

**PROPOSAL 80**

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

Reduce the maximum number of pots per vessel, limit the number of pots per string and pot spacing, and limit gear to one operation cycle per day in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial shrimp fishery, 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 4 pots only, 25 string max;
  - 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. Limits each string to be comprised of 3 pots only, 25 string max;
  - 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 8am to 4pm.

**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 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-F17-088)

\*\*\*\*\*