

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY DECISION (DRAFT 9-6-12)

POLICY TITLE: Puget Sound Shrimp Fishery POLICY NUMBER: C-3610

Supersedes: C-3610, effective 2-10-2003
C-3008, effective 1-4-1997

Effective Date: _____, 201X

Termination Date: (if applicable)

See Also:

Approved: _____

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) policy direction in meeting the dual mission of preserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats while providing fish and wildlife related recreational and commercial opportunities as it relates to the Puget Sound shrimp resource.

Definition and Intent

This policy provides guidance for state managed fisheries for spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*), coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*), dock shrimp (*Pandalus danae*), and pink shrimp (*Pandalus eous*) in Washington State waters east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line (shrimp management regions 1-6 WAC 220-52-051). In establishing this policy direction for Puget Sound, the Fish and Wildlife Commission considered the state-wide harvest of shrimp from the perspective of meeting the needs of the consumer, the commercial harvesters, and the recreational fishers of Washington.

General Policy Statement

The Department shall promote a healthy and sustainable population of pandalid shrimp in Puget Sound and work cooperatively with the Tribal Co-Managers in structuring management measures to ensure a healthy and sustainable resource and achieves a fair sharing of the harvestable resource.

Policy Guidelines

- Preserve, protect, and perpetuate Puget Sound pandalid shrimp resources and associated habitat.
- Provide for shrimp trawl and shrimp pot fisheries in a manner that is consistent with resource conservation goals.
- Allocate the harvest opportunity between state and treaty Indian fisheries consistent with applicable federal court orders.

- Monitor all non-Indian recreational and commercial shrimp harvests for accurate catch accounting.
- Manage Puget Sound shrimp fisheries conservatively until fishery impacts to stock abundance are better understood.
- Obtain biological and stock assessment information to improve the Department's understanding of the effectiveness of the current harvest management strategy and quotas.
- Work with stakeholders to develop legislation that implements a voluntary program that allows for converting commercial trawl licenses to pot fishery licenses specific for the harvest of non-spot shrimp *Pandalus hypsinotus* and *Pandalus danae*.
- Work with stakeholders to develop legislation that implements a industry funded commercial pot fishery license buy-back program with an objective of reducing the number of licenses.
- Pursue communication, education, and enforcement strategies to enhance compliance with regulations and reduce gear loss.
- Provide easily accessible information to the public regarding recreational fishery rules including website information, and pages in the sport pamphlet devoted to information regarding the rules that govern this fishery.
- Adopt provisions of this policy for a minimum of five years,

Regional Management Strategies for the Spot Shrimp Pot Fishery

The management intent is to provide for meaningful and stable recreational and commercial fisheries and to focus the commercial fishery in the areas that are less accessible to recreational fishers. Shrimp

Four spot shrimp fishery management options are being considered by the commission

Management Strategy for the Non-Spot Shrimp Pot Fishery

The Puget Sound recreational non-spot shrimp pot fishery will be managed to take up to 20% of the state quota. The commercial non-spot pot fishery will be managed for the remaining state quota of non-spot shrimp.

Management Strategy for the Non-Spot Shrimp Trawl Fishery

The shrimp trawl fishery will be managed for the exclusive benefit of the commercial fishery and will be restricted to Regions 1 and 3. The trawl fishery will be designed and regulated to harvest non-spot pandalid shrimp only.