



REGION 6

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March 20, 2007

Dear Coastal Pink Shrimp Fisher:

Please find the enclosed summaries of Washington landings for the 2006 coastal pink shrimp fishery. This information, and more can be found on-line at www.wdfw.wa.gov; click on Fishing/Shellfishing and scroll down the page to the Coastal Pink Shrimp Fishery link. A copy of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's annual pink shrimp newsletter is included since it provides information pertinent to the Washington fishery. (The newsletter is only provided to those that don't also have an Oregon shrimp delivery license).

State regulations for the coastal pink shrimp fishery remain unchanged from 2006. Fishers are reminded that biological reduction devices (BRDs, or excluders) are mandatory. To further evaluate excluder use in the Washington pink shrimp fishery, WDFW biologists will be conducting dockside interviews again this season. The primary objective of these interviews will be to determine the type of excluder in use, and the bar spacing on hard panel excluders. This effort is being undertaken to coordinate Washington data collection and management with Oregon pink shrimp fishery research. More routine monitoring of landings is planned for 2007 and will include count-per-pound checks.

Remember, before fishing in any trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA), open access vessels are required to submit a declaration report. For specific instructions, see the NOAA Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement website at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/nw_declarationreqs.html.

The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery management measures for 2007 are also enclosed. Please note that only select pages from the public notice have been included: pages 1 and 15-16 cover an overview of the open access regulations, and page 23 is the trip limit table. Go to the NOAA Fisheries website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Public-Notices/Index.cfm> for the complete notice. To receive public notices by email send a request to: westcoastgroundfish@noaa.gov.

Finally, the vessel monitoring system (VMS) may still expand to include open access fisheries (including pink shrimp). However, it is not clear at this time when NOAA Fisheries will begin to address this issue; other management matters have taken priority.

Please feel free to call if you need any assistance or have any questions. My phone number is (360) 249-1221.

Sincerely,

Lorna Wargo
Coastal Shellfish/Marine Fish Biologist

Enclosures (4)