

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)
