

## **PROPOSAL 228**

### **5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for registration Area A.**

Redefine legal shrimp pot requirements to allow for the use slinky pots.

#### 5AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A

(a) Shrimp may be taken with pots in Registration Area A only as specified in this section. A shrimp pot may be a traditional cone style pot or a coil spring style pot, commonly known as slinky pot.

(b) A cone style shrimp pot

(1) may not have

(A) more than one bottom;

(B) a vertical height of more than 24 inches;

(C) more than four tunnel eye openings which individually do not exceed 15 inches in perimeter;

or

(D) a bottom perimeter exceeding a perimeter specified in (e) of this section

(2) the sides of a cone style shrimp pot may only be

(A) at a right angle to the plane of the bottom of the pot; or

(B) slanted inward toward the center of the pot in a straight line from the bottom of the pot to the top of the pot.

(c) a slinky pot style shrimp pot

(1) may not have

(A) a vertical diameter of more than 24 inches;

(B) a horizontal length of more than 48 inches;

(C) more than two tunnel eye openings which individually do not exceed 15 inches in perimeter

(d) a shrimp pot must be entirely covered with net webbing or rigid mesh. At least two adjacent sides or 50 percent of the vertical or near-vertical sides must be covered with net webbing or rigid mesh that allows the passage of a seven-eighths inch diameter by 12 inch long wooden dowel, which upon insertion into the web, must drop completely through by its own weight, without force.

In the waters of Lituya Bay, enclosed by a line from the easternmost tip of Harbor Point to the Southernmost tip of LaChaussee Spit there is no minimum mesh size.

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

(1) repealed 7/18/2003

(2) the number of shrimp pots that may be operated from a registered shrimp fishing vessel is 140 slinky pots, 140 small pots, or 100 large pots; for the purposes of this section,

(A) a "slinky pot" style shrimp pot conforms with (c) of this section;

(B) a small pot has a bottom perimeter of no more than 124 inches;

(C) a "large pot" has a bottom perimeter of more than 124 inches, but not more than 153 inches;

(3) if all pots on board a vessel or operated from a vessel are of the same type and of the same size as defined in (2)(A) or (2)(B) of this subsection 140 pots may be operated from the vessel, if any of the pots on board or operated from a vessel are of the same type and size as defined in (2)(C) of this subsection only 100 pots may be operated from the vessel;

(4) a vessel operator may have only shrimp pot gear owned by that person on board the vessel at any time;

(5) shrimp pot gear may be deployed or retrieved only from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day; the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season in a district or a portion of a

district and immediately reopen the season during which the time period allowed to deploy and retrieve shrimp pot gear may be increased or decreased to achieve the guideline harvest range;

(6) all shrimp pots left in saltwater unattended longer than a two-week period must have all bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.

(f) A registered shrimp vessel may not have, at anytime in the aggregate, more than the legal limit of shrimp pot gear on board the vessel, in the water in fishing condition, and in the water in nonfishing condition, including commercial and non commercial shrimp pots as described in 5 AAC 31.128(b).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The regulation defining legal pot gear for shrimp in Registration Area A is very detailed and specific. It details a traditional cone style shrimp pot and makes other types of pots unlawful if they do not conform. My company has been selling a coil spring shrimp pot, commonly known as a slinky pot, for use in the Personal use shrimp fishery and have recieved interest in the slinky shrimp pot from commercial users, but as written 38.124 makes them unlawful for commercial use.

The slinky shrimp pot collapses flat and is very light weight making it an ideal pot for small vessels. In writing this regulation I also adjusted (e)(3) to allow a vessel to use a portion of their gear as slinky pots and a portion as cone pots so they did not have to invest in an entire new string of gear to enjoy the space and weight benifits of a slinky type pot.

The slinky type shrimp pot we currently sell for personal use is 18 inches in diameter and 36 inches in length and has a volume of 9,160 cubic inches. I have set the size limit of the commercial slinky shrimp pot at 24 inches in diameter and 48 inches in length which gives it a volume of 21,715 cubic inches. This is still well below the volume of the small shrimp pot at 26,507 cubic inches, so I have put the pot limit of slinky type shrimp pots at 140 pots.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** Conversations with ADF&G staff and SE shrimp permit holders.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jared Bright

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