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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: May 13, 2022

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Prince William Sound Area Shrimp Pot Fishery Third Fishing Period Emergency Order 2-SF-E-07-22

The PWS commercial shrimp pot fishery opened in Area 1 April 15 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 66,900 lb. The initial fishing period closed 8:00 p.m. April 25; the second period opened 8:00 a.m. May 2 and closed 8:00 p.m. May 11. Harvest and effort from the first period reported in the news release issued April 27 was corroborated with fish tickets. The preliminary estimated harvest during the second period from vessel call-in reports is 16,000 lb of whole shrimp harvested by 40 vessels. The estimated total harvest for the fishery is 52,000 lb of whole shrimp from 27,000 pot lifts for an average catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 1.9 lb per pot. Approximately 28,000 lb, or 42% of the total GHL, has been harvested from statistical area 476036. Only 50% of the GHL may be harvested in any one statistical area (5 AAC 31.214).

The third period of the PWS commercial shrimp pot fishery will open at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 17 and will remain open until the GHL is achieved or until 8:00 p.m. September 15, the regulatory closure date. The department will closely monitor the harvest in statistical area 476036 to stay within the regulatory limit of 33,450 lb or 50% of the total GHL. Participants in the fishery should monitor news releases for statistical area and fishery closure information. The fishery call-in line will also be updated with current fishery information.

Gear limits will remain at a maximum of 25 shrimp pots per vessel. A vessel operator may not have more than the legal limit of pot gear in aggregate, on board the vessel or in the water at any time. Hours of gear operation will remain at 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

It is critical that participating fishermen call the reporting line with pre-trip and landing reports at (907) 226-3474 in order for the department to monitor harvest. The information to be reported is detailed in the registration packet all registrants received. Reporting requirements must be followed exactly and enforcement action will result for non-compliance. Reporting is required by regulation (5 AAC 31.245(c) and 5 AAC 31.245(b)).