

**PROPOSAL 75**

**5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery.**

Reopen the personal use shrimp fishery in Section 11-A, as follows:

Reopen 11A to personal use. It was closed in 2013 with an old shrimp survey from 2007.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 11A shrimp: the department is saying 11A is the same as Tenakee Inlet. That is a big commercial inlet for shrimp and is 60 miles south from 11A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nick Yurko

(HQ-F17-002)

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**PROPOSAL 76**

**5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means and general provisions – Shellfish.**

Establish mesh size requirements for Southeast Alaska Area sport fishing shrimp pots, as follows:

I recommend the board impose a minimum mesh size for sport shrimp pots in southeast Alaska, both netted and rigid, equal to the sport fish regulations already in place describing legal gear of shrimp pots in southcentral Alaska as follows. This is a direct copy and paste from southcentral sportfish shellfish regulations. Under this regulation, rigid sport shrimp pots must have a mesh opening of 7/8 inch square inside measurement.

**Shrimp pot requirement:**

- Two vertical sides of all shrimp pots must be made entirely of webbing big enough to allow a 7/8-inch round wooden dowel to go through without stretching or otherwise deforming the opening.
- The two vertical sides must touch each other and cannot be covered by anything.
- The other two sides, top, bottom, and tunnels may be composed of any material.
- The 7/8-inch size allows undersize and juvenile shrimp to escape.

A shrimp pot with no definable sides, such as a round pot, must have 50% of its vertical surface area covered with 7/8-inch webbing. The other 50% of its vertical sides, as well as its top and bottom, may be composed of any material.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There are no restrictions in place regarding mesh size of shrimp pots for sport fishing in southeast Alaska to allow juvenile shrimp to escape.

Due to a trend in declining shrimp stocks and closures of several areas in southeast Alaska to sport and commercial use, it would seem to be a logical and responsible action to impose a minimum mesh size on sport shrimp pots to allow the escapement of juvenile shrimp. With no mesh restrictions in place, extremely young shrimp are harvested without a method for them to escape, facilitating the decline of this resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Woodrow

(EF-F17-013)

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**PROPOSAL 77**

**5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish.**

Amend shellfish methods and means and rescind unnecessary abalone regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 47.035 is amended to read:

(b) Shellfish may be taken [ONLY] as **provided in 5 AAC 75.035 or as** follows:

(1) **Repealed / /** [SHRIMP MAY BE TAKEN BY POTS AND RING NETS];

(2) **Repealed / /** [CRAB MAY BE TAKEN BY POTS, RING NETS, DIVING GEAR, DIP NETS, AND HOOKED OR HOOKLESS HAND LINES];

(3) **Repealed / /** [CLAMS MAY BE TAKEN BY RAKES, SHOVELS, OR MANUALLY OPERATED CLAM GUNS];

(4) **Repealed / /** [ABALONE MAY BE TAKEN BY ABALONE IRONS, DIVING GEAR, OR BY HAND, EXCEPT THAT A DIVER USING A COMPRESSED AIR SYSTEM, SUCH AS SCUBA OR HOOKAH, MAY NOT TAKE ABALONE];

(5) scallops may be taken by diving gear, dip nets, or by hand;

**(6) shellfish not otherwise specified in this chapter maybe taken by hook and line in addition to all gear specified in (b) of this section.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations for the sport harvest of shrimp, crab and clams in Southeast Alaska are redundant with statewide regulations.

In 2012, the abalone sport fishery was closed making abalone methods and means regulations under this section unnecessary.

In Southeast Alaska all shellfish species not listed within 5 AAC 47.020 have no bag possession, annual, or size limits (5 AAC 47.020(18)). However, the methods and means by which these unlisted species may be harvested are not defined in sport fishing regulations. Adding section (6) would identify the gear that may be used to harvest shellfish species for which there is no bag, possession, or size limits. This situation most commonly applies to the harvest of squid and octopus.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-125)

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