

**PROPOSAL 306**

**5 AAC 31.245. Reporting requirements for Registration Area E.**

Modify the Prince William Sound shrimp pot reporting requirements, as follows:

Add additional section (f) to 5 AAC 31.245

5 AAC 31.245. Reporting requirements for Registration Area E:

...

**(f) An owner or operator of a vessel registered to fish in the commercial Shrimp pot fishery must report each day to the department as specified on registration:**

**(1) the number of pot lifts;**

**(2) the round weight of all shrimp taken by species and statistical area for the 24-hour fishing period preceding the report;**

**(3) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The lack of inseason reporting requirements in the PWS spot shrimp fishery forces the department to have long closures in the middle of season to get harvest information. Long closures in the middle of a season are not commonplace in fisheries unless there is a biological concern, as they add to the expenses incurred by commercial fishermen in fuel, insurance, crew and opportunity cost. Daily reporting requirements are no longer a burden on fishermen. Cell phone coverage is available almost everywhere in the Sound. Satellite texting devices such as inreaches are affordable options. We used the inseason reporting regulatory language already in place for Tanner Crab in Prince William sound to draft the proposed regulation.

It is our hope that with this change in regulation the department can manage this fishery like it does almost every other pot fishery in the state, including the Southeast shrimp pot fishery, and manage with a single open period. This will reduce the cost to participate in the fishery because participants will not have to retrieve their pots and return to port mid-season.

**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-F24-145)

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