimp, bad for our market
- 16 experienced more soft shell shrimp
- Market Price: 7 better in fall; 10 better in spring; 9 comparable

- Market feedback: 17 yes they had received feedback
 - 10 better; 6 worse
- Encounters with sport or personal use fishermen: 10 yes; 19 no
- Considering selling permit: 11 yes but 10 would not sell if moved back to a fall fishery
- Prefer fall or spring fishery? 19 fall 16 spring & 7 no response
 - Of those surveys where they did not fish in the spring of 2023 the preference was 3 preferred fall; 5 preferred spring and 3 no answers and 1 comment
- General comments:
 - Several comments throughout by several respondents suggested moving the fishery start back later (2 weeks, June 1st suggestions given)