

PROPOSAL 216

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan.

Require participants in the Prince William Sound Area noncommercial shrimp fishery to register with the department prior to May 1, as follows:

Participants in the Prince William Sound non-commercial Spot Prawn Fishery must register prior to May 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Prince William Sound noncommercial spot prawn fishery often exceeds its yearly GHL. Currently there is no tool to give fishery managers the ability to manage to harvest effort in-season. While in-season harvest reporting is the best way to manage this fishery, at this time, adfg staff do not consider it a viable option. I propose a registration deadline of May 1 for participants in this fishery. This would at least give staff a hard number for participants which could be compared to past harvests and CPUE. GHL could then be managed to by season length.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Person (EF-F17-078)

PROPOSAL 217

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound non-commercial shrimp fishery management plan.

Allow for harvest of octopus with additional gear while participating in the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

(d) allow for the addition of octopus specific gear on the same line in addition to shrimp pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To allow for the addition of octopus specific gear on the same line in addition to shrimp pots.

So as to minimize both environmental and financial impacts.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Trent (EF-F17-095)

Proposal 218 was modified to reflect the proposer's intent to apply to non-commercial fishery.

PROPOSAL 218

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area., 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan., and 5 AAC 02.210. Subsistence shrimp fishery.

Modify the start date for the Prince William Sound Area noncommercial shrimp pot fishing season, as follows:

5 AAC 02.210

(5) a person may take shrimp only from **May 1** [APRIL 15] through September 15;

5 AAC 55.022

(b)(5) shrimp may be taken as follows:

(A) may be taken from **May 1** [APRIL 15] – September 15; no bag, possession, or size limits;

5 AAC 55.055

(a)(3) shrimp may be taken with pots as follows:

(A) only from **May 1** [APRIL 15] through September 15;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would be biologically beneficial to shrimp stocks and increase productivity in at least two ways. Firstly, on average April, August and September shrimp pots have a larger percentage of egg bearing females per pot than do shrimp caught in May, June and July. This amendment would allow more females to release their larvae to provide for shrimp production. Secondly, in April fishermen face a larger risk of gear loss which can lead to ghost fishing harming shrimp stocks. The greater risk of gear loss is due to fishing near ice sheets that unpredictably break up and move out of bays. Fishermen have lost large amounts of gear due to ice and that gear will ghostfish for a short while harming shrimp stocks. Gear loss is financially damaging to participants in the fishery and should be addressed if possible. Moving the season back a few weeks could give ice sheets in Prince William Sound such as those in Unakwik, Blackstone Bay, Columbia Bay, Valdez Arm, Port Wells, Port Nellie Juan and Icy Bay more time to break up before fishing commences.

PROPOSED BY: Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F17-096)
