

Shrimp

PROPOSAL 237

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

Provide department authority to deny eligibility to participate in the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery if a participant fails to comply with reporting requirements and allow for an appeals process, as follows:

5 AAC 55.055. is amended to read:

...

(a) The department shall manage the sport and other noncommercial shrimp fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area as follows:

(2) a harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.016; **a person who fails to comply with the reporting requirements of this subsection or 5 AAC 75.016,**

including any requirement to return harvest and catch information to the department, is ineligible to obtain a shrimp harvest recording form during the following season in the fishery for which the form was required, unless the permit applicant demonstrates to the department that failure to report was due to unavoidable circumstances.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the harvest of nonrespondent permit holders in the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery is unknown. Additionally, there is currently no consequence for individuals who fail to report. Reporting of all sport and subsistence shrimp harvest will provide managers with more accurate information to sustainably manage these fisheries. This also provides for an appeal process for those permit holders determined to be ineligible.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-134)

PROPOSAL 238

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan; 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E; 5 AAC 31.211. Shrimp trawl fishing seasons for Registration Area E; and 5 AAC 02.210. Subsistence shrimp fishery. Close the commercial and noncommercial shrimp fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Close shrimping season until mid summer or later.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The board should close personal use and commercial shrimp fishing in Prince William sound to minimize the traffic through Whittier and other towns related to this activity which has significant risk of spreading Covid –19. The mandates by the governor should already include this because there should not be any interstate travel or travel to other communities however based off the numbers to the Whittier tunnel this is clearly not being observed. Unless the seasons are closed the mandates are going to clearly be ignored. Articles have been written as to the hi risk of the Whittier Township due to 80% living in one complex. Lives lost are not worth personal use and commercial shrimping in Prince William sound.

PROPOSED BY: James Eule (EF-F20-036)

PROPOSAL 239

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan. and 5 AAC 02.210. Subsistence shrimp fishery.

Allow noncommercial vessels to have additional shrimp pots on board, as follows:

5 AAC 55.055. (a) (3) is amended as follows: "(D) Paragraph (C) above shall not be interpreted to prohibit carrying of spare pots."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations prohibit carrying of extra shrimp pots on board a vessel. While making it easy for LE personnel to enforce a pot limit simply by counting the number of pots on a boat, this restriction creates unnecessary hardship on participants in the fishery, flies in the face of common sense (is the ferry captain who hauls 3 boats with shrimp pots on board also guilty?) and also sets up the unknowing/unaware participant to commit a crime by the simple act of "being prepared." "Innocent until proven guilty" is the law of the land; the crime is actually fishing more pots than authorized (not possessing more pots), and this is what should be enforced--the actual act itself, rather than wild speculation or mind-reading as to why a vessel has spare pots.

While engaged in fishing, it is customary for Sport, Subsistence, Commercial and Personal Use participants to carry extra rods, reels, terminal tackle, landing nets, etc., for use in the event of breakage or loss. Shrimp pots also can be lost or damaged, and common sense dictates spares should be readily available. Having spares available is environmentally responsible in that doing so prevents unnecessary trips (usually via a fossil-fueled boat) back to port and/or home/store to procure replacements, reconciles law with common practice regarding spare tackle and ensures participants are able to enjoy productive time on the water.

PROPOSED BY: David Neetz

(EF-F20-058)

PROPOSAL 240

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E.

Modify PWS shrimp pot harvest strategy from a static split, between noncommercial and commercial, to a tiered percentage depending on the total allowable harvest level (TAH), as follows:

I propose a system of three tiers for allocating the guideline harvest level.

- At a total allowable harvest (TAH) of less than 110,000 lbs, the commercial fishery is limited to 30% of the total harvest.
- At a TAH between 110,000 and 200,000 lbs, the commercial fishery is limited to 40% of the total harvest.
- At a TAH greater than 200,000 lbs, the commercial fishery is limited to 50% of the total harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current guideline harvest level (GHL) for the commercial fishery is allocated to be 40% of the total allowable harvest and has a minimum threshold of 110,000 lbs for the commercial fishery to occur. This has worked out reasonably well and the commercial fishery has always been managed to its goals in the years since the reinstatement of the fishery in 2010. The same cannot be said of the sport fishery which has repeatedly gone over its share of the GHL. My primary problem with this arrangement is the fact that the entire burden of conservation is placed on the commercial fishery in times of low abundance. In fact, a low total allowable harvest (below 110,000 lbs) results in the full closure of the commercial fishery, and essentially no restriction on the recreational fishery which is the greater percentage of the harvest. This is not in accordance with general policy of spreading the impacts of restrictions in proportion with a user groups impact on the resource. The commercial

fishery is a very small fishery and a large portion of the harvest is direct marketed or sold to small local processors. One season of total closure and inability to get any product at all would severely disrupt these markets. I would really like to see the board address this imbalance, share the burden of conservation equally between user groups, and allow for some small level of harvest for the commercial sector in times of low abundance in order to provide for economic sustainability of the fishery.

My proposed solution would do this (while still causing the commercial fleet to bear a higher share of the burden of conservation) and maintain the status quo in almost all reasonably expected situations while allowing for the possibility of allowing the commercial fleet to harvest surplus shrimp in the event that populations ever drastically increased. It is worth pointing out that this proposal would have literally had no effect on any season since the commercial fishery was reinstated it is merely an attempt to formulate a better plan for potential changes in TAH in the future.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person (EF-F20-064)

This proposal will be heard at the Prince William Sound and Southeast meetings and deliberated on at the Statewide meeting.

PROPOSAL 241

5 AAC 75.995. Definitions; and 5 AAC 39.975. Definitions.

Define shrimp, as follows:

5 AAC 75.995, 5 AAC 39.975 Shrimp defined: “Shrimp” means a member of the order Decapoda in Alaska to include the shrimp as a whole

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently ADF&G does not have the definition in regulation of what a shrimp is. At the same time, shrimp regulations are imposed with a shrimp either meaning a whole shrimp or a tailed shrimp.

Regulations such as 5 AAC 47.020(16) states the bag and possession limit for shrimp is 3 pounds or three quarts. The regulation does not define if this limit is whole shrimp or shrimp tails. A person would believe a shrimp is defined as a whole shrimp. However the 2019 and 2020 ADF&G Southeast Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary lists the sport shellfish bag and possession limit as 3 pounds or quarts of whole or deheaded (tailed) shrimp.

The amount of shrimp will vary greatly if a person retains 3 pounds of whole shrimp verses 3 pounds of deheaded shrimp. There are regulations referencing shrimp however a shrimp is not defined in regulation. Most species are defined such as “Dungeness crab”, “salmon”, “rockfish”, “char”, “grayling”, and such. With the definition of these species, the bag limits are set per numbers of whole species and not per pound, legs, or the filets of that species.

This proposal is seeking the Board of Fish to define what a “shrimp” is to clarify if a person can retain shrimp as a whole or just the shrimp tails. Currently the limits are set on “shrimp” and the undefined term is being mistaken as meaning a shrimp tail. If this logic is used to other defined

species, a resident in Southeast Alaska could retain 20 gallons of Dungeness crab or 20 gallons of Dungeness crab legs or claws. However, ADF&G set the resident limit in Southeastern Alaska to 20 Dungeness crab.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-093)

PROPOSAL 242

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound non-commercial shrimp fishery management plan, and 5 AAC 02.210. Subsistence shrimp fishery.

Establish a minimum threshold of Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for spot shrimp before allowing a noncommercial fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Add language to the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan 5 AAC 55.055 to include the same language as the commercial shrimp regulations in 5 AAC 31.210 which describes the minimum threshold for a fishery to be prosecuted;

"The estimated total allowable harvest for the waters Prince William Sound must be more than 110,000 pounds of spot shrimp by round weight before a non-commercial shrimp pot fishery may be opened."

This minimum TAH threshold for the fishery may be changed as long as it is applied equally for all stakeholders in this resource.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sport fishermen, having the majority of the allocation of PWS Spot Shrimp, without harvest restriction, do not equitably share the burden of stock conservation. This puts at risk the shrimp resource and causes economic damage.

The commercial regulations in 5 AAC 31.214 find it necessary to limit the commercial shrimp fishery for presumed conservation reasons with a minimum threshold for TAH before a fishery opens. The same should apply to sport/PU users, which represent the largest allocation of this resource at 60%. So, if there is a minimum limit of shrimp resource required before harvest by one group, then this minimum threshold for a healthy fishery should apply equally to all groups.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Wilbanks (EF-F20-144)

PROPOSAL 243

5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E.

Amend commercial shrimp pot fishery closed waters boundaries, as follows:

Move NE closure line endpoint from Flent Point to Point Freemantle, allowing fishing in statistical area 476035 while maintaining the Valdez Arm closure to commercial shrimp pot fishing as intended.

5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E

(b) The following waters are closed to the taking of shrimp with pot gear:

(2) waters north of a line from **near Point Freemantle at 60 56.30' N. lat., 147 00.00' W. long.** [FLENT POINT AT 60 56.52' N. lat., 147 08.34' W. long.] to a point on Bligh Island at 60 48.96' N. lat., 146 48.96' W. long.,

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Align area closure boundary with statistical reporting area. Recent climate change has opened water historically covered in glacier ice, allowing fishing in previously inaccessible areas. This also aligns the Valdez Arm closure area with the Eastern PWS commercial pot shrimp fishery boundary.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Wilbanks (EF-F20-030)

PROPOSAL 244

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E.

Modify annual shrimp guideline harvest level based on fishery performance in the prior season, as follows:

I propose that after the annual guideline harvest level (GHL) for the fishery is biologically determined, then an adjustment to the GHL be made as follows:

If in the previous year there was an overharvest, then the amount of that overharvest (lbs) be deducted from the biologically determined GHL, and the result of that will be the adjusted GHL for the year, that ADFG can manage as best it can to not exceed.

Conversely, if in the previous year there was an underharvest, then the amount of that underharvest (lbs) be added to the biologically determined GHL, and the result of that will be the adjusted GHL for the year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The sport/personal use catch of PWS Spot shrimp has often overharvested the allotted GHL, thereby negatively damaging the resource biomass, placing the future of the shrimp fisheries in jeopardy.

There is currently no penalty for that, and the shrimp biomass continues to be over-exploited. With a history of demonstration of absence of effective in-season harvest management adjustment capability, something should be done about this.

PROPOSED BY: Gordon Scott (EF-F20-145)

PROPOSAL 245

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E.

Modify annual shrimp guideline harvest level based on fishery performance in the prior season, as follows:

I propose that after the annual guideline harvest level (GHL) for the fishery is biologically determined, then an adjustment to the GHL be made as follows:

If in the previous year there was an underharvest, then the amount of that underharvest (lbs) be added to the biologically determined GHL, and the result of that will be the adjusted GHL for the year.

Conversely, if in the previous year there was an overharvest, then the amount of that overharvest (lbs) be deducted from the biologically determined GHL, and the result of that will be the adjusted GHL for the year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The commercial catch of PWS Spot shrimp has several times significantly underharvested the allotted GHL, which has not allowed them to exploit their full quota.

This is like a penalty, as the shrimp biomass was not allowed to be utilized.

PROPOSED BY: Gordon Scott (EF-F20-146)

PROPOSAL 246

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E.

Eliminate the commercial shrimp fishery minimum total allowable harvest threshold, as follows:

We recommend removing the language of this threshold requirement for a commercial fishery. (Remove the whole first sentence of section 5 AAC 31.214)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The minimum threshold for a commercial shrimp fishery is arbitrary and punitive. The commercial fishery is managed in order to be able to catch and not overharvest the allotted GHL. This threshold simply punishes the commercial fishery and its beneficiaries, laying the whole burden of conservation unfairly on the smaller sector (the commercial sector) of the Prince William Sound Spot Shrimp fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Gordon Scott (EF-F20-147)

PROPOSAL 247

5 AAC 31.223. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area E.

Establish a minimum pot limit to increase pace of the commercial pot shrimp fishery, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 31.223 to read:

Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area E (e) (1)

(e) Shrimp pots may only be operated as follows:

- (1) the department will announce annually, before the opening of the commercial shrimp pot fishery season, the number of shrimp pots that may be operated from a vessel in the commercial shrimp pot fishery for that season, **a minimum of 50 pots and** not to exceed

100 shrimp pots per vessel; in determining the annual pot limit, the department will consider the

- (A) total number of registered vessels;
- (B) estimated catch per unit of effort; and
- (C) magnitude of the guideline harvest level; and
- (d) harvesting the majority of the guideline harvest level in 2 weeks**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current PWS Spot Prawn fishery management utilizes pot limits as the primary management tool, rather than time. This has resulted in a long drawn out fishery with a very small number of pots that is very difficult to make profitable.

As more participants have come in, the department has reduced the pot limit from the 50 it was at in 2012 to 25 in 2019. Most vessels who participate do not have freezer systems so they must return to port to deliver every three days so having opener lengths longer than 3 days is of little value.

For example: In 2019 the fishery had three openers; April 15th-April 23rd, April 29th- May 7th and May 14th-May 29th. Taking 45 days to harvest 68,100 lbs. by 99 vessels is by no stretch of the imagination a profitable commercial fishery, when the same GHV could be harvested in a shorter time frame with more pots per vessel. This fishery should be managed by reducing time instead of pots with the goal of harvesting the majority of the GHV in two weeks.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (HQ-F20-024)

PROPOSAL 248

5 AAC 31.211. Shrimp trawl fishing seasons in Registration Area E.

Establish an earlier start date for the commercial shrimp trawl fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 31.211. Shrimp trawl fishing seasons for Registration Area E

In Registration Area E, shrimp may be taken with trawls only from [APRIL 15] **March 15** through August 15 and from September 15th through December 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The trawl shrimp fishery has been underutilized for a very long time by local residents as many potential participants are mostly busy with salmon fisheries during the majority of the current season. An earlier start date would allow additional participation for local fishermen before salmon fishing begins in May.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (HQ-F20-027)

PROPOSAL 249

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Clarify areas open to commercial pot shrimp fishing in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

5 AAC 31.210(a)(2) and (a)(3) are amended to read:

- (1) the waters north 60° 40.00' N. lat. and east of 148° W. long.;
- (2) the waters south of those waters described in (1) of this subsection and north and west of a line from 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 57.70' W. long., to 147° W. long., **including those waters south of 60° 30.00' N. lat. in Kings Bay and Port Nellie Juan;**
- (3) The waters south of 60° 30.00' N. lat., **excluding those waters in Kings Bay and Port Nellie Juan.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Most of the area in Kings Bay and Port Nellie Juan are a part of Area 2 of the Prince William Sound commercial shrimp pot fishery. However, the current regulation assigns a small southern portion of the bay and port to Area 1. This proposal seeks to clarify in regulation that all of Kings Bay and Port Nellie Juan are part of Area 2, which was the intent when these areas were established.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-135)

PROPOSAL 250

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.
Establish an earlier start date for the commercial shrimp pot fishery, as follows:

Moving the start date earlier would reduce the conflict created by having both the sport fishery and commercial fishery happening concurrently and would allow more opportunity for the local fishermen to participate and diversify their income before salmon season.

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E. (a) In the waters of the Inside District west of a line from Middle Point at 60° 20.00' N. lat., 147° W. long., north to a point at 60° 40.00' N. lat., 147° W. long., then northeast to the Coast Guard marker light on Goose Island at 60° 42.78' N. lat., 146° 43.63' W. long., to a point on Knowles Head at 60° 41.00' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long., shrimp may be taken from [APRIL 15] **March 15th** through September 15, as established by emergency order. Fishing in this area will be rotated on a tri-annual basis between the following waters...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current spot prawn fishery dates prevent many potential participants from being involved. Historically, this fishery opened earlier than April 15th.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (HQ-F20-025)

PROPOSAL 251

5 AAC 31.2XX. New section.

Establish permit and reporting requirements for shrimp floating processor vessels in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS; Registration Area E), as follows:

(a) The vessel owner or operator of a floating processor used in the processing of shrimp shall obtain a permit from the department before starting processing operations and comply with all requirements and reporting procedures specified in this section.

(b) The vessel owner or operator of a floating processor shall report to the department:

(1) the vessel location and any changes in location, by reporting latitude and longitude of vessel;

(2) the projected dates that processing will commence, conclude, and resume;

(3) at least once per day, for the preceding 24 hours, the permanent ADF&G vessel license plate number of all vessels delivering to the floating processor;

(4) the number of vessels making deliveries, the number of deliveries, and the pounds, in whole weight by species of shrimp purchased for each statistical area;

(5) at least 24 hours before beginning to unload processed shrimp, the time and place that it will be unloaded; and

(6) any other information required by the department for the purpose of conserving and developing shrimp resources.

(c) The vessel owner or operator shall allow local representatives of the department to inspect at any time, the vessel's holds, live tanks, freezers, processing areas, and unprocessed shrimp.

(d) The vessel owner or operator shall complete a fish ticket for each delivery and submit the tickets to the department within seven days of the delivery.

(e) The commissioner may require an onboard observer on a floating processor during processing operations.

(f) For the purpose of this section, a "floating processor" means a vessel that purchases or processes shrimp delivered to it by other vessels; in Registration Area E, a floating processor may not operate shrimp gear.

(g) If the department determines that a requirement specified in this section is not necessary for conserving and developing shrimp resources, the department may waive or modify that requirement to ensure the conservation and development of the shrimp resources.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is increasing interest from floating processors to participate in the shrimp pot and trawl fisheries in PWS. The guideline harvest levels (GHLs) in PWS shrimp fisheries are modest and targeted by the department by monitoring landings at ports from each vessel. Floating processors may buy shrimp from multiple catcher vessels, and therefore, the department needs a mechanism for documentation and reporting of landings to floating processors, because they can potentially hold large amounts of shrimp without returning to port. The floating processor can freeze shrimp which allows them to remain at sea for extended periods of time. Daily reporting requirements will aid the department in targeting the GHL in these small fisheries.

Additionally, this proposal would clearly limit the activity of a floating processor to purchasing or processing shrimp from other vessels in PWS and would not allow a floating processor to operate gear in the shrimp fishery. The statewide definition of “floating processor” in 5 AAC 39.130 (o)(12) is interpreted to allow a catcher-processor to also operate as a floating processor and be the first purchaser from other vessels. However, in 5 AAC 39.130 (o)(3) “catcher-processor” is defined as a commercial fisherman who sells or attempts to sell processed or unprocessed fish that were legally taken only by the catcher-processor. By statewide regulation 5 AAC 31.033, a vessel used to tender shrimp may not have shrimp gear or equipment on board and may not be used to fish for shrimp. This proposal would specify what is allowable activity by a floating processor in PWS.

A similar regulation exists for the shrimp fishery in Registration Area A, Southeast Alaska with a definition of floating-processor (5 AAC 31.144); catcher-processor is also defined by Southeast area regulation (5 AAC 31.143). The definition of floating processor in this proposal for PWS clarifies allowable activities.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-136)

PROPOSAL 252

5 AAC 31.033. Tenders for shrimp.

Allow vessels registered for the commercial shrimp fishery to also tender shrimp, as follows:

Allow vessels that are participating in the fishery to also be used as tender vessels to transport shrimp back to port. Allowing one boat to transport the catch for multiple fishermen back to port every few days would increase quality and drastically improve the profitability of this fishery as every fisherman wouldn't be forced to run their own shrimp to town. It would also enable more access to this resource for local Prince William Sound communities, and enable area residents to purchase directly from local processors.

Draft regulatory language:
Repeal 5 AAC 31.033 (a)

5 AAC 31.033. Tenders for shrimp.

[(A) A VESSEL USED TO TENDER SHRIMP FOR A VESSEL THAT IS VALIDLY REGISTERED TO TAKE SHRIMP

- (1) MAY NOT HAVE SHRIMP GEAR OR EQUIPMENT ON BOARD; AND
- (2) MAY NOT BE USED TO FISH FOR SHRIMP.]

(b) Before taking shrimp on board the tendering vessel, the operator of the vessel shall register that vessel with a local representative of the department who is located in the registration area, district, or section in which the vessel will be tendering.

(c) Before a vessel used to tender shrimp leaves the shrimp registration area, district, or section, the operator of the tendering vessel shall contact in person, or by radio or telephone, a local representative of the department who is located in the registration area, district, or section and shall state to the representative the amount, in pounds, of shrimp on board the vessel and the vessel's unloading destination.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Prince William Sound spot prawn fishery is too small-scale to make designated tender vessels economically feasible for fishermen. The inability to hold shrimp for more than a few days and the long distance to port has made it very difficult for Cordova processors to be active in this fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (HQ-F20-023)

PROPOSAL 253

5 AAC 31.243. Trawl shrimp harvest and reporting requirements in Registration Area E. Increase pink shrimp harvest allowance in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Allowing fishermen to retain all the pink shrimp they harvest will allow them to begin working on developing markets for these shrimp, and explore areas with high pink shrimp abundance giving the department information on districts that have not been fished in many years.

5 AAC 31.243. Trawl shrimp harvest and reporting requirements in Registration Area E. [(A) NO MORE THAN 20 PERCENT, BY WEIGHT, OF THE SHRIMP ON BOARD A VESSEL MAY BE PINK SHRIMP OR OTHER PANDALID SPECIES OF SHRIMP.]

(a) No more than 20 percent, by weight, of shrimp species other than pink or side stripe may be on board a vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations make no incentive for fishermen to retain pink shrimp as every other species of shrimp is more valuable. In the 1980's there was a robust fishery for pink shrimp in PWS with harvests of up to 1.3 million lbs. Since then there has been little or no effort in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (HQ-F20-019)

PROPOSAL 254

5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E.

Amend closed waters to allow use of beam trawl gear for the harvest of shrimp, as follows:

5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E.

(a) The following waters are closed to the taking of shrimp with **Otter** trawl gear:

- (1) waters enclosed by a line from Point Whitshed to Point Bentinck, a line from Cape Hinchinbrook Light to Seal Rocks Light to Zaikof Point at 60° 18.48' N. lat., 146° 55.10' W. long., and by a line from a point at 60° 11.00' N. lat., 147° 20.00' W. long. on the northwest side of Montague Island, north to a point at 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 20.00' W. long., then east to a point at 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 00.00' W. long., then northeast to Knowles Head at 60° 41.00' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long.;
- (2) the waters east of a line from Porcupine Point at 60° 44.60' N. lat., 146° 42.10' W. long. in Port Fidalgo to the southernmost tip of Bligh Island at 60° 48.30' N. lat., 146° 47.90' W. long. to the northernmost tip of Bligh Island at 60° 52.90' N. lat., 146° 46.00' W. long. to Rocky Point at 60° 57.00' N. lat., 146° 46.20' W. long.;
- (3) waters of Port Gravina north of a line from Gravina Point at 60° 37.37' N. lat., 147° 15.22' W. long. to Red Head at 60° 40.25' N. lat., 147° 30.22' W. long.;
- (4) waters of Port Valdez north of 61° 01.00' N. lat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Waters of eastern Prince William Sound were closed to all shrimp trawl gear due to worries about protecting crab grounds. I am proposing allowing Beam trawl gear only in this area. Beam trawls due to their lower tow speed and smaller opening size have little impact on none target species. Beam Trawls have been shown in southeast to be able to coexist alongside highly productive crab fisheries for many years. The long distance from Cordova and deep water of western Prince William sound makes participation in this fishery difficult for many boats.

PROPOSED BY: Ezekiel Brown

(EF-F20-138)
