

PROPOSAL 263

5 AAC 31.510. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J.; 5 AAC 31.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J.; 5 AAC 31.540. Registration Area J inspection points.; 5 AAC 31.590. Kodiak District Pot Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan.; 5 AAC 31.592. Chignik District Pot Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan.; and 5 AAC 31.595. Reporting requirements for shrimp catcher-processor vessels.

Amend Registration Area J commercial shrimp fishery management regulations and allow for department permit authority, as follows:

Repeal and readopt **5 AAC 31.510. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J** as follows:

5 AAC 31.510. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J.

[(A) EXCEPT AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 31.590 AND 5 AAC 31.592, THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON FOR SHRIMP FISHING WITH POTS.

(B) SHRIMP MAY BE TAKEN BY TRAWLS ONLY AS FOLLOWS:

(1) IN THE KODIAK DISTRICT

(A) IN THE GENERAL SECTION FROM 6:00 A.M. JUNE 15 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28;

(B) IN THE REMAINING SECTIONS ONLY DURING SEASONS ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(2) IN THE CHIGNIK DISTRICT FROM 6:00 A.M. MAY 15 THROUGH FEBRUARY 14, EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE MITROFANIA ISLAND SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(B) THE IVANOF BAY SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(C) THE KUIUKTA BAY SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(D) THE KUJULIK BAY SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(E) THE CHIGNIK BAY SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(F) IN THE CHIGINAGAK, NAKALIKOK, AND ANIAKCHAK BAY SECTIONS ONLY DURING SEASONS ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(3) IN THE SOUTH PENINSULA DISTRICT FROM 6:00 A.M. MAY 15 THROUGH FEBRUARY 14, EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE STEPOVAK BAY SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(B) THE UNGA STRAITS SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(C) THE BEAVER BAY SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(D) THE PAVLOF BAY SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(E) THE BELKOFSKI BAY SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(F) THE MORZHOVOI BAY SECTION IS OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(4) IN THE NORTH PENINSULA DISTRICT THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON;

(5) IN THE ALEUTIAN DISTRICT THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE UNALASKA, MAKUSHIN BAY, BEAVER INLET, AND USOF BAY SECTIONS ARE OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(B) REPEALED 6/30/83.

(C) REPEALED 6/30/79.]

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 38.062(a), in Registration Area J, shrimp may only be taken from June 1 through February 28, and only under the terms of a permit issued by the department. In the permit the department may specify

(1) fishing area;

(2) logbook requirements;

(3) biological sample collection requirements;

(4) reporting requirements;

(5) time-period specific harvest limits (trip limits); and

(6) any other conditions that the department determines are necessary for conservation or management of the fishery.

5 AAC 31.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J is amended to read:

5 AAC 31.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J.

(a) In Registration Area J, shrimp may be taken with pots, beam trawls, and otter trawls.

(b) [A] A shrimp trawl must be equipped with a rigid finfish excluder device (FED). The FED must consist of a rigid grate with parallel bars spaced not more than two inches apart to exclude all fish and other objects, except those that are small enough to pass between its bars into the cod end of the trawl. The FED in a shrimp trawl must be secured forward of the cod end in a manner that that it precludes the passage of fish or other objects into the cod end without the fish or other objects having to pass between the bars of the FED. The trawl must have an outlet to allow the escape of fish or other objects that are too large to pass between the bars of the gate. The posterior edge of this escape outlet must be at least as wide as the maximum width of the grate. The escape outlet must extend forward of the grate toward the mouth of the net.

Repeal 5 AAC 31.540. Registration Area J inspection points, as follows:

[5 AAC 31.540. REGISTRATION AREA J INSPECTION POINTS. IN REGISTRATION AREA J, INSPECTION POINTS ARE LOCATED AT KODIAK AND DUTCH HARBOR, AND AT OTHER LOCATIONS THAT MAY BE SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER.] **Repealed.**

Repeal 5 AAC 31.590. Kodiak District Pot Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan, as follows:

[5 AAC 31.590. KODIAK DISTRICT POT SHRIMP FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN. (A) THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THIS SECTION APPLIES TO SHRIMP FISHING WITH

POTS IN THE NORTH AFOGNAK, WEST AFOGNAK, AND MAINLAND SECTIONS OF THE KODIAK DISTRICT.]

(B) SHRIMP MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM MAY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, UNLESS CLOSED EARLIER BY EMERGENCY ORDER.

(C) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST RANGE IS 0 - 40,000 POUNDS, WHOLE WEIGHT. NO MORE THAN 15,000 POUNDS, WHOLE WEIGHT, MAY BE HARVESTED FROM AN INDIVIDUAL SECTION FROM MAY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28.

(D) BEFORE OPERATING SHRIMP POTS UNDER THIS SECTION, A PERSON MUST OBTAIN A LOGBOOK PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE LOGBOOK REQUIREMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) THE LOGBOOK MUST BE COMPLETED FOR ALL FISHING ACTIVITY, INCLUDING THE BYCATCH OF FISH AND SHELLFISH TAKEN OTHER THAN SHRIMP;

(2) THE LOGBOOK MUST BE KEPT ON BOARD THE VESSEL WHILE OPERATING GEAR, DURING TRANSITS TO AND FROM A PORT OF LANDING, AND FOR FIVE DAYS AFTER THE CORRESPONDING DELIVERY OF SHRIMP HAS BEEN MADE;

(3) THE LOGBOOK MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO A LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OR PEACE OFFICER OF THE STATE UPON REQUEST;

(4) A PERSON MAY NOT MAKE A FALSE ENTRY IN THE LOGBOOK; AND

(5) A COPY OF THE PAGES OF THE LOGBOOK PERTAINING TO A DELIVERY MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE FISH TICKET DOCUMENTING THE DELIVERY.

(E) DURING THE OPEN FISHING SEASON, SHRIMP POTS LEFT UNATTENDED FOR LONGER THAN TWO WEEKS MUST HAVE BAIT AND BAIT CONTAINERS REMOVED AND ALL DOORS SECURED OPEN.] **Repealed.**

Repeal 5 AAC 31.592. Chignik District Pot Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan, as follows:

[5 AAC 31.592. CHIGNIK DISTRICT POT SHRIMP FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN. (A) THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THIS SECTION APPLIES TO SHRIMP FISHING WITH POTS IN THE CHIGINAGAK BAY, NAKALILOK BAY, AND ANIAKCHAK BAY SECTIONS OF THE CHIGNIK DISTRICT.

(B) SHRIMP MAY BE TAKEN FROM ONLY MAY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, UNLESS CLOSED EARLIER BY EMERGENCY ORDER.

(C) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST RANGE IS 0 - 40,000 POUNDS, WHOLE WEIGHT. NO MORE THAN 15,000 POUNDS, WHOLE WEIGHT, MAY BE HARVESTED FROM AN INDIVIDUAL SECTION DURING A CALENDAR YEAR.

(D) BEFORE OPERATING SHRIMP POTS UNDER THIS SECTION, A PERSON MUST OBTAIN A LOGBOOK PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE LOGBOOK REQUIREMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) THE LOGBOOK MUST BE COMPLETED FOR ALL FISHING ACTIVITY, INCLUDING THE BYCATCH OF FISH AND SHELLFISH TAKEN OTHER THAN SHRIMP;

(2) THE LOGBOOK MUST BE KEPT ON BOARD THE VESSEL WHILE OPERATING GEAR, DURING TRANSITS TO AND FROM A PORT OF LANDING, AND FOR FIVE DAYS AFTER THE CORRESPONDING DELIVERY OF SHRIMP HAS BEEN MADE;

(3) THE LOGBOOK MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO A LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OR PEACE OFFICER OF THE STATE UPON REQUEST;

(4) A PERSON MAY NOT MAKE A FALSE ENTRY IN THE LOGBOOK; AND

(5) A COPY OF THE PAGES OF THE LOGBOOK PERTAINING TO A DELIVERY MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE FISH TICKET DOCUMENTING THE DELIVERY.

(E) SHRIMP POTS LEFT UNATTENDED FOR LONGER THAN TWO WEEKS DURING THE OPEN FISHING SEASON MUST HAVE BAIT AND BAIT CONTAINERS REMOVED AND ALL DOORS SECURED OPEN.] **Repealed.**

Repeal 5 AAC 31.595. Reporting requirements for shrimp catcher-processor vessels, as follows:

[5 AAC 31.595. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SHRIMP CATCHER-PROCESSOR VESSELS. (A) THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A SHRIMP CATCHER-PROCESSOR VESSEL REGISTERED TO TAKE SHRIMP USING POTS IN REGISTRATION AREA J SHALL REPORT, EITHER IN PERSON OR BY RADIO OR TELEPHONE, TO A LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 72 HOURS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF A DISTRICT, SECTION, OR ANY PORTION OF A DISTRICT OR SECTION, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1) THE NUMBER OF POUNDS, IN WHOLE WEIGHT, BY SPECIES OF SHRIMP ON BOARD THE VESSEL TAKEN IN ANY SECTION OR DISTRICT; AND

(2) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES IS NECESSARY FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE RESOURCE.

(B) IF REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER, THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A SHRIMP CATCHER-PROCESSOR VESSEL FISHING IN REGISTRATION AREA J SHALL REPORT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN (A) OF THIS SECTION TO A LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT DURING AN OPEN FISHING PERIOD.

(C) THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A SHRIMP CATCHER-PROCESSOR VESSEL SHALL COMPLETE A SEPARATE FISH TICKET FOR SHRIMP TAKEN IN EACH DISTRICT WHERE THE VESSEL LANDED SHRIMP.

(D) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "CATCHER-PROCESSOR VESSEL" MEANS A VESSEL FROM WHICH SHRIMP ARE CAUGHT AND PROCESSED ON BOARD THAT VESSEL AND FROM WHICH NO SHRIMP CAUGHT ON OTHER VESSELS WAS PURCHASED OR PROCESSED.] **Repealed.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial shrimp harvests in Registration Area J peaked in the mid-1970s then declined rapidly. Only marginal harvests have occurred since the mid-1980s. Existing Area J commercial shrimp fishery regulations and management plans are based on an annual stock assessment survey that is no longer conducted and largely reflect a period of high shrimp abundance and productivity that is no longer applicable.

Current Area J shrimp stocks are likely capable of sustaining moderate levels of commercial harvest, but the outdated management structure prevents access to the resource in most areas. Allowing harvest under the authority of a permit issued by the department would enable permit holders to explore for commercially viable concentrations of shrimp and provide the department the ability to collect biological data in the absence of a fishery independent survey.

Additionally, this proposal provides the board and stakeholders an opportunity to discuss:

- 1) the intent of existing Registration Area J nonpelagic trawl gear closures (5 AAC 39.164) as they relate to shrimp trawl gear; and
- 2) whether limits on the size of trawl nets used to harvest shrimp are desirable for slowing harvest and promoting access for vessels of all size.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-171)
