



Puget Sound Shellfish Unit  
Port Townsend Office \* 375 Hudson Street \* Port Townsend, WA 98368  
Phone: (360) 302-3030 \* Fax: (360) 302-3031

April 24, 2024

Dear Puget Sound Commercial Shrimp Pot Fishers:

Enclosed are preliminary spot and non-spot shrimp harvest quotas, recreational and commercial targets, a map of fishery harvest areas, and information regarding changes to the fishery. This year, Region 1, Region 3, and Region 2W management plans have not yet been agreed to, and negotiations are ongoing. The harvest quotas for these regions are set to last year's quotas. Any party whose harvest exceeded their share last season will have their 2024 share reduced by the amount of the overage. Management plans and harvest quotas in Region 2E have been adopted by the State and Tribes.

Also enclosed are the emergency (temporary) regulations that will open the 2024 commercial shrimp pot fishery. Both permanent and emergency rules must be read together for a complete understanding of the 2024 season regulations. For example, the emergency rule currently in effect indicates the opening date and time for the shrimp pot and trawl fisheries, whereas permanent rules do not regulate such dates. If not specified in the most recent emergency regulation, all gear regulations, area closures, and other provisions of permanent rules remain in effect.

The Department recently implemented regulatory updates for items. These updates include:

- Separate pot limits for spot and non-spot fisheries;
- Updates to information that has to be filled out in logbooks while on the water;
- Clarifications regarding when fish tickets have to be filled out and submitted, and
- Repeal of the rule limiting landing from multiple areas on the same day (catch still must be accounted for by catch area correctly on fish tickets).

## **2024 Commercial Shrimp Pot Season Structure**

### **Non-spot Shrimp**

The non-spot shrimp season for all regions will open one hour before official sunrise on May 1 and continue through October 15, or until quotas are reached, whichever comes first. Provisions to extend the season past October 15 are in place but are contingent on the percentage of shrimp carrying eggs and ovigery sampling conducted by state or treaty technical staff.

### **Non-spot Catch Accounting Period Limits**

Non-spot shrimp per license limits will be in effect for Shrimp Management Subregions 1A, 1B, and 1C and Region 2E combined. Limits will be based on bi-weekly periods starting May 1. For all bi-weekly catch accounting periods, there will be a 1,400 lbs harvest limit until quotas are exhausted. The bi-weekly catch accounting periods start on Wednesdays, one hour before sunrise on the “Start Date”, and end on Tuesdays, one hour after sunset on the “End Date” listed in the table below.

<b>Period Number</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
<b>1</b>	5/1/2024	5/14/2024
<b>2</b>	5/15/2024	5/28/2024
<b>3</b>	5/29/2024	6/11/2024
<b>4</b>	6/12/2024	6/25/2024
<b>5</b>	6/26/2024	7/9/2024
<b>6</b>	7/10/2024	7/23/2024
<b>7</b>	7/24/2024	8/6/2024
<b>8</b>	8/7/2024	8/20/2024
<b>9</b>	8/21/2024	9/3/2024
<b>10</b>	9/4/2024	9/17/2024
<b>11</b>	9/18/2024	10/1/2024
<b>12</b>	10/2/2024	10/15/2024

There is no weekly harvest limit for non-spot shrimp in Regions 2W and 3, including Discovery Bay.

### **Spot Shrimp**

Commercial spot shrimp harvest will open on May 1, 2024, in all areas with available commercial share. During the first spot shrimp catch accounting period, harvesters are

permitted to harvest up to 4,800 lbs of spot shrimp. The first catch accounting period begins May 1, 2024 and ends July 30, 2024. The Puget Sound Prawn Association has requested the Department track the per-license landing limits until July 15, 2024, for the following areas:

- 300lbs per license from 23A-E.
- 500lbs per license from 1A.
- 400lbs per license from 25A.

After July 15, 2024, the Association per license limits will be lifted.

The second spot shrimp catch accounting period is anticipated to start on July 31, 2024, with an additional approximate harvest amount of 300 pounds per license. The second spot shrimp accounting period is planned to end on August 20, 2024. However, the pounds available and period dates are contingent on the status and schedule of late-season recreational fisheries.

Clean-up opportunities will be announced after the recreational fishery has finished and if quota is available. If all commercial licenses have caught their share before the end of catch accounting period 2, clean-up fishery timelines may be expedited. Subregions 1A, 1C, and Region 3 will remain open through September 15, 2024, or until quotas are reached, whichever comes first.

### **Electronic Fish Tickets**

Deliveries of spot shrimp, coonstripe shrimp, pink shrimp, sidestripe shrimp, or any other species lawfully taken by vessels delivering under a Puget Sound shrimp pot or Puget Sound shrimp trawl license are required to be reported using an electronic fish ticket receiving form. The Department has designed **WaTix**, a suite of mobile and web applications, for commercial dealers and limited fish-seller endorsement holders to use. **WaTix** is designed to be able to be used on mobile phones in areas where there is variable connectivity. Puget Sound Crustacean staff can help those interested get set up and use the application. More information about **WaTix** can be found on the following web page: [WaTix Electronic Fish Ticket Reporting | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#).

In addition to WaTix, there is the eTix web application designed by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) that is also available for use. The eTix application has historically been used for federal groundfish and coastal crab landings. It does not have mobile functionality and requires a constant internet connection. More information can be found on the following web page: [ETixStartGuide\\_WADealers.pdf \(psmfc.org\)](#).

### **Harvester Quick Reports**

The transition to mandatory use of electronic fish ticket forms means that *daily quick reports of catch are no longer required if harvesters can submit a fish ticket within 24 hours of a landing to the Department*. If, for whatever reason, submission of an electronic fish ticket is delayed more than 24 hours after a landing harvesters are still required to submit a daily quick report via the web form ([Puget Sound Quick Report](#)) or to [shrimp.report@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:shrimp.report@dfw.wa.gov). If a Quick Report is required then it must include the following information:

- Landing Date and Landing Type (Spot or Non-spot)
- Harvester contact info (Name, phone, email, permit #)
- Quota area(s)
- Landing amount (LBS)
- Fish Ticket Number

### **Fishing Declarations Electronic Form**

All shrimp pot harvesters are required to declare their intention to fish both spot shrimp and non-spot shrimp. Please use the electronic form to submit this information. You may submit declarations for non-spot trips and spot shrimp trips up to 48 hours before gear is set. Declarations for non-spot shrimp trips can be made for a maximum of a 14-day soak time to accommodate the biweekly harvest limit. Spot shrimp trips ideally would be individually declared but soak times of up to 7 days will be accommodated.

To access the form, please see the '[Reporting Forms](#)' section of the new Puget Sound commercial shrimp webpage. You can also access the form by using your phone camera to capture the QR code below. You may still declare by email to [shrimp.report@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:shrimp.report@dfw.wa.gov). Declarations should include the following:

- Harvester contact information (name, phone, email, permit #)
- The intended area of harvest (quota area)
- Proposed dates
- Species targeted (spots or non-spots)
- Estimated Pounds targeted

This requirement is intended to give managers additional information regarding effort for each quota area, facilitate market sampling of commercial catch, and assess voluntary ride-along opportunities.

Declaration QR code:



Declarations form link: [Shrimp Declarations](#)

### **Subregion 1A and Subarea 23A East Non-spot Season Opening**

Subregion 1A and Subarea 23A East will open to non-spot harvest at the start of the season alongside all other areas with commercial share. To meet co-management obligations, a portion of non-spot trips into these areas will require Department staff onboard to characterize the catch and handling of bycatch. Harvesters that have declared a non-spot trip for Subregion 1A or Subarea 23A East will be contacted by Department staff to coordinate a ride-along.

### **Voluntary Ride-alongs**

Department staff are looking for opportunities to ride along during commercial shrimp pot harvest. Declarations that harvesters make with trips may be used to solicit ride-along opportunities for both spot shrimp and non-spot shrimp trips. Additionally, please reach out if you are willing to take staff out while fishing.

### **PS Shrimp Pot Fisheries Incidental Take Permit (ITP)**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has updated its internal process for engaging with treaty tribes. As a result, the PS shrimp fisheries have been asked to resubmit its application cooperatively with several treaty tribes that are also seeking coverage for interacting with species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The department is updating its application and preparing to resubmit its request for the potential take of three species of rockfish (Boccacio, Canary, and Yelloweye) listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Currently, there are no changes anticipated for the commercial pot fishery because of this inclusion. We will update the fleet as more information becomes available.

### **Discovery Bay Non-spot Harvest**

Discovery Bay will open to the commercial harvest of non-spot shrimp but will remain closed to the commercial harvest of spot shrimp. Please structure commercial activity around the recreational fishery whenever possible. Recreational fishing dates can be found on the recreational shrimp website: (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfishing-regulations/shrimp/areas>).

## Reminders

### **Catch Reporting Areas**

Catch Reporting Areas in Region 1 must include subregions 1A, 1B, or 1C. Catch must be reported with area subunit:

- 20B-1A
- 22A-1A
- 20B-1B
- 21A-1B
- 22A-1B
- 21A-1C

Additionally, landings from Catch Areas 23A, 26A, and 26B must include the subarea on the fish ticket:

- The subareas for 23A include 23A-E, 23A-W, 23A-S, and 23A-C.
- The subareas for 26A include 26A-E and 26A-W.
- The subareas for 26B include 26B-1 and 26B-2.

Please see the maps on the commercial shrimp web page for information on subarea boundaries and refer to regulation WAC 220-320-140 for boundary descriptions of all the subareas.

- [Spot Shrimp Maps](#)
- [Non-spot Shrimp Maps](#)

When landings are made in the combined quota area 23A-S/23D and 23A-C/23B, fishers and buyers are required to specify which individual Catch Area harvest originated from on their fish ticket.

### **Logbooks**

Logbooks are required for all Puget Sound commercial shrimp harvesters. Directions for completing the log and an example are detailed within the logbook. Please record the latitude and longitude to the nearest **hundredth of a minute** for each string (or pot, if fished individually). Example: 44° 56.16', 123° 44.85'.

Record the fish ticket serial number in the rightmost column of the log at the time of sale. Record the fish ticket serial number on the same row of data for the last string of gear that is included on that fish ticket.

***Please continue to use issued logbooks until all pages have been completed even across multiple seasons.*** Additional harvest logs will be sent upon request. Contact Daniel Sund at 360-302-6372 or Brad Speidel at 253-263-5560 if you need a new log. Completed log pages need to be mailed to the Department monthly. Pull out and send in pages from your log when you are done fishing for the month. Start a new month on a new page.

Completed log pages can be mailed to:

Commercial Shrimp Harvest Manager  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
375 Hudson Street  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

### **Puget Sound Commercial Shrimp Webpage**

The [Puget Sound Commercial Shrimp Webpage](#) will be the primary means that managers communicate with Puget Sound commercial shrimp harvesters. The web page includes specific information about each fishery such as announcements, current regulations, up-to-date landings, and electronic forms used to fulfill additional reporting requirements.

### **Gear Labeling**

Harvesters are required to label their gear clearly and legibly with the following information:

- License holder
- Vessel,
- Number of pots attached to the ground line
- Type of pots that are deployed (spot or non-spot).

Harvesters do not need to write the details directly on the buoy surface. A tag may be attached to the buoy with the required information – *please do not recycle crab buoy tags for this purpose.*

### **Additional Pot Limits and Concurrent gear use**

Harvesters are permitted to use up to 100 pots for spot shrimp and up to 100 pots for non-spot shrimp fishing concurrently. This was adopted in permanent rule in 2023. (WAC 220-340-520)

Harvesters are permitted to have both spot and non-spot gear deployed at the same time as described by the restrictions detailed below.

- Spot shrimp and non-spot shrimp cannot be harvested in the same day
- All catches must be landed before subsequent trips targeting other species may occur.

### Fishing Multiple Areas

Harvest is permitted within multiple Catch Areas (25A, 23A, 22A, etc.) on the same day as long as catches from those Catch Areas are accounted for on the Fish Receiving Ticket.

### Recreational Shrimp Dates

Both State Commercial and Recreational fishing opportunities are overlapping this year. We request commercial harvesters structure their harvest plans to avoid recreational spot shrimp days whenever possible. Recreational shrimp dates are as follows:

Shrimp Management Area	"Spot" Seasons in 2024	Day of Week	# of Hours	Hours
4	5/16	7 days a week	daylight hours	daylight hours
5	5/16	7 days a week	daylight hours	daylight hours
6 - Outside Disco Bay	5/16-5/18, 5/30-6/1, 6/13-6/16, 6/28-30, 7/12-15	Thus - Sat, Thus - Sun, Thus - Sun, Thur - Sun, Fri-Mon	daylight hours	daylight hours
6 - Discovery Bay	5/17	Fri	4	9am - 1pm
7 East	5/16-5/18	Thus - Sat	daylight hours	daylight hours
7 South	5/16-5/18, 5/30-6/1 (23AE only)	Thus - Sun, Thus - Sat, Thus - Sat	daylight hours	daylight hours
7 West	5/16-5/18, 5/30-6/1, 6/13-6/15, 6/28-30, 7/12-14	Thus - Sat, Thus - Sun, Thus - Sun, Thur - Sun	daylight hours	daylight hours
8-1 and 8-2	5/16, 5/30	Thur, Fri	4	9am - 1pm
9	5/16	Thur	4	9am - 1pm
10 - Elliott Bay	5/16	Thur	4	9am - 1pm
10 - Outside Elliott Bay	5/16	Thur	4	9am - 1pm
11	5/16	Thur	4	9am - 1pm
12	5/17, 5/18, 5/30, 6/15	Fri, Sat, Thur, Sat	4	9am - 1pm
13	None	None		



Have a great shrimp fishing season in 2024.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sund  
Commercial Crustacean Management Biologist  
(360) 302-6732 cell

Brad Speidel  
Commercial Crustacean Management Biologist  
(253) 263-5560 cell

Katelyn Bosley  
Lead Crustacean Management Biologist  
(360) 302-3030 x319 office

cc: Aaron Dufault, Kirt Hughes, Cpt. Maurstad, Cpt. Chadwick