

## **PROPOSAL 303**

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

Modify the Prince William Sound shrimp pot fishery guideline harvest level, as follows:

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

~~The estimated total allowable harvest for the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) must be more than 110,000 pounds of spot shrimp by round weight before a commercial shrimp pot fishery may be opened.~~ The guideline harvest level for the commercial pot gear fishery in the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) is 40 percent of the total allowable harvest for the area. The department will, to the extent practicable, manage the fishery to allow no more than 50 percent of the guideline harvest level to be taken from any one statistical area. The commissioner will open and close fishing seasons by emergency order, during which pot limits, time, or area may be adjusted to achieve the 50 percent statistical area harvest target.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, the total allowable harvest (TAH) must exceed 110,000 lbs in order for the commercial fishery to open, but the recreational fishery is prosecuted at all levels of the TAH. The Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy offers a good template for all fisheries with multiple user groups when it states " the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to each fisheries' respective use". This is easily achieved withing the directed shrimp fisheries by merely maintaining the same allocation levels at all TAH levels. If there are available surplus shrimp for harvest, then the commercial fishery should be able to harvest their share of them. Management in the commercial fishery is extremely precise and has a very good track record of managing to their guideline harvest level (GHL). There is no reason why in times of low abundance a smaller more restricted fishery could not take place to harvest the commercial share of the TAH.

The commercial shrimp fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is a very unique entry level small boat fishery, and a majority of harvesters direct market their shrimp or otherwise move them through non traditional value added markets. Very few are sold to large scale processors. It would be extremely damaging to these market streams to have a closed season with zero product available. Being able to offer limited supply to markets during a reduced GHL season in times of lower abundance would be very valuable.

In general this fishery is currently in a state of flux and there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding many aspects of it. I have participated extensively in this fishery since its reopening in 2010 and have been heavily involved with the board of fish process regarding the current management plan. This proposal is part of a suite of proposals in which I attempt to anticipate potential issues that exist currently, may arise during the 2024 season or ongoing CFEC process regarding potential limited entry for this fishery, continued uncertainty from the department regarding the current survey and biometric surplus population model, and narratives coming into the 2025 regulatory meeting. I feel that there is significant likelihood of the need to review and adapt much of the current regulatory plan. Consequently, am submitting proposals concerning several aspects of the plan in order to foster discussion, and serve as a starting point if the need for serious revision of the management plan is thought necessary.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** I have discussed the contents of this proposal with multiple ACs, other participants in both the recreational and commercial fisheries, and ADFG staff many times and will continue to do so leading up to the 2025 meeting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joseph Person

(EF-F24-074)

\*\*\*\*\*