

PROPOSAL 242

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound non-commercial shrimp fishery management plan, and 5 AAC 02.210. Subsistence shrimp fishery.

Establish a minimum threshold of Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for spot shrimp before allowing a noncommercial fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Add language to the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan 5 AAC 55.055 to include the same language as the commercial shrimp regulations in 5 AAC 31.210 which describes the minimum threshold for a fishery to be prosecuted;

"The estimated total allowable harvest for the waters Prince William Sound must be more than 110,000 pounds of spot shrimp by round weight before a non-commercial shrimp pot fishery may be opened."

This minimum TAH threshold for the fishery may be changed as long as it is applied equally for all stakeholders in this resource.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sport fishermen, having the majority of the allocation of PWS Spot Shrimp, without harvest restriction, do not equitably share the burden of stock conservation. This puts at risk the shrimp resource and causes economic damage.

The commercial regulations in 5 AAC 31.214 find it necessary to limit the commercial shrimp fishery for presumed conservation reasons with a minimum threshold for TAH before a fishery opens. The same should apply to sport/PU users, which represent the largest allocation of this resource at 60%. So, if there is a minimum limit of shrimp resource required before harvest by one group, then this minimum threshold for a healthy fishery should apply equally to all groups.

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