

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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SUBJECT: 2026/27 SHRIMP
POT FISHERY
GHL MEMO -
PUBLIC

This memorandum provides a summary of recommendations and plans by Southeast Alaska (SEAK) Region fishery management biologists for the 2026/27 commercial shrimp pot fishery season that opens May 15, 2026.

COMMENTS ON REVIEW PROCESS

Management and research staff met via MS Teams on March 5, 2026, to review and discuss spot and coonstripe shrimp stock status for each of the 22 regulatory shrimp pot fishing areas within SEAK. Research staff summarized available information for each area in the draft *Southeast Pot Shrimp Stock Status Prior to the 2026/27 Season* (Schoenfeld & Smith *In Prep.*) report and area management staff completed the review by providing fishery summaries and upcoming fishery management strategies for each of their areas. The 2014/15–2024/25 average is used to compare the 2025/26 seasons harvest to past seasons whereas the 2015/16–2025/26 average is used to compare the guideline harvest level (GHL) for this upcoming season to past seasons.

SEASON CHANGE

The Southeast shrimp pot fishery was changed from a primarily fall/winter season, which had been in effect since the mid-1990s, to a spring/summer season at the 2022 Southeast Alaska Finfish and Shellfish Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting. This change effectively shifted the 2022/23 season's fall fishery that would have begun October 1, 2022, to a starting date of May 15, 2023. Due to the regulatory change, seasons will now begin May 15 rather than October 1, therefore the May 15, 2023 start date fell within the 2023/24 season.

Although there will be no fishery shown for the 2022/23 season, there was no loss of a season, but due to semantics of the regulatory changes it will appear that way.

The goal of the season change is to rebuild the SEAK shrimp pot fishery to a sustainable level. Over the last 2 decades, GHLs have been cut and areas closed resulting in an annual harvest less than half of what it was in the late 1990s and early 2000s. In addition, there have been recruitment failures observed in several of the surveyed areas in recent years. Although there have periodically been proposals to change the season since the 1990's, the decline in harvest and closures of areas resulted in a number of proposals to change the season at the 2018 BOF meeting but the proposed changes were not adopted by the board. During the 2021 board cycle, multiple proposals were again submitted and there was more public support for the season change. The department is in support of the change as it will reduce harvest of mature, egg bearing shrimp and allow eggs to hatch before being harvested; thus, potentially increasing shrimp stocks. The department also recognizes that the season change has fundamentally changed the fishery and created some management complications.

Management complications will be prevalent for at least the first several seasons. Although participation for the first 3 spring seasons was similar to the last fall season, participation in the spring fishery will continue to be a large unknown, especially with new regulations passed in 2025 that allow participants more flexibility in participating in both the shrimp ort fishery and the Dungeness crab fishery. The lack of competing shellfish fisheries along with the higher prices received during the past several seasons for shrimp, may draw more effort. Shrimp distribution within fishing areas may differ in the spring compared to fall. The relative catchability of shrimp may also differ. Finally, there may be more direct competition with sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp fisheries. As a result, managers will need to be judicious when comparing this season to past seasons and not overreact to inseason data as the fishery develops.

Management staff considered decrementing GHLs for the initial spring season in 2023 due to loss of heavier egg bearing shrimp in a spring/summer fishery. There was concern from industry that more individual shrimp would be harvested in a spring/summer season versus a fall/winter season to achieve the same GHLs. In response, the department analyzed historical shrimp size and weight from surveys and estimated there would be a regionwide average 3.3% decrease in weight due to lack of egg bearing shrimp in May. This varied by area and had a range of 2.2–4.5%. The analysis had two major assumptions: shrimp do not grow or shrink in carapace length from September to May, and length/weight relationships established in the September survey data would still be valid in May. Given an adjustment of 3% is small, management error is often larger than 3%, assumptions are associated with the analysis, and a GHL decrement was not a matter of public record at the 2022 March BOF when discussing this season change, the department opted to not decrement any GHLs based on this analysis.

SHRIMP POT FISHERY OVERVIEW

Descriptions of areas open to shrimp pot fishing can be found in **5 AAC 31.105 Descriptions of Registration Area A districts and sections.**

GHLs since the 2009/10 season and planned GHL changes for the 2025/26 season are presented in Table 1. The overall proposed SEAK GHL is 382,600 pounds. This is a decrease from last season's overall GHL of 408,600 pounds, and less than the 2015–2025 average GHL of 487,800 pounds. The historical harvest and effort by area are shown in Table 2. The combined harvest from last season of 360,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp was 88% of the available GHL of 408,600 pounds and below the 2014–2025 average harvest of 508,900 pounds. Regionwide effort was 89 permits, below the 2014–2025 average of 102 permits.

Harvests in the SEAK shrimp pot fishery remained at or below 50,000 pounds annually through the 1980s, GHLs and harvests expanded through the 1990s and early 2000s, with harvests peaking in the 2003/04 season

at 1.1 million pounds. Since then, as seen in Tables 1 and 2, GHLs and harvests have been steadily declining and are currently less than 500,000 pounds annually.

SHRIMP POT FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Management of the shrimp pot fishery is continually evolving, and the department currently utilizes several management strategies based on available information. The traditional management strategy in place since the late 1990s is to set a GHL within the guideline harvest range (GHR). GHLs typically remain in place for a minimum of 3 seasons and available data from each fishing area are reviewed annually and recommendations to changes in area specific GHLs are considered. If changes to GHLs are suggested based on data inputs, changes occur in increments of at least 20% but do not exceed 40% of the current GHL or the upper end of the GHR; changes to the GHL less than 20% may not demonstrate how a change in harvest affects the shrimp stock, and changes more than 40% may be larger than the stock can withstand.

Beginning in the 2020/21 season and moving forward, 2 additional strategies utilized for select fishing areas began. The first is to recognize the utility of using information gained from fall surveys to adjust GHLs and/or fishing areas for the following season. This is a deviation from past practices of keeping GHLs in place for a minimum of 3 seasons. If adjustments to GHLs are deemed necessary from fall survey information, the slow-up and fast-down approach will be utilized. Increases in GHLs will be in 10 to 14% increments and will not exceed 45% or the upper end of the GHR. Decreases in GHL will be in 10 to 25% decrements and if decrements more than 45% are necessary, the area may close for the season or specific localized closures within an area may be applied. This has been done in the Ketchikan management area in portions of both Districts 1 and 2.

The second strategy applies to the Juneau management area. This strategy is to rotate several fishing areas in northern Southeast on a 2 or 3-year basis to provide more consistent opportunity for north end shrimp fishermen. In 1995, districts were assigned GHLs based on historical harvests. Districts that did not have a significant historical record of shrimp harvest were assigned an exploratory GHR of 0 to 20,000 pounds. This applied to Districts 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16. With this change and increased participation in the shrimp pot fishery, harvests increased substantially in these areas. Over time, harvesting at the upper end of the GHR proved unsustainable. Since the mid to late 2000s, catch per unit effort (CPUE) and harvests in these districts began to decline and increasingly conservative management measures were taken including GHL reductions and commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries closures. As a result, annual harvest levels became smaller and more difficult to manage and overall opportunity decreased.

Active adjustments to GHLs utilized in Districts 6 and 7 beginning with the 2012/13 season will not be utilized this season. In 2021/22 season, the department moved away from inseason GHL adjustment in Sections 6-B/C/D/E due to the lack of survey data and a shift in information received from the commercial fishery inseason. Inseason adjustments to the GHL in District 7 were based on the fall survey data, inseason tracking of >XL (greater than 40.5 grams) shrimp harvests through logbooks, inseason CPUE, and shrimp size information obtained from on the grounds (OTG) sampling. Inseason adjustments did not exceed 45% of the base level GHL. Given the uncertainty of comparing commercial harvest and stock data to prior years, adjusting GHLs inseason, especially upwards, would be hard to justify. However, the department may close the season prior to reaching the GHL given the concerns for stock health identified by the fall surveys.

2026/27 SEASON GHL AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Detailed plans for each area are provided in the following section. There are three specific changes from the 2025/26 season based on evaluation of stock status trends: 1) reopen District 14 on a multiple year rotational

harvest strategy; 2) close Sections 11-A/B/C; 3) increase the GHL in District 15-Remainder; and 4) reduce the GHL in District 2 and 9.

During the last several meeting cycles, the BOF adopted regulations that modified shrimp pot fishing areas and allowed the department to collect more detailed harvest information. At the 2015 BOF meeting, a regulation was adopted requiring all shrimp catcher-processors to report catch information in logbooks, including detailed size breakdowns of their harvest. In 2018, the BOF adopted 4 new or redefined GHL areas (Northern Clarence Strait, Sumner Strait, Southern Frederick Sound, and Northern Frederick Sound). In 2022, the BOF approved the splitting of District 15 into 2 distinct GHL areas. Detailed information of the reporting procedures will again be described in the first advisory announcement of the 2026/27 season. In 2025, the board adopted a proposal to include slinky pots as a gear type. The allowance of slinky pots will be in effect for the 2026/27 season and will be a separate gear category on vessel registrations.

SPORT, PERSONAL USE, AND SUBSISTENCE

In 2018, the BOF adopted regulations that required permits to sport, personal use, and subsistence fish for shrimp. The department has derived harvest estimates from returned and completed permits. From 2019 through 2025, an average of 104,600 pounds of shrimp was harvested by personal use/subsistence fishers. Averaging 18% of the combined commercial and personal use/subsistence total harvest. The sport harvest estimate is not available for 2025 but averaged 15,300 pounds from 2018 through 2024. Considering the noncommercial harvest comprises a substantial portion of the overall harvest and ongoing concerns with stock health, the department submitted a proposal to close the noncommercial season during the sensitive egg hatch period from March 1 through April 30. The BOF considered and adopted the proposal during their 2025 Southeast board meeting. The regulations are in effect for 2026.

SHRIMP POT GHL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2026/27 SEASON

District 1—GHL will remain at **40,000 pounds with a preset closure in Back Behm and West Behm Canal.**

For the 2006/07 season the GHL was reduced from 164,000 to 98,400 pounds due to declining harvest rates and increasing season length observed during the previous 5 seasons. The GHL was reduced for the 2008/09 season to 78,700 pounds and then again for the 2009/10 season to 50,000 pounds with separate, preset closures in West Behm and the remainder of the district. Due to improving stock health, the GHL was increased to 64,000 pounds for the 2015/16 season. The GHL was subsequently reduced for the 2019/20 season to 50,000 pounds due to sharp declines in both the fall surveys and the commercial CPUE in back Behm Canal.

There were several negative stock health indicators during the 2018/19 season that resulted in management actions taken for the 2019/20 season. Despite the overall District 1 commercial CPUE being above baseline, the fall survey and commercial harvest information continued to indicate sharp declines of shrimp abundance in Back Behm Canal. There was also a sharp decline during the 2018/19 season in commercial CPUE in Back Behm Canal. The continued decline in the fall survey harvest rate of all size classes of shrimp with no positive indicators justified a predetermined closure of October 7 in Back Behm Canal for the 2019/20 season. The preset closure date was not instituted for the 2020/21 season, based on the fall survey results; however, for the 2021/22 season, Back Behm and West Behm Canal were closed on October 7, prior to the remainder of the District based on commercial harvest rates and poor recruitment in the fall survey.

The overall District 1 shrimp stock showed improvements in stock health in the 2019/20 season, and harvest had been relatively stable throughout District 1 for the past 3 years. The commercial CPUE in Back Behm Canal increased, and more importantly the 2019 fall survey showed an increase in the recruits for the fishery (<32 mm), suggesting a large recruitment event in the area. Given these changes, the preset closure date in

Back Behm Canal was not implemented for the 2020/21 season; however, the GHIL remained at 50,000 pounds. The 2020/21 fall survey data showed a further decline in large size ($\geq 41\text{mm}$) class shrimp and a sharp decline in small size class ($<41\text{mm}$) shrimp to below the baseline. Commercial fishery performance also dropped sharply from the 2019/20 season and although it is near the baseline, the complete lack of small shrimp in the fall survey suggests extremely poor recruitment. The early closure during the 2021/22 season in Back Behm and West Behm Canal was not announced until October 5 and was not as effective in reducing effort as announcements made preseason, which generally have the benefit of significantly reducing effort and subsequent harvest while still providing some commercial harvest data. Due to the season change from fall to spring, Back Behm Canal did not have a preseason closure date set for the 2023/24 season.

While the overall District 1 shrimp stock exhibits relatively stable stock health, the back Behm and West Behm area's commercial CPUE data are near the lowest levels since the inception of the shrimp pot fishery in 1995. Additionally, the fall survey that occurred in the fall of 2023 saw the lowest catch rates of all size classes of shrimp in both Back Behm and West Behm since the survey began in 2011 and continued to show very poor recruitment into the fishery with very few small shrimp ($<32\text{ mm}$) encountered. For the 2024 season, both back Behm and West Behm had a preset season closure of May 21, which allowed for 7 days of fishing in these areas. This provides some commercial fishery performance data and eliminates the opportunity for boats to repetitively fish over the same grounds. During the 2024 season, both back Behm and West Behm Canal saw an increase in CPUE in the commercial fishery and in the department's fall survey, there was a significant increase in the number of small shrimp ($<32\text{ mm}$). This trend continued in the 2025 commercial season. Harvest levels have remained stable since the switch to the spring fishery, and the 2025/26 season exhibited a continued upward trend in CPUE. In the last ten years, the back Behm and West Behm Canal areas account for approximately 30% of the total harvest in District 1, so maintaining the districtwide GHIL at 40,000 pounds is prudent to alleviate harvest pressure throughout the remainder of the district. **The waters of Behm Canal north of a line from Escape Point at 55° 39.07' N lat, 131°43.04' W long to Point Francis at 55°40.21' N lat, 131°46.11' W long and west of the longitude of Point Whaley at 131°15.84' W long will close at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 21, 2026.** The fall survey, commercial CPUE, and distribution of effort may be used to adjust the GHIL in season.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 57,600 pounds. The 2025/26 season's harvest was 40,000 pounds and the season closed May 27, 2025.

District 2—GHIL will be reduced to 20,000 pounds and Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm will remain closed.

The District 2 GHIL was reduced for the 2009/10 season from 86,000 to 65,000 pounds due to excessive exploitation rates, declining CPUE, and a decrease in mean carapace length (CL). For the 2014/15 season, negative survey indicators prompted a reduction in GHIL to 52,000 pounds. Based on extremely poor fall survey results, Kasaan Bay was closed prior to the 2015/16 season and the GHIL was reduced to 42,000 pounds. For the 2016/17 season, continued stock decline in Kasaan Bay and Cholmondeley Sound prompted a further reduction in GHIL to 29,400 pounds. After positive indicators in the fall survey the outer portion of Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm reopened for the 2018/19 season with a preset closure date of October 7. The GHIL was increased to 40,000 pounds for the 2020/21 season in response to the improved commercial catch rates observed in both Cholmondeley Sound and Kasaan Bay, increased catch rates of large class shrimp in the fall survey, and high districtwide CPUE.

The District 2 shrimp pot fishery had a positive response to these management restrictions. Districtwide commercial CPUE was at a historical low in the 2015/16 season and had since increased, exceeding the baseline in the 2019/20 season, remaining similar for the 2020/21 season, and then decreasing to a midrange CPUE for the 2021/22 season. During the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons, Kasaan Bay set new historical high

commercial CPUE before dropping sharply in the 2021/22 season. In the 2019/20 season the GHL was intentionally exceeded based on both strong fall survey and commercial CPUE. In 2020/21, the GHL was exceeded intentionally again based on strong catch rates in both the fall survey and the commercial fishery with catches in Kasaan Bay at historically high levels. During the 2021/22 season the fishery was intentionally closed before meeting the GHL based on the lack of effort and harvest in Kasaan Bay and the concentrated harvest in Cholmondeley Sound which accounted for two thirds of the District 2 GHL for the season. District 2 has a fall survey in both Cholmondeley Sound and Kasaan Bay which comprises 70% to 80% of the districtwide GHL; as a result, confidence with the survey data combined with commercial fishery performance data as an indicator of shrimp abundance in the district was good. For the spring 2023/24 season, portions of Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm opened with no preset closure date. Department survey data from fall 2023 indicated a reduction in all size classes of shrimp and extremely poor recruitment of small class sizes. For the 2024/25 season, poor department survey results combined with poor commercial fishery performance data the previous two seasons led to a preset closure date of May 21 in the waters of Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm with a reduction in the overall Districts GHL from 40,000 to 30,000 pounds. Commercial CPUE from the first 2 days of the fishery were extremely poor and an announcement was issued immediately closing Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm by emergency order at 4:00 p.m., on May 18, 2024. For the 2025 season, management actions were taken in response to poor metrics in all relevant data sources in Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm, including, the department survey, commercial CPUE, and personal use permit harvest data, and the waters of Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm were closed for the duration of the season. **The waters of Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm west of the longitude of Kasaan Point at 132°16.87' W long will continue to be closed for the 2026/27 commercial shrimp pot season.** A personal use fishery closure is also in effect for the 2026 calendar year, enacted by emergency order effective January 1 through December 31, 2026. A sport fish closure was announced for January 7 through December 31, 2026. Reducing the districtwide GHL to 20,000 pounds is necessary to alleviate harvest pressure throughout the remainder of the district and address declining commercial CPU and negative survey indicators of abundances in Cholmondeley Sound. The fall survey, commercial CPUE, and distribution of effort may be used to adjust the GHL in season.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 37,700 pounds. The 2025/26 season's harvest was 22,400 pounds and the season closed May 30, 2025.

Section 3-A—GHL will be reduced to 97,000 pounds.

For the 2000/01 season, the Section 3-A GHL was increased from 200,000 to 264,000 pounds. The GHL was reduced to 198,000 pounds for the 2004/05 season due to a consistent decline in shrimp size and commercial fishery harvest rates. From 2004/05 through the 2007/08 seasons, the shrimp commercial harvest rates were relatively stable, although declining annually from 2005 through 2010, with an average harvest of 198,000 pounds. To increase the health and productivity of the Section 3-A shrimp stock, the GHL was reduced to 158,400 pounds for the 2008/09 season. The GHL remained at 158,400 pounds over the next 2 years but the average annual harvest over this period was only 128,000 pounds. There were no signs of improvement in the commercial fishery or the department survey which led to a further GHL reduction to 95,000 pounds for the 2010/11 season. Sectionwide CPUE began to increase as did biological benchmarks in the fall survey and the GHL was increased to 114,000 pounds for the 2015/16 season. Biological benchmarks in logbook data and the fall survey began to fall in 2021 and have remained lower through the past three seasons with sectionwide commercial CPUE decreasing significantly during the 2023/24 season which continued a downward trend from the previous three years. This decline brought the CPUE well below the baseline and was at the lowest level on record. However, given the shift to a spring fishery prior to the 2023 season, comparing sectionwide commercial harvest rates between past fall fisheries to the new spring fishery was not immediately useful or potentially indicative of the overall population and distribution and more years of spring fishery data were needed.

In 2021, after several years of decreasing commercial CPUE, and poor survey data Hetta Inlet closed to commercial harvest. At the time, the remainder of Section 3-A was performing well in all other analysis areas and the overall GHIL was not decremented. Indicators from the Hetta Inlet fall survey still show the shrimp population at a low level, however, survey data in northern Hetta Inlet has shown signs of improvement, with >XL shrimp at baseline in the 2025 survey, small shrimp are still well below the baseline and Hetta Inlet will remain closed to commercial harvest. Perhaps some level of commercial harvest in Hetta Inlet will be available for the 2027/28 season. Hetta Inlet **will remain closed** north of the latitude of Hetta Point at 55°10.40' N lat due to poor stock status indicated from past commercial fishery data and recent fall survey data. Both Lower Cordova and Upper Cordova exhibited positive metrics in the 2024 survey data with the prerecruit cohort in both areas above the baseline. The 2024/25 commercial CPUE was above average throughout most of the section; however, harvest rates of small class shrimp declined and the commercial CPUE for the 2025/26 season dropped significantly throughout much of the section. The GHIL is being reduced to 96,900 pounds for the 2026/27 season.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 122,400 pounds. The 2025/26 season's harvest was 108,900 pounds and the season closed May 29, 2025.

Sections 3-B/C—GHIL will remain at 10,000 pounds.

For the 2007/08 season the GHIL was reduced from 50,000 to 40,000 pounds due to a decline in mean CL and CPUE. The GHIL was reduced to 30,000 pounds for the 2010/11 season and then to 20,000 pounds for the 2021/22 season based on decreasing commercial CPUE.

In Sections 3-B/C, there is no survey and limited biological sampling. The areawide commercial CPUE, the only metric analyzed in this section, has been on a steady downward trend since the 2016/17 season and is now at its lowest level (less than half of the recent 10-year average) since standardization was possible. Due to consistently declining commercial CPUE over the previous 5 seasons, the GHIL was reduced by 33% to 20,000 pounds for the 2021/22 season. Despite this only 9,200 pounds of the GHIL was harvested during the 2023/24 season and only 11,100 pounds were harvested during the 2024/25 season. Due to the low harvest rate in the 2023/24 season and the similar harvest rate seen for the first part of the 2024/25 season, Section 3-B/C remained closed for the fall portion of the 2024/25 season. Commercial fishery performance data is the only available data source in Section 3-B/C, however, unlike other Districts or Sections where the entire GHIL was harvested in the fall fishery and then in the spring fishery beginning in 2023, Section 3-B/C was open for the entire 2023/24 season, both spring and fall, after the fishery change in 2023, which allowed for a direct comparison between the current and past fall fisheries. Section 3-B/C remained closed for the 2024/25 fall season. There is concern with localized depletion throughout large portions of Sections 3-B/C and fisherman targeting the few remaining areas that can support a fishery. The 2025/26 commercial GHIL was reduced to 10,000 pounds and remained closed for the fall season with a total commercial harvest of 6,700 pounds.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 24,800 pounds. The 2025/26 season's harvest was 6,700 pounds and closed by regulation on July 31, 2025.

District 4—GHIL will remain at 20,000 pounds.

Data is very limited in District 4. No survey is conducted, and the fishery has never been sampled. Effort and harvest have been sporadic throughout the history of the fishery. Fishery performance and logbooks are the only data from District 4 that can be used as an indicator of stock health. District 4 is on the open ocean and harvest can be limited by weather. In the past it has received limited effort during open seasons. Three vessels with average harvest rates for the district harvested a little more than half of the GHIL in the spring fishery before quitting for the season. There was no effort for the fall season with much of the harvest occurring in the

small bays on the outer coasts of Dall, Baker, and Suemez Islands. It often received little to no effort during the fall fishery with the majority of the harvest in recent years being taken in the spring/summer when it reopens. With the change to the start date for the pot shrimp fishery in 2023 to May 15, the district began to see effort towards the end of May after Section 3-A closed with 3 permit holders fishing during the 2023/24 spring season. Since the 2024/25 season, the harvest in District 4 has been confidential. The commercial CPUE for the District 4 fishery remains stable although it is low compared to other districts and there are currently no concerns with stock health.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 16,800 pounds. The 2025/26 season harvest was confidential. The fishery reopened in the fall and closed by regulation on February 28, 2026.

District 5—GHL will remain at 12,000 pounds.

The GHL for District 5 was 20,000 pounds from the 1995/96 season until the 2015/16 season, when it was reduced to 12,000 pounds. Effort has been sporadic in recent years, with some years having very low harvests due to very low effort. The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 3,000 pounds, with the highest being 7,700 pounds in 2017/18 and a low of 550 pounds for the 2021/22 season. No biological data is available for this area, and a survey is not conducted.

The 2025/26 season harvest was confidential. The fishery reopened in the fall and closed by regulation on February 28, 2026.

Sections 6-B/C/D/E—GHL will remain at 15,000 pounds.

Sections 6-B/C/D/E is a new management area created by the BOF in 2018. It is comprised of 2 analysis areas: Northern Clarence and Southwest Etolin Island, with a combined GHR of 0 to 60,000 pounds. This area has historically been the core fishing area of District 6. A survey is not conducted for this area.

This area was managed with a base GHL that was adjusted inseason from 2012/13 through 2020/21 seasons, with adjusted GHLs ranging from 20,800 pounds to 51,480 pounds. Due to declining fishery performance and a decrease in shrimp sizes, the department moved away from in-season adjustments in Sections 6-B/C/D/E for the 2021/22 and 2023/24 seasons and instead allowed fishing for a fixed-length season of 8 days with an expected harvest of 15,000 pounds. The season total spot shrimp harvest in 2021/22 was 4,700 pounds, with only three boats participating. In 2023/24, the pre-set 8-day limit was extended by three days in season based on improved fishery performance and allowed for a harvest of 15,000 pounds.

In 2024/25 and 2025/26, Sections 6-B/C/D/E did not have a fixed season length and were managed to a preseason GHL of 15,000 pounds. The GHL was achieved in 2024/25 with a harvest of 16,900 pounds. However, the 2025/26 harvest was limited to 9,100 pounds from 3 boats and closed on July 31. The lower harvest can be attributed to slower catch rates and low effort, combined with competing fisheries limiting participation during the second half of the season. Additionally, Sections 6-B/C/D/E did not reopen for the fall season due to a decrease in fishery performance and low leftover GHL available to harvest. The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 27,600 pounds. In 2026/27, Sections 6-B/C/D/E will again be managed to the preseason GHL.

District 7—GHL will remain at 56,000 pounds, and Bradfield Canal, Blake Channel, and Eastern Passage will remain closed.

This area has been surveyed by the department annually in the fall since 1997. Fall survey data in 2019 showed a strong recruitment of juvenile shrimp, which supported good harvests during the 2019/20 through 2021/22 seasons. Then, fall surveys in 2021 through 2024 detected lowered levels of younger age classes of shrimp.

The fall survey in 2025 showed improvements in the abundance of young age classes of shrimp, but it will take a few years before these age classes are large enough to be observed in the commercial fishery. Because of this and many unknown factors associated with the switch to a spring fishery; conservation measures will be in place for the 2026/27 season.

An area closure will be in effect for the Bradfield Canal, Blake Channel, and Eastern Passage area again for the 2026/27 season. Fall surveys conducted by the department have shown a decrease in catch rates in Bradfield Canal in recent years, with catch rates of almost all size classes at less than 25% of the baseline in 2024. These trends continued in 2025, but with some improvements to overall catch rates and abundance of juvenile shrimp classes.

Due to the closure of the Bradfield Canal, Blake Channel and Eastern Passage area, a reduction in the District 7 GHL was warranted for the 2025/26 season to prevent additional pressure on other areas within the district. Bradfield Canal, Eastern Passage and Blake Channel have made up an average of 27% of the overall District 7 commercial harvest annually since the 2014/15 season. This resulted in a GHL of 56,000 pounds which will be in place again for the 2026/27 season.

The GHL for District 7 has ranged from 104,000 pounds in the 2000/01 season to 54,600 pounds in the 2010/11 season. The base GHL was 63,700 pounds for the 2012/13, 2013/14, and 2014/15 seasons. The base GHL for the area was increased to 74,300 pounds beginning with the 2015/16 season and remained at that level through the 2024/25 season.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 81,400 pounds. The 2025/26 season's harvest was 52,000 pounds from 15 boats, and the season closed on May 26, 2025.

Sections 8-B and 6-A—GHL will remain at 15,000 pounds.

Sections 8-B and 6-A were combined into a new management area by the BOF in 2018, comprising 3 analysis areas—Eastern Sumner, Western Sumner, and Stikine Strait/Chichagof Pass—with a combined GHR of 0 to 25,000 pounds. A survey is not conducted for this area.

Fishery performance has generally been good over the past 7 seasons. Although commercial harvest data is difficult to interpret because effort in these areas can vary from year to year, commercial CPUE remains above baseline in all three analysis areas. Areawide commercial CPUE increased from the 2024/25 season and remained above baseline. However, this area is a high-use subsistence area, is not surveyed, and limited biological samples have been obtained in the past few years.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 13,500 pounds. The 2025/26 season had the highest effort since 2010/11 and the shortest season on record. During the 2025/26 season, the fishery was open 10 days with a harvest of 19,800 pounds from 11 boats and closed on May 24, 2025.

Sections 8-A and 10-C—GHL will remain at 12,000 pounds.

Sections 8-A and 10-C were combined into a new management area by the BOF in 2018. It is comprised of 2 analysis areas—Farragut Bay and Southern Frederick Sound—with a combined GHR of 0 to 20,000 pounds. A survey is not conducted for this area.

Commercial CPUE has been below baseline levels for the past 4 seasons (2021/22 through 2025/26). However, commercial harvest data is difficult to interpret as effort in these sections can vary considerably from year to year and it's unclear how the change from a fall to a spring fishery has affected CPUE. In 2025/26, despite GHL remaining, management did not reopen Sections 8-A and 10-C for the fall season due to continued below baseline CPUE in the commercial fishery.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 10,700 pounds. The 2025/26 season’s harvest was 7,900 pounds from 4 boats, and the season closed on July 31, 2025.

District 9—GHL will be reduced to 6,500 pounds.

The GHL in District 9 has changed 5 times since the 1998/99 season. It increased 20% from 15,000 to 18,000 pounds for the 2000/01 fishing season, where it remained until the 2011/12 season when it was reduced to 14,000 pounds. In response to continued declining standardized CPUE values, the GHL was reduced by 20% to 11,000 pounds for the 2015/16 season and further reduced to 6,500 pounds since the 2018/19 season. Prior to the 2023/24 season, the GHL was increased to 10,000 pounds due to increased CPUE. The analysis area composition of the harvest is variable, but most harvest comes from Eliza Harbor and SE Baranof Island. There were no landings from Keku Strait or Western Kuiu Island during the 2011/12 to 2025/26 fishing seasons.

The only data available for this district were standardized commercial CPUE with relatively high variation. District 9 CPUE was the lowest on record for the 2025/26 season and continues to be below baseline for the last three years. Decreases in district CPUE are attributed to decreases in CPUE in both Eliza Harbor and SE Baranof. Effort is usually focused in Eliza Harbor, however, the focus has changed to SE Baranof for the past two seasons. Eliza Harbor has had the least amount of effort and harvest on record for the past two seasons. SE Baranof has had increased effort during the past two seasons, yet CPUE is declining. Due to increasing effort and decreasing CPUE the GHL will be reduced by 35% to 6,500 pounds. With better weather in the spring, SE Baranof may continue to see increased effort.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 10,900 pounds. The 2025/26 season’s harvest was 9,600 pounds, and the season closed on May 26, 2025.

Sections 10-A/B—GHL will remain at 35,000 pounds.

Sections 10-A/B were created by the BOF in 2018. It is comprised of 3 analysis areas—Port Houghton, Hobart/Windham, and Southeast Admiralty—with a combined GHR of 0 to 50,000 pounds. This area has historically been the core fishing area of District 10. A survey is not conducted for this area.

The GHL in District 10 increased from 30,000 to 35,000 pounds for the 2000/01 season and to 48,000 pounds for the 2004/05 season. The GHL was reduced to 36,000 pounds for the 2013/14 season and to 29,000 pounds for the 2016/17 season. Commercial harvest information for District 10 indicated that shrimp populations declined sharply during the 2011/12 and 2012/13 seasons and again during the 2014/15 season. The 2018/19 season marked the first season for the Sections 10-A/B management area. The GHL for the area was set at 35,000 pounds and has remained there.

In the 2019/20 season, commercial harvest information suggested that shrimp populations were at a historically high level. Due to the unanticipated increase in CPUE that season, management was slow to react, and the fleet landed a record harvest of 62,000 pounds in 9 days. The following season, the effort nearly doubled from 8 boats in 2019/20 to 14 boats in 2020/21. The season lasted 6 days, the shortest on record for the area, but management again exceeded the GHL with a harvest of 57,000 pounds. In 2021/22, management exceeded the GHL for a third time, harvesting 51,000 pounds in 8 days. From 2020/21 through 2023/24, CPUE declined steadily from the record high level in 2019/20 to below average in all analysis areas. In 2025/26, commercial CPUE remains below the base level. Commercial CPUE indicates that the high harvest has had a negative impact on stock health, but it is unclear if the change in season from fall to spring has also negatively affected commercial CPUE.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 41,900 pounds. The 2025/26 season’s harvest was 41,500 pounds from 10 boats, and the season closed on May 22, 2025.

Sections 11-A/B/C—will be closed.

A GHL of 7,500 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp was established for the remainder of District 11 (Sections 11-A/B/C) for the 2012/13 season. Due to the observed decreases in commercial CPUE in Section 11-A adjacent to the community of Juneau, combined with an analysis of Division of Sport Fish creel data indicating the sport and personal use harvest was at least equal to the commercial harvest, Section 11-A was closed in 2013 to all shrimp fisheries to rebuild stock health. The department has conducted 5 surveys of Section 11-A from 2018 to 2024 to gather data on spot shrimp population size and structure with the results pointing to a stock experiencing recruitment failures for multiple years and the area remains closed to preserve the existing spawning stock. The Sections 11-B/C 7,500-pound GHL was in place through the 2016/17 season with nearly all the harvest coming from Endicott Arm in Section 11-C. Declining CPUE and concerns of serial depletion led to the closure of Endicott Arm and a reduction in the GHL to 4,000 pounds for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons. Harvests in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons were from the same small area in Stephens Passage and the entire area was closed for the 2019/20 through 2021/22 seasons.

Sections 11-A/B/C has exhibited serial depletion of the spot shrimp stock with the sequential closures of Section 11-A in 2013, Endicott Arm in 2017, and the entirety of Sections 11-B/C due to declines in commercial CPUE and harvest in 2019. To evaluate the multiple-year rotational strategy, Sections 11-B/C was opened in May of 2023 with a GHL of 4,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp. The Endicott Arm area was included in this opening for the first time since 2016. Although effort was minimal, CPUE of spot shrimp in Endicott Arm was improved over average seasonal CPUE since District 11 was split for the 2012/13 season and CPUE of spot shrimp in Stephens Passage was similar to average seasonal CPUE since the 2017/18 season when this area began seeing more consistent effort. In May of 2025, Sections 11-B/C reopened with the same area and GHL, and CPUE remained consistent. Stock status is not known for Sections 11-B/C but was moderate based on the 2025/26 season fishery metrics and continuing with an alternate year rotation and similar GHL could prove sustainable with the next opening slated for the spring of 2027.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 5,600 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp. The 2025/26 season harvest was 4,200 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp and the season closed on May 25, 2025, with 4 boats making landings.

Section 11-D (Seymour Canal)—will remain closed.

A GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp was established for all of District 11 in 1995. In 2012, the BOF established separate GHRs of 0 to 30,000 pounds of spot shrimp for Seymour Canal (Section 11-D) and 0 to 15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp for the remainder of the district (Sections 11-A/B/C). In the 2011/12 and 2012/13 seasons, an experimental inseason management approach modeled on the spawner index (SI) method utilized in British Columbia, Canada was investigated in Seymour Canal, but managers felt that with the small extent of the fishing area and rapid pace of the fishery, the SI approach was not suitable and reverted to the preseason GHL approach for the 2013/14 season. Based on declines in commercial CPUE and the observed contraction of the area fished while investigating the SI approach, the GHL was reduced to 15,000 pounds for the 2013/14 season and was further reduced to 12,000 pounds for the 2014/15 through 2018/19 seasons. With continuing declines in CPUE and further contraction of the fishing grounds, the GHL was reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2019/20 season.

Commercial CPUE in the 2019/20 season decreased from the previous season to the lowest since the 2001/02 season. The core fishing grounds had been split between boats that had fished the area long-term with very similar catch performance. In the 2018/19 season, one of these areas saw a decline in CPUE over the 8-day season suggesting a reduction in the spatial extent of the shrimp biomass. This decline was even more pronounced in the 2019/20 season, and the area was closed in the 2020/21 season. Department surveys were

conducted for 3 consecutive years (2021–2023) to collect baseline data, and results from the 2025 survey indicated catch rate and L_{50} were lower than the 3-year mean, while carapace length was at the mean.

Section 11-D was reopened in May of 2024 with a 25% reduced GHL in place (7,500 pounds). The CPUE was less than the 2019/20 season and the lowest on record. The Seymour Canal fishery will remain closed in the spring of 2026 based on a declining trend in survey catch rates and may reopen in 2027.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 10,600 pounds of spot shrimp.

District 12–Tenakee Inlet (12-T)—will remain closed.

A GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp was established for all of District 12 in 1995. In the 2000/01 season the entire 20,000-pound GHL for the district was taken from Tenakee Inlet and for the 2001/02 season Tenakee Inlet was separated from the District 12 remainder (12-R) and given its own GHL of 20,000 pounds, and a 15,000-pound GHL was put in place for 12-R. The Tenakee Inlet GHL was increased to 28,000 pounds for the 2005/06 season. With declining CPUE in department fall surveys, the GHL for Tenakee Inlet was reduced to 17,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season and was further reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2010/11 season. Following the 2011 fall survey, a stock collapse was evident, and Tenakee Inlet was closed to commercial harvest. With continuing declines in fall survey performance, Tenakee Inlet was closed to sport and personal use shrimping in 2012. With survey results returning to near baseline levels, personal use and sport shrimping was reopened in December of 2017 and the commercial fishery was reopened in 2018.

A set 2-day commercial fishery occurred in 2018 with a GHL of 7,500 pounds of spot shrimp and an area closure west of Long Bay to provide some refugia. Tenakee Inlet was again opened in 2019 with a 7,500-pound GHL. With 6 boats on the grounds, managers set the season for 2 days again, with the fishery occurring in the same area as the fall survey. Harvest was 12,000 pounds of spot shrimp. A similar set 2-day opening in 2020 drew 6 boats again with a harvest of 11,700 pounds. In 2021, it was announced that Tenakee Inlet would open for 2 days and then the survey was conducted and CPUE of small size class shrimp dropped so substantially that the area was closed a week before the season opener. Survey data from 2022 through 2025 show small and large size classes shrimp CPUE substantially below baseline levels. However, size distribution in the 2024 and 2025 surveys has flattened out, indicating a positive sign of recruitment and multiple cohorts present, potentially correlated with population rebuilding. The personal use and sport shrimp pot fisheries remain closed as of March 17, 2023. With no survey or harvest data from the eastern portion of Tenakee Inlet, the stock status of the entire inlet is unknown, and the personal use and sport fishery was closed west of the longitude of Corner Point to potentially provide some indication of abundance from the permits. Tenakee Inlet will not be included in the rotational fishery management strategy in the Juneau Area at this time. The fall survey will monitor the health of the shrimp population and inform commercial fishery opportunities.

This area last opened to commercial fishing in October of 2020 with a set 2-day opening.

District 12–Remainder (12-R)—will remain closed.

The 15,000-pound GHL of spot shrimp for 12-R was reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season, and due to declining commercial CPUE and fishermen concerns, the area was closed to rebuild the stock from the 2012/13 through 2014/15 seasons. 12-R was reopened for the 2015/16 season with a reduced GHL of 7,500 pounds; CPUE remained poor, and the area was closed again for the 2016/17 through 2018/19 seasons. 12-R reopened for the 2019/20 season with a GHL of 7,500 pounds, was closed for the 2020/21 season, reopened for the 2021/22 season with a GHL of 7,500 pounds, was closed for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons, and reopened for the 2024/25 season with a GHL of 7,500 pounds.

After a 3-year closure to rebuild stocks, 12-R was reopened for the 2015/16 season with catch rates in Kelp Bay, the primary driver of this GHIL area unchanged, and another 3-year closure was instated to continue to rebuild stocks. This area reopened for the 2019/20 season with a GHIL of 7,500 pounds and a harvest of 10,300 pounds. Kelp Bay saw improved commercial CPUE and harvest with fishermen reporting consistent CPUEs but noted a decreasing size of shrimp over the course of the season. Freshwater Bay performed well but did not have any commercial effort for 7 years prior to the 2019/20 season. There was no effort in the Point Couverden analysis area. Four boats made landings in the 2021/22 season with nearly 90% of the total harvest coming from Kelp Bay. CPUE in Kelp Bay dropped substantially from the 2019/20 season to below baseline for that analysis area. Three boats made landings in the 2024/25 season and harvested a total of 1,500 pounds of spot shrimp with 84% of the harvest coming from Kelp Bay. One boat fished in Freshwater Bay for 3 days with minimal harvest. Total standardized commercial CPUE remained below baseline and fell to a record low. The area did not reopen for a fall fishery in 2024 due to poor fishery performance and was closed on July 31. 12-R openings are anticipated to remain on a multiple-year rotational strategy.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 5,600 pounds of spot shrimp (only includes 4 seasons).

Sections 13-A/B—GHIL will remain at 12,600 pounds.

Sections 13-A/B were separated from Section 13-C with a GHIL of 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp beginning with the 2000/01 season. Section wide standardized commercial CPUE has a history of high variability in this section and remained below baseline for the third year in a row. Within this district there are four analysis areas: Crawfish Inlet, Larch/Branch Bays, Necker Bay, and Whale Bay. Standardized commercial CPUE was below baseline in Necker Bay and at baseline in Whale Bay for the 2025/2026 season. There was no effort in Larch/Branch Bays and Crawfish Inlet and West Crawfish Inlet were closed. CPUE in Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlet declined significantly during the 2024/25 season and resulted in the closure of these areas for the 2025/2026 season; additionally, the subsistence and sport fisheries were closed in Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlets beginning January 1, 2025. With the closure of all shrimp fisheries in Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlets the GHIL was reduced to 12,600 pounds beginning with the 2025/2026 season. Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlets will remain closed for the 2026/2027 season.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 16,155 pounds. The 2025/26 season's harvest was 13,000 pounds and the season closed June 5.

Section 13-C—will remain closed.

GHILs for Section 13-C have steadily been reduced over the last 15 years: from 42,000 pounds to 34,000 pounds for the 2007/08 season, to 30,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season, to 26,000 pounds for the 2012/13 season, to 16,000 pounds prior to the 2017/18 season. In the more productive Hoonah Sound portion of Section 13-C, annual surveys were conducted from 1998 through 2014 and 2017 through 2025. Due to continued poor stock health metrics from the survey, Section 13-C has remained closed since the 2020/21 season.

Overall, results from the fall surveys conducted from 2017 through 2024 indicated poor, but improving stock health in Hoonah Sound. The catch rate of large size class shrimp increased to all-time highs in the 2020 through 2024 surveys following 2 years of near-record lows in 2018 and 2019 but went back down to baseline catch rates in 2025. The continued low abundance of small size class shrimp remains a concern, as the last nine surveys have been below baseline levels. Although catch rates from survey data increased gradually from 2019 to 2023, it declined again in the 2024 and 2025 surveys.

The sport shrimp fishery in Hoonah Sound has been closed since March 1, 2020. The subsistence fishery was opened in 2025 with gear restrictions to provide opportunity for subsistence harvesters.

The most recent survey showing a decline in the catch rates of both small and large class shrimp does not necessitate a closure of the limited subsistence fishery; reopening the sport fishery at this time is not warranted. The subsistence fishery will remain open during 2026. Over the last 10 open seasons commercial harvest averaged 24,400 pounds. This area was closed from commercial fishery for the 2025/26 season.

District 14—will reopen with a GHL of 7,500 pounds.

A GHL of 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp was established for District 14 in 1995. With declining commercial CPUE, the GHL was reduced to 15,000 pounds for the 2006/07 season and further reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2008/09 season. The fishery closed for 3 seasons to rebuild the stock and reopened for the 2012/13 season with a GHL of 10,000 pounds. With CPUE unchanged, District 14 closed again for 3 seasons. The district reopened for the 2016/17 season with a reduced GHL of 7,500 pounds and an alternate-year rotational harvest strategy. In the 2020/21 season, overall fishery CPUE improved substantially over the 2018/19 season, in large part because of one boat fishing in western Icy Strait, an area with very little reported historical harvests. However, Eastern Icy Strait CPUE also showed a substantial increase over the previous 6 seasons it was fished.

Overall CPUE in the 2023/24 season was near baseline. Effort was spread throughout the district and landings were made in Port Frederick (first commercial effort since 2020), Excursion Inlet, Eastern Icy Strait, and Port Althorp. The fishery reopened in the fall of 2023 and closed at the end of February 2024 for a season total of 229 days open. A total of 4 boats made landings for a total harvest of 6,100 pounds of spot shrimp. Although standardized CPUE was near baseline, it dropped substantially from the previous 3 seasons the district was opened and fishermen with a history of fishing the area suggested that fishing was poor. After a 2-year closure, the area will reopen to evaluate CPUE and assess the current rotational strategy.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 6,700 pounds (only includes 4 seasons).

District 15-East—Taiya, Chilkoot, and Lutak Inlets will be opened, with a combined GHL of 3,500 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.

Historically, the District 15 GHR for coonstripe shrimp was 0 to 20,000 pounds districtwide through the 2004/05 season. The GHR was reduced 25% (0 to 15,000 pounds) for the 2005/06 season in response to conservation concerns, which resulted in a 3-year closure from 2006/07 to 2008/09. The district reopened in the 2009/10 season under a spatial management strategy that involved managing District 15 as 2 separate areas each with specific GHLs. The 2 core fishing areas became District 15 East and the remainder of District 15. District 15-East encompasses Lutak, Chilkoot, and Taiya Inlets. District 15 East has been managed for a GHL of 7,500 pounds since reopening in 2009/10 until the 2018/19 season when the GHL was reduced to 3,500 pounds. In addition, Chilkoot and Lutak Inlets were closed due to stock health concerns, leaving Taiya Inlet the only open area. Chilkoot and Lutak Inlets opened for the 2019/20 season, but fishery performance remained poor. These areas have remained closed since the 2020/21 season. This alternative management strategy of splitting the district into 2 separate fishing areas, each with specific GHLs, proved to be more sustainable and was adopted into regulation at the Alaska BOF meeting in 2022. The GHR for District 15- East is 0 to 10,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.

Over the past decade, most fishing effort in District 15-East has been primarily concentrated in Taiya Inlet, where the annual shrimp harvest has averaged approximately 4,300 pounds. The inlet appears capable of supporting an annual harvest of about 5,000 pounds; however, catch per unit effort (CPUE) has declined in recent years. To balance fishing opportunity with the need to monitor stock health, a rotational opening

schedule was implemented beginning in the 2024/25 season, with Lutak Inlet opening in even-numbered years and Chilkoot Inlet in odd-numbered years.

During the 2024/25 season, Lutak Inlet reopened and shared a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 3,500 pounds with Taiya Inlet. Chilkoot Inlet remained closed. Fishing effort was minimal, with one permit holder prospecting in Taiyasanka Bay. Due to low catch rates and a lack of effort in the primary fishing areas of Lutak Inlet, harvestable populations could not be adequately evaluated.

For the 2025/26 season, Chilkoot Inlet reopened to evaluate harvestable populations; however, no fishing effort occurred. Lutak Inlet remained closed. Effort in Taiya Inlet was minimal, and standardized CPUE remained at baseline levels. Dockside samples collected from Taiya Inlet indicated mean carapace length was at baseline with no significant 4-year trend. Due to technical errors in sexing samples, L_{50} analysis was not available for the 2025/26 season.

The overall stock status score for Taiya Inlet during the 2025/26 season was considered moderate, representing a slight increase from the 2024/25 season. Department surveys are not conducted in District 15.

The 2025/26 commercial season in District 15-East was open for 78 days, and harvest information is confidential. One permit holder participated in the fishery, and the season closed by regulation on July 31, 2025.

For the 2026/27 season, the department anticipates similar low participation of fewer than 3 permits in the shrimp pot fishery and recommends opening Taiya, Lutak, and Chilkoot inlets with a combined GHL of 3,500 pounds of coonstripe shrimp. Opening all three inlets would provide fishing opportunities while allowing for the collection of additional stock status information from Lutak and Chilkoot inlets if participation occurs.

District 15-Remainder—GHL will be increased to 8,500 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.

District 15-Remainder includes Chilkat Inlet and waters of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of Ayiklutu Point and north of the latitude of Little Island Light. The traditional core fishing area occurs in Chilkat Inlet. The remainder of District 15 has been managed with a 7,500-pound GHL since reopening in the 2009/10 season. During the 2022 meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the board adopted a new GHR of 0–10,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp for the remainder of District 15.

During the 2025/26 season, dockside samples were collected from shrimp harvested in Chilkat Inlet. Mean carapace length was at baseline with no significant 4-year trend. Due to technical errors in sexing samples, L_{50} analysis was not available this season. Standardized CPUE remained well above baseline for the eighth consecutive season and exhibited an increasing 4-year trend. The overall matrix score in Chilkat Inlet remained above average, although it declined slightly from the 2024/25 season. During the 2025/26 season, fewer than 3 permits participated, and harvest information is confidential. The spring season was open for 78 days and closed by regulation on July 31, 2025.

Stock status indicators, including standardized CPUE and overall matrix scores, have remained above average for 3 consecutive seasons. Given these positive trends and the likelihood of continued minimal participation in the fishery, the department recommends increasing the coonstripe shrimp GHL from 7,500 pounds to 8,500 pounds for the 2026/27 season.

District 16—GHL will remain at 12,000 pounds.

A GHL of 20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp was established for District 16 in 1995. With declining commercial CPUE, the GHL was reduced to 15,000 pounds for the 2004/05 season and with continued declines closed for 3 seasons to rebuild stocks. The fishery reopened in 2008 with a 15,000-pound GHL of spot and coonstripe shrimp and an alternate-year rotational harvest strategy was established. The spot shrimp contribution has historically made up a significant proportion of the harvest, and in recent seasons has been as high as 70% of the harvest. The GHL has been considered in total pounds of shrimp, combining coonstripe and spot shrimp, since the alternate-year rotational harvest strategy has been in place.

This district was the first in the region to employ the alternate-year rotational harvest strategy to reduce impacts on the stock, beginning with the 2008/09 season. This fishery opened for the sixth time in its biennial schedule in 2018 and CPUE of all shrimp decreased to levels that prompted the initial three-year closure in the 2005/06 season, so the fishery was again closed for 3 consecutive seasons from 2019/20 through 2021/22. The 2018/19 season was the second season since rotational fisheries began that the GHL was not harvested.

The District 16 GHL was reduced by 20% to 12,000 pounds for the 2023/24 season based on poor performance in the previous 2 openings (2016/17 and 2018/19). Standardized CPUE of all shrimp was above the baseline and the spot/coonstripe shrimp ratio in the spring of 2023 was like the fall 2018 fishery at 55% spot shrimp. In the 2025/26 season, District 16 attracted minimal effort. Considering the small effort and harvest in the 2025/26 season, District 16 will reopen with the same GHL for the 2026/27 season.

The 2014/15–2024/25 average harvest is 10,300 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp (only includes 4 seasons).

References Cited

Schoenfeld, M., 2026. Southeast Pot Shrimp Stock Status Prior to the 2026/27 Season. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 20-XX, Anchorage.

Table 1.—GHLs in pounds whole weight by season for the Registration Area A shrimp pot fisheries, 2010/11 through 2026/27 seasons.

Fishing Area	2026/27	2015/16– 2025/26 Avg	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
1	40,000	53,600	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	64,000	64,000	64,000	64,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
2	20,000	34,020	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	30,000	29,400	29,400	29,400	42,000	52,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
3-A	97,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000
3-B/C	10,000	25,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
4	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
5	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
6-B/C/D/E ⁴	15,000	31,600	15,000	15,000	15,000 ¹	15,000 ¹	30,030 ²	30,030 ²	34,320 ²	51,480 ²	44,800 ²	32,000 ²	20,800 ²	36,800 ²	38,400 ²	24,000
7	56,000	75,400	56,000	74,300	74,300	74,300	74,300	74,300	74,300	96,590 ²	81,730 ²	74,300 ²	70,070 ²	77,500 ²	80,700 ²	54,600 ²
8-B/6-A ⁴	15,000	13,650	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	10,500	10,500	10,500	10,500	15,000	15,000	15,000
8-A/10-C ⁴	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
9	6,500	8,900	10,000	10,000	10,000	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	11,000	11,000	11,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
10-A/B ⁴	35,000	33,900	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	29,000	29,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	48,000	48,000
11-D	Closed	10,917	Closed	7,500	Closed	Closed	Closed	10,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	15,000	N/A ³	20,000
11-A/B/C	Closed	5,167	4,000	Closed	4,000	Closed	Closed	Closed	4,000	4,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	–
12-Ten	Closed	8,333	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10,000	7,500	7,500	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
12-Rem	Closed	7,500	Closed	7,500	Closed	7,500	Closed	7,500	Closed	Closed	Closed	7,500	Closed	Closed	Closed	10,000
13-A/B	12,600	14,760	12,600	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
13-C	Closed	20,000	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	16,000	16,000	16,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	30,000
14	7,500	7,500	Closed	Closed	7,500	Closed	7,500	Closed	7,500	Closed	7,500	Closed	Closed	Closed	10,000	Closed
15-East ⁵	3,500	9,950	3,500	3,500	3,500	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
15-Rem ⁵	8,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
16	12,000	13,500	12,000	Closed	12,000	Closed	Closed	Closed	15,000	Closed	15,000	Closed	15,000	Closed	15,000	Closed
TOTAL	382,600	487,765	408,600	438,300	466,800	457,300	482,330	500,120	551,680	523,290	531,630	517,600	524,870	539,400	564,600	525,600

Table Notes: All GHLs with the exception of **11-A/B/C, 15, and 16 are GHLs for spot shrimp. 11-A/B/C and 16 GHLs are combined spot and coonstripe shrimp and 15 is for coonstripe shrimp only.** Bolding for 2026/27 GHLs indicate a change from the 2025/2026 season.

¹ Sections 6-B/C/D/E GHL was expected harvest for a set 8-day opening.

² GHLs may have been adjusted in season. District 6 base = 32,000 pounds for years 2012 through 2016, then increased to 42,900 starting in 2017. District 7 base = 63,700 pounds for 2012 through 2014, then increased to 74,300 starting in 2015.

³ Section 11-D (Seymour Canal) did not have a GHL assigned in the 2012/13 season due to experimentation with Spawner Index based management.

⁴ New regulatory area in 2018.

⁵ New regulatory area in 2022.

Table 2.—Shrimp pot fishery harvest in whole pounds by season for the Registration Area A shrimp pot fisheries, 2010/11 through 2025/26 seasons.

Fishing Area	2025/26	2014/15– 2024/25 Avg	2024/25	2023/24	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
	1	40,035	<i>57,621</i>	39,467	39,382	53,162	55,125	57,536	57,925	73,114	72,790	61,718	65,993	55,615	70,000
2	22,384	<i>37,669</i>	26,760	39,973	33,270	53,316	43,569	31,296	27,758	30,629	39,205	50,915	62,058	74,554	76,002
3-A	108,857	<i>122,446</i>	115,995	111,218	134,544	132,684	128,215	105,959	132,102	135,730	115,950	112,061	122,914	107,068	97,580
3-B/C	6,690	<i>24,842</i>	11,098	9,172	17,977	27,315	23,682	21,733	33,422	37,562	30,405	36,049	26,717	33,107	40,116
4	***	<i>16,791</i>	***	13,224	14,866	17,232	17,956	15,825	18,353	18,459	19,507	***	***	***	***
5	***	<i>3,033</i>	3,441	4,829	544	2,127	***	1,713	7,656	1,117	4,464	3,737	***	5,136	8,562
6-B/C/D/E	9,064	<i>27,579</i>	16,862	14,982	4,714	32,609	29,048	38,181	52,179	39,126	26,048	22,040	35,106	35,050	30,657
7	51,976	<i>81,433</i>	64,974	68,743	91,770	90,378	85,162	77,482	95,952	84,347	80,069	75,452	94,526	81,488	60,073
8-B/6-A	19,776	<i>13,500</i>	15,096	19,556	14,598	15,099	16,808	16,434	12,132	12,389	9,301	3,588	6,277	9,663	12,302
8-A/10-C	7,868	<i>10,663</i>	11,361	10,744	14,424	20,554	12,737	10,780	8,924	4,035	3,680	9,386	9,318	9,246	8,431
9	9,589	<i>10,903</i>	8,889	7,780	11,124	10,622	11,259	5,412	10,784	12,528	12,201	18,435	15,241	16,183	10,795
10-A/B	41,542	<i>41,914</i>	34,932	33,489	51,091	58,581	62,041	39,973	40,365	34,647	32,693	31,323	31,940	36,419	45,324
11-D	Closed	<i>10,592</i>	***	Closed	Closed	Closed	9,314	11,457	***	***	***	***	13,209	21,969	20,877
11-A/B/C	4,162	<i>5,584</i>	Closed	4,424	Closed	Closed	Closed	***	4,768	6,888	6,356	6,438	8,313	8,211	***
12-Ten	Closed	<i>8,765</i>	Closed	Closed	Closed	11,748	***	***	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
12-Rem	Closed	<i>5,637</i>	1,478	Closed	5,686	Closed	10,282	Closed	Closed	Closed	5,100	Closed	Closed	Closed	8,335
13-A/B	12,961	<i>16,155</i>	14,246	15,014	14,457	18,989	15,802	12,696	20,623	18,968	13,454	17,297	16,300	13,769	14,590
13-C	Closed	<i>19,707</i>	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	13,383	14,182	12,693	26,970	26,096	24,919	23,033	28,493	38,109
14	Closed	<i>6,721</i>	Closed	6,063	Closed	8,474	Closed	5,541	Closed	6,806	Closed	Closed	Closed	8,773	Closed
15-East	***	<i>5,207</i>	***	***	5,358	4,030	3,844	3,882	4,282	5,486	7,502	10,091	8,111	7,386	8,836
15-Rem	***	<i>4,975</i>	***	***	6,240	8,228	9,829	4,060	1,248	***	***	4,570	6,263	8,382	5,372
16	***	<i>10,263</i>	Closed	***	Closed	Closed	Closed	***	Closed	***	Closed	14,706	Closed	***	Closed
Total	360,053	<i>508,864</i>	396,193	422,271	473,826	566,893	563,006	487,146	567,852	568,656	505,582	537,211	550,405	609,275	558,157
GHJ	408,600	<i>499,392</i>	438,300	466,800	457,300	482,330	500,120	551,680	523,290	531,630	517,600	524,870	539,400	564,600	525,600
% of GHJ	88	<i>102%</i>	90%	90%	104%	118%	113%	88%	108%	105%	96%	100%	101%	104%	107%
Permits	89	<i>102</i>	92	100	98	109	101	106	106	108	95	104	109	106	110

Table notes: Confidential data is in bold italics. Harvest data shown is harvest of spot shrimp, except for 11-A/B/C, 15, and 16. Districts 11-A/B/C and 16 are combined harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp and District 15 is harvest of coonstripe shrimp only.

***Confidential Information, less than 3 permits reporting