

**PROPOSAL 300**

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

Modify the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan, as follows:

Split the TAH for noncommercial into the same areas used as harvest areas for the commercial spot fishery and manage the noncommercial fishery to achieve these individual harvest limits. This will force the noncommercial users to spread their harvest throughout the sound which is what needs to happen if the TAH is to be based on the Sound-wide population.

Modify as follows:

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

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

(1) the guideline harvest level for shrimp taken by pot gear in noncommercial fisheries is calculated as 60 percent of the total allowable harvest for the area. **This GHL will be divided between the districts described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) annually based on the pot survey CPUE for each district.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like the department to create three areas for sport fish. The spot shrimp population is in trouble with decreasing survey results and a large drop off in CPUE in both the commercial and noncommercial fishery. We believe this is in part due to the GHL/TAH being based on the population of shrimp in the entire area, but the majority of the harvest occurring in only small sections of the area. Because the noncommercial sector harvests the majority of the shrimp, it is imperative that regulation is in place to prevent this harvest from occurring in too small of an area. We believe this has been happening for years as we've seen evidence of localized depletion of shrimp near ports in areas most accessible to noncommercial users.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)

(EF-F24-142)

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