



Puget Sound Shellfish Unit
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April 25, 2024

Dear Puget Sound Shrimp Trawl Fishers and Buyers:

Enclosed are details for the 2024 commercial shrimp trawl fishery including spot and non-spot shrimp harvest quotas, recreational and commercial targets, and maps of non-spot shrimp harvest areas for the 2024 shrimp trawl fishery.

Also enclosed are the emergency (temporary) regulations that will open the 2024 commercial shrimp trawl fishery, for your reference. 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, a copy of which is enclosed, 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:

- Definition of beam trawl-specific harvest areas (South Lopez Sound, Rosario Box, Lummi-Sinclair Triangle);
- Updates to information that must be filled out in logbooks while on the water; and
- Clarification regarding when fish tickets must be filled out and submitted.

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. 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](#).

Dealer Quick Reports

The transition to mandatory use of electronic fish ticket forms means that *daily quick reports of catch are no longer required if dealers are able to 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 dealers are still required to submit a daily quick report via the web form ([Puget Sound Quick Report](#)) or to shrimp.report@dfw.wa.gov. If a Quick Report is required, it must include the following information:

- Landing Date
- Dealer info (Name, phone, email, permit #)
- Quota area(s)
- Landing amount (LBS)
- Fish Ticket Numbers

Puget Sound Quick Report Link: [PS Shrimp Quick Report](#)



Observer Coverage

Listings for three species of rockfish, eulachon, and green sturgeon under the Federal Endangered Species Act have prompted all shrimp fisheries in Puget Sound to request coverage by an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) applied for by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and authorized by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) due to potential interactions with the listed species. Congruent with the requirements of WDFW's ITP, onboard observer coverage will be required in the 2024 Puget Sound shrimp trawl fishery.

WDFW will supply observers to conduct sampling on commercial trawl vessels. Harvesters will need to coordinate with the WDFW staff listed below to schedule these trips. The conditions of the current permit require that at least 10% of the shrimp trawl trips be monitored by an observer.

Region 1 Early Opening Provisions

Those areas within sub-region 1B that may open early if crab bycatch criteria are met based on observing results must have an observer on board the first time each area is fished. The areas with early opening provisions and the criteria that must be met to open early are described below.

Area Name	Area Description	Early Opening Date	Hard Opening Date	Early Opening Criteria	
				Mean Dungeness Crab Bycatch %	Mean Softshell Dungeness Crab Bycatch %
Rosario Box	That portion of Catch Area 22A within subregion 1B that are east of a line projected along -122.7833° longitude (east of Blakely Island) and west of a line projected along 122.7167° longitude (west of Cypress Island) in Rosario Strait.	May 1	June 16	4.0	-
South Lopez Sound	Those waters of Lopez Sound within subregion 1B that are south of a line projected true east-west from the northern tip of Trump Island (48.5064°, -122.8369°).	-	July 10	-	-
Lummi-Sinclair Triangle	Those waters of Catch Area 21A north and west of a line from the southern tip of Sinclair Island (48.6097°, -122.6572°) to Carter Point (48.6404°, -122.6088°) on Lummi Island.	-	July 1	-	-
1B Combo	The remaining portions of Catch Areas 20B and 22A within subregion 1B not including the South Lopez Sound and Lummi-Sinclair Triangle.	May 1	June 16	12.0	6.0
Western 20A	Catch Area 20A outside of those waters north and east of a line from Point Roberts Light (48.9716°, -123.0838°) to Sandy Point Light at the Lummi Reservation (48.7868°, -122.7124°).	-	August 1	-	-

Exception for observer coverage Catch Area 25A:

In Catch Area 25A, observer coverage greater than 10% may be required for vessels that do not have a Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD). Vessels fishing in Catch Area 25A with nets that do not have a Department-approved BRD are required to have observer coverage as follows: a minimum of 20% trip coverage for the first 50,000 pounds of 25A trawl harvest; and 10% trip coverage for over 50,000 pounds of 25A trawl harvest, as identified by the Department. Vessels with a Department-approved BRD are required to have 10% trip coverage in 25A, as identified by the Department. The first 25A onboard observer trip must be conducted by the 5th trawl fishery trip.

Commercial regulations adopted by the WDFW Commission require owners and operators in the shrimp trawl fishery to obtain a permit from the WDFW Director to conduct their fishery. This permit describes the observer coverage requirement and conditions that must be supplied to observers to conduct onboard sampling. For the 2024 season, WDFW will supply observers to conduct sampling on commercial trawl fishing vessels. Owners and/or operators of commercial shrimp trawl fishing vessels will provide a cellular telephone number to the Department where they can be contacted regarding upcoming fishing trips.

WDFW will monitor the shrimp trawl fishing trip landing activity and will attempt to schedule observer trips that represent the typical beam trawl fishery landing patterns by fisher, area, and month. When an observed trip is due to be conducted, management staff will contact the fisher to coordinate the observed trip and acquire trip details (date, location, and time of departure).

Trawl Quota Conversions:

The 2024 Region 1 Shrimp Management Plan allows a transfer of non-spot shrimp quota from trawl to pot fisheries during the season with a 60/40 split between coonstripe and pink shrimp. Managers will monitor the trawl harvest throughout the season. While transfers of Region 1 trawl quota to the pot fishery are possible, they will only occur following input from trawl license holders in order to accommodate all future intended trawl harvests.

Season Structure**Shrimp Management Region 1**

Region 1 beam trawl-specific harvest area definitions are defined in Table 1 and should be used to reference open and closed areas.

Name	Geographic Area Description (WAC 220-320-140 (3))
South Lopez Sound	Those waters of Lopez Sound within subregion 1B that are south of a line projected true east-west from the northern tip of Trump Island (48.5064°, -122.8369°).
Rosario Box	That portion of Catch Area 22A within subregion 1B that are east of a line projected along -122.7833° longitude (east of Blakely Island) and west of a line projected along -122.7167° longitude (west of Cypress Island) in Rosario Strait.
Lummi-Sinclair Triangle	Those waters of Catch Area 21A north and west of a line from the southern tip of Sinclair Island (48.6097°, -122.6572°) to Carter Point (48.6404°, -122.6088°) on Lummi Island.

Table 1: Definition of areas with limitations specific to the Puget Sound beam trawl fishery.

Non-spot shrimp beam trawl harvest is permitted as indicated in Table 2 starting one hour before official sunrise until further notice. These dates are the hard opening dates and may be modified.

Geographic Area Description (WAC 220-320-140 (3); WAC 220-320-120)	Open period
Catch Area 20A outside of those waters north and east of a line from Point Roberts Light (48.9716°, -123.0838°) to Sandy Point Light at the Lummi Reservation (48.7868°, -122.7124°)	August 1, 2024
Those waters within the Lummi-Sinclair Triangle.	July 1, 2024.
Those waters of South Lopez Sound.	July 10, 2024
All waters within subregion 1B, excluding those waters of South Lopez Sound, the Lummi-Sinclair Triangle, and Catch Area 20B.	June 16, 2024

Table 2: Hard opening dates for trawl areas in Shrimp Management Region 1.

Non-spot shrimp beam trawl harvest is permitted starting one hour before official sunrise in the areas detailed Table 3 contingent on the harvester bringing an on-board observer on the first trip into the area. If by-catch sampling criteria are not met these areas will open on the later dates described in WAC 220-340-530(5d,e).

Geographic Area Description (WAC 220-320-140 (3); WAC 220-320-120)	Open period
Those waters within the Rosario Box.	May 1, 2024
Those waters of Catch Area 22A within subregion 1B, excluding the Rosario Box and South Lopez Sound.	May 1, 2024
Those waters of Catch Area 20B within subregion 1B.	May 1, 2024

Table 3: Areas specific to the Puget Sound beam trawl fishery that may open early contingent on bycatch sampling criteria.

The shrimp trawl fishery in Shrimp Management Region 1 will remain open until October 15, or until harvest shares are reached, whichever comes sooner.

Shrimp Management Region 3

The shrimp trawl fishery in Shrimp Management Region 3 (outside of the Discovery Bay Shrimp District, Catch Area 23D, and Sequim Bay) is scheduled to open one hour before official sunrise on May 1, 2024.

The shrimp trawl fishery in Shrimp Management Region 3 (outside of the Discovery Bay Shrimp District, Catch Area 23D, and Sequim Bay) will remain open until September 30, or until harvest shares are reached, whichever comes first.

Area 25A Spot Shrimp Bycatch Buffer

As per the 2024 Region 3 State-Tribal Shrimp Management Plan, there will be a 1,765-pound buffer for the estimated spot shrimp bycatch in the 25A trawl fishery to account for increasing recreational interest in the area. If the estimated upper limit of spot shrimp bycatch is reached, Catch Area 25A will be closed to trawling for the season. This is not a “per boat” bycatch limit. If any single boat or combination of boats reaches the limit, then the 25A trawl fishery will close.

The spot shrimp bycatch will be estimated using observer data. From observed trips, the rolling mean of the percent spot shrimp bycatch (within the pink shrimp catch) for each vessel will be calculated and multiplied by the 25A catch to date for each vessel, providing an estimate of total spot shrimp bycatch for each vessel to date. Bycatch for all vessels will be added together to provide an estimate of the total spot shrimp caught and released. For "payback" calculation purposes, the mortality rate for released spot shrimp is assumed to be 100%. As the season progresses, portions of this set aside may be transferred back to the pot fishery allocation based on bycatch projections.

Puget Sound Commercial Shrimp Webpage

The [Puget Sound Commercial Shrimp Webpage](#) will be the primary means that managers communicate with license holders to provide in-season updates. The web page contains specific fishery information

such as announcements, current regulations, up-to-date landings, and electronic forms used to fulfill additional reporting requirements.

Shellfish Harvest Logbooks

Harvesters are required to complete and submit shellfish harvest logbooks (WAC 220-340-030). Logbook information is critical for the short and long-term management of the fishery and all of the information requested is necessary to understand harvest patterns. All information requested on the logbook page must be completed correctly, legibly, and completely. Using ditto marks or arrows to indicate information that remains the same between lines is acceptable.

- Record the latitude and longitude in Degrees and Decimal Minutes (DDD° MM.MM') to the nearest hundredth of a minute at the start of each tow. Example: 44° 56.16', 123° 44.85'.
- Record the fish ticket serial number in the rightmost column of the log following the submission of a fish ticket.
- Record the fish ticket serial number on the same row as data for the last day and tow for landings that are included on that fish ticket.
- For any spot shrimp caught: record the estimated pounds of spot shrimp caught and released in the 'Spots' column of the harvest log.

Additional harvest logs will be sent upon request. For replacement logs contact Daniel Sund at (360) 302-6372 or Brad Speidel at (253)-263-5560. Directions for completing the logs are shown on the inside of the front cover, and an example of a completed log is shown on the inside of the back cover. Pull out and submit all completed pages to WDFW crustacean staff when you are done fishing for the month. Start a new page at the beginning of each month.

Completed logs can be dropped off in person or mailed to:

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

Please review the regulatory provisions and the above information carefully before fishing, and feel free to contact crustacean management staff at the contact info listed below.

Have a safe and productive 2024 season.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sund,
(360) 302-6732 cell

Brad Speidel,
(253) 263-5560 cell

Katelyn Bosley,
Crustacean Lead
(360) 302-3030 x319

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