

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Area Subsistence Shrimp Pot Fishery Number of Pots Reduced Emergency Order 2-SF-E-04-22

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is reducing the number of pots allowed to be used per person and per vessel in the 2022 Prince William Sound (PWS) noncommercial (sport and subsistence) shrimp pot fishery. This regulatory restriction is effective from 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 15 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, September 15, 2022, with no bag limit.

The pot limit per person and per vessel has been reduced to three pots; however, of those three pots only two pots can be set in areas of historical high effort including areas near the Port of Valdez, near the Port of Whittier, and in portions of Port Wells and Culross Passage (Figure 1). These historically high effort areas make up the majority of the harvest in PWS and in these areas' pots will be limited to only two pots per person and per vessel. Participants in the noncommercial shrimp fishery that want to use three pots will have to travel further from the two roadside ports in PWS (Valdez and Whittier; Figure 1). Annually, a total allowable harvest (TAH) is calculated, and the noncommercial shrimp pot fishery is allocated 60% of the total allowable harvest limit and the commercial shrimp pot fishery is allocated 40%. In 2021, with a noncommercial guideline harvest level (GHL) of 104,978 pounds, the pot limit was reduced to two pots and the estimated harvest was 87,005 pounds of shrimp. The noncommercial fishery harvest was 17,973 pounds below the GHL. In 2022, the noncommercial GHL is 100,300 pounds of shrimp.

The PWS noncommercial shrimp permits will be available online in early April. All fishery participants are required to have a permit with them while shrimping. In addition, all permit harvest reports are due by Saturday, October 15, 2022, regardless of whether you fished for shrimp or not. Participants may report their harvest online at any time, whether you have completed your shrimp fishing season or not. The total season's harvest, by individual set, must be reported by the due date. Additionally, spare pots may be carried onboard a vessel participating in the noncommercial fishery.

In 2022, the commercial fishery will be prosecuted in Area 1, which includes Unakwik Inlet and Wells Bay. For more information on the commercial fishery, please refer to AA04-SF-E-22.

For additional information about the PWS noncommercial shrimp pot fishery, please contact Jay Baumer in Anchorage at (907) 267-2265 and for subsistence and commercial shrimp pot fisheries, please contact Jan Rumble (907-321-1569), Elisa Russ (907-399-1721), or the Homer office (907-235-8191).

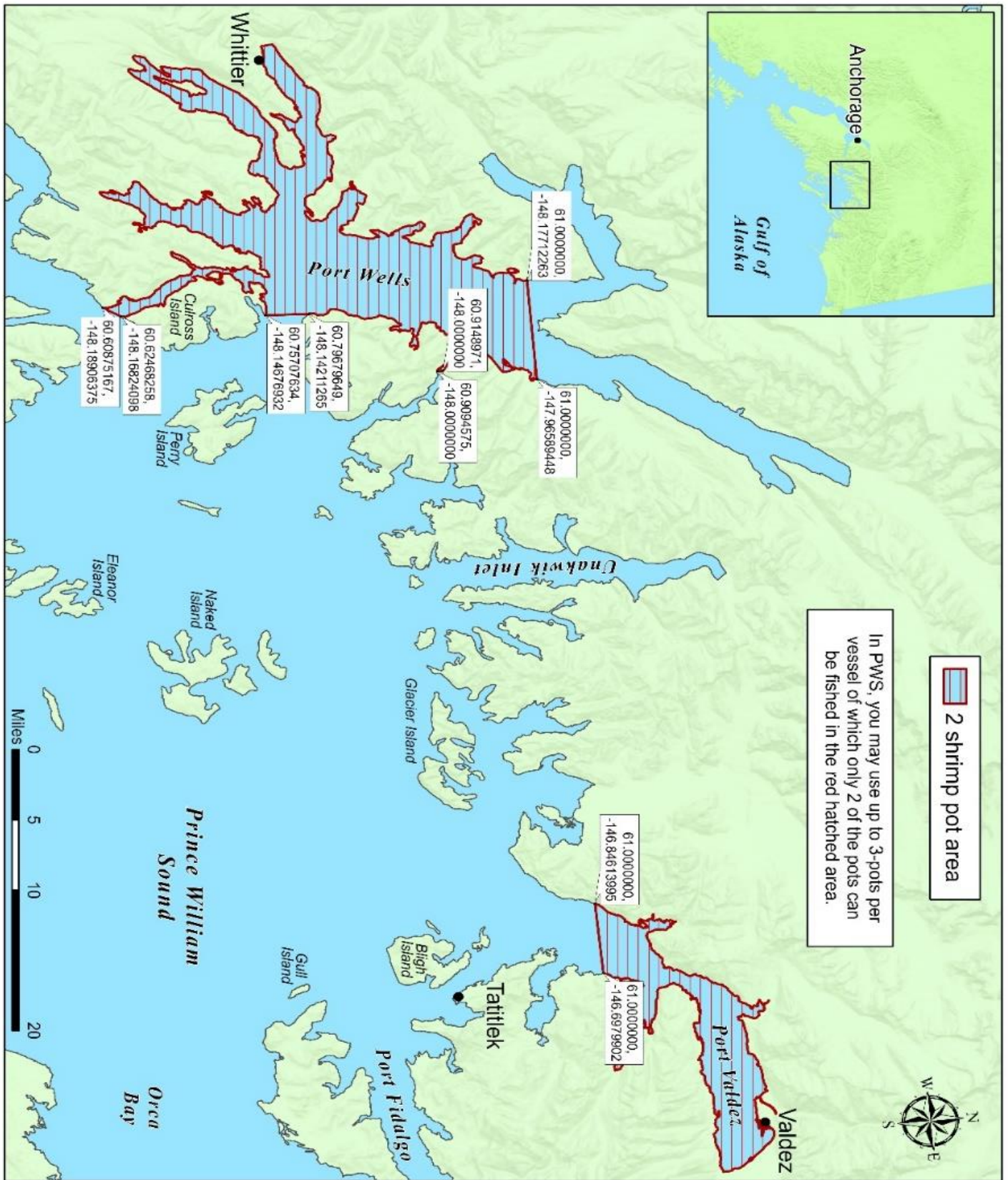


Figure 1. 2022 Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp pot fishery and pot limits.