



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Recreational Crab & Shrimp Advisory Committee Meeting

**March 28, 2025
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

Meeting Topics



- **Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping (15 min)**
 - Staff and member intros
 - Housekeeping items
- **Roles and Responsibilities (15 min)**
 - Overview
 - Charter and website
- **Co-management and WDFW Policy (20 min)**
 - Rafeedie Decision
 - Commission Policies
 - Management Structure
- **Shrimp Topics (35 min)**
 - 2024 Season Summary
 - Test fishing update
 - 2025 Season Planning
- **Management Challenges and 2025 updates (10 min)**
 - Technical Working Group
 - Electronic CRC
 - Current legislation
- **Advisor Input, Comments, and Ideas (25 + min)**

Staff Introductions

Katelyn Bosley
Puget Sound Crustacean Lead
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Don Velasquez
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Daniel Sund
Commercial Crustacean Biologist
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Public input emails: PSRecreationalCrab@dfw.wa.gov
PSRecreationalShrimp@dfw.wa.gov

Committee Member Introductions

- 1) Where are you from?
- 2) Are you a new or returning member?
- 3) One reason you wanted to be a member of the RCSAC



Housekeeping

Volunteer Registration

- All advisory group members need to be registered in WDFW's CERVIS volunteer system
- This allows group members to:
 - Track volunteer hours
 - Submit requests for reimbursements and/or compensation
 - Members may be compensated to attend meetings and performing other advisory group duties
 - Travel (lodging meals and mileage)
 - Hourly compensation
 - Childcare or dependent care
- Eligibility for either those who are low income OR has lived experience relevant to work group AND isn't already being compensated for their participation
- Promote equity and access
- WDFW staff will follow up with RCSAC members to complete the registration process

Housekeeping

Meetings

- Only advisors and department staff are permitted to participate in the discussion. Observers may provide comments at the end if time permits.

Other Items

- Please review the **RCSAC charter** and **attest** that you have read it
- Information about the group will be on our **Agency Advisor Webpage**

Recreational Crab and Shrimp Advisory Committee

‘The RCSAC is a volunteer group that provides a forum for discussion of issues relevant to the recreational crab and shrimp fisheries within Puget Sound. The purpose of the RCSAC is to develop recommendations to help WDFW achieve the overall mission and management objectives for the Puget Sound crab and shrimp fisheries.’



Roles and Responsibilities

- **Provide advice and information to WDFW staff on relevant management issues including:**
 - Gear and seasons for crab and shrimp
 - Ideas to maintain and improve the State's recreational fisheries
 - Condition of the resource
 - Proposed or needed legislation or regulation changes
- **Work with department staff and advisors to resolve management issues and problems in a timely manner.**
- **Represent the interest of the majority of fishers in your area.**
- **Communicate to the department staff special issues or resource concerns that occur between meetings.**
- **Communicate to fishers in your area information from the department and from advisory group meetings, regulatory or legislative proposals, special agency needs, etc.**
- **Serve as the department's primary contact person in your area.**
- **Attend advisory committee meetings and appropriate Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings.**

Co-management and Policy

- Rafeedie Decision (1994)
 - Treaty Tribes reserve right to 50% of harvestable surplus of all shellfish
 - Shellfish Implementation Plan (SIP)
 - *Regional Management Plans*

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HONORABLE EDWARD RAFEEDIE

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al., Plaintiffs, vs. STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al., Defendants	Case No.: C70-9213 Subproceeding No 89-3 (Shellfish) STIPULATION AND ORDER AMENDING SHELLFISH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
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In an amended opinion filed September 25, 1998, at 157 F.3d 630, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals remanded three issues to the District Court for further proceedings: (1) determination of the minimum density of shellfish necessary to establish the existence of a natural bed, (2) the manner of implementing the Tribes' allocation of shellfish from Growers' beds, and (3) the manner of resolving disputes to be included in the Shellfish Implementation Plan, (the "Plan"), 898 F Supp. 1453, 1463 *et seq.*

To address issues (1) and (2), the Tribes, the Growers, and the State of Washington have stipulated to revisions of sections six and eight of the Plan. The Tribes and the Growers therefore

STIPULATION AND ORDER AMENDING
SHELLFISH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - 1

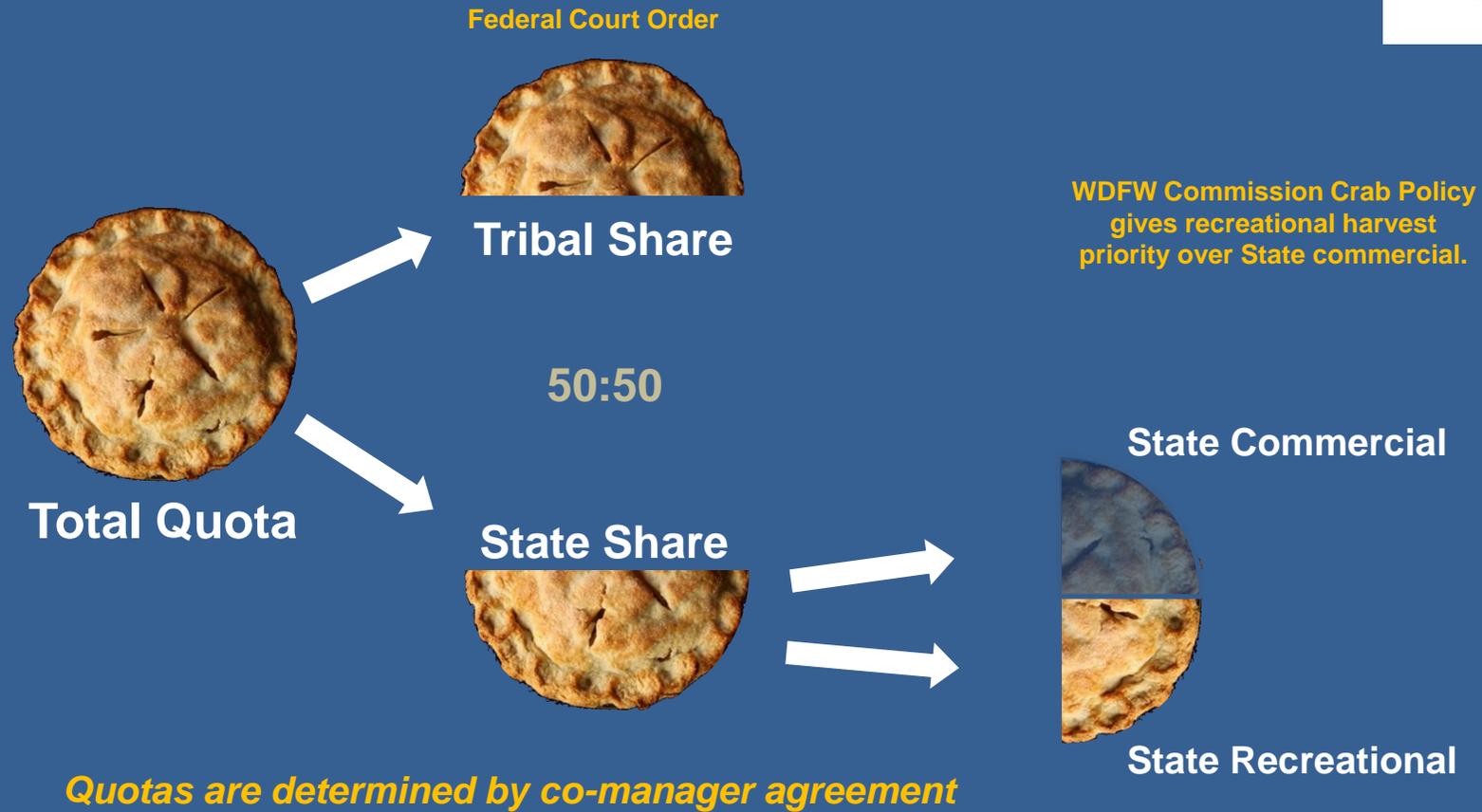
Kanji & Katzen, PLLC
720 Third Avenue, Suite 1500
Seattle, WA 98104
206-344-8100
WSBA # 7835

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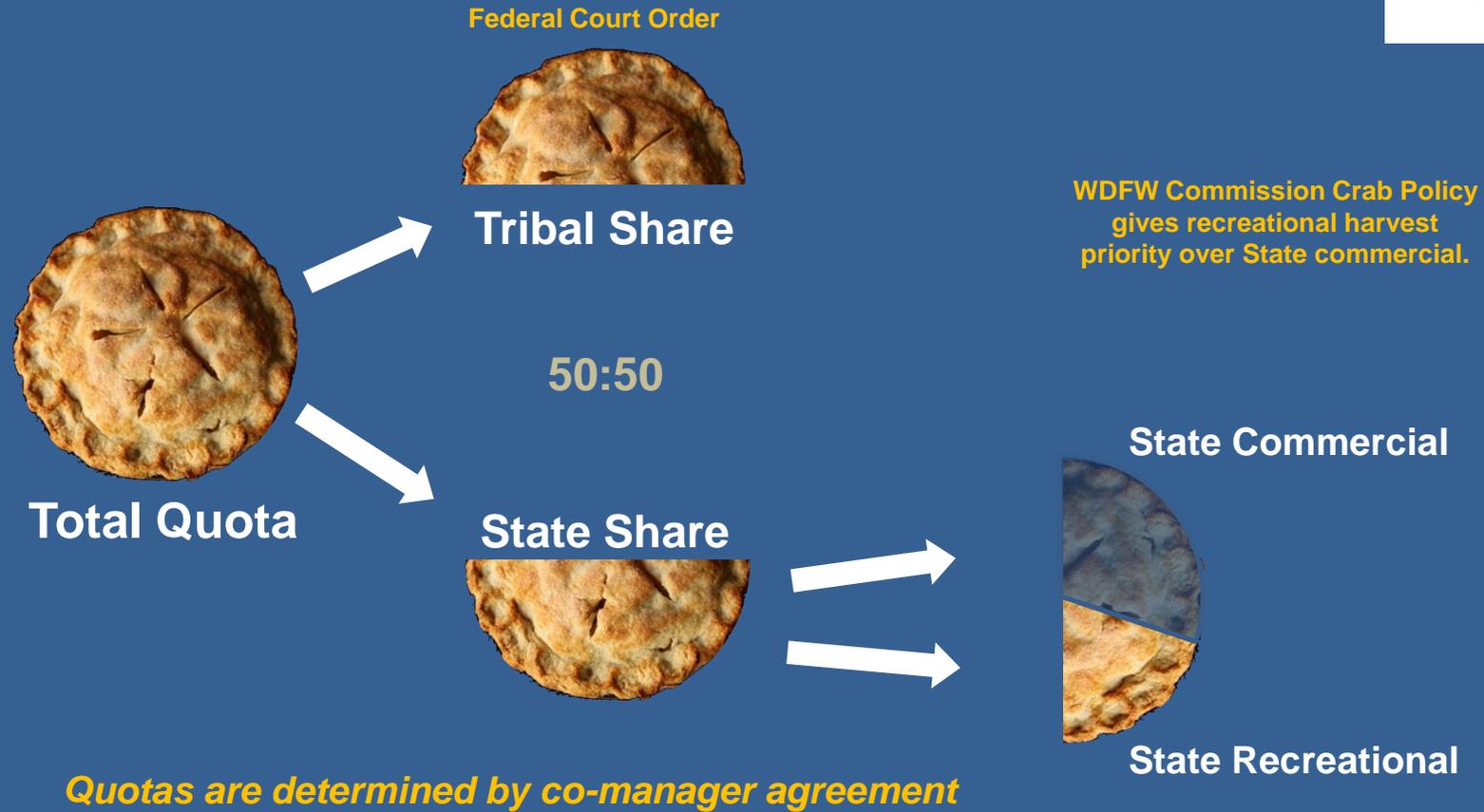
Co-management and Policy

- Puget Sound Crab Policy (revised Sept. 2010)
 - Recreational fishery priority
 - State Commercial only after recreational accommodated
 - State Commercial in North Puget Sound only
 - No State Commercial “mop up” allowed
- Puget Sound Shrimp Policy (revised Dec. 2012)
 - Recreational fishery priority for spot shrimp (70% vs 30%)
 - State Commercial priority for non-spot shrimps (80% vs 20%)
 - State Commercial in North Puget Sound only
 - State Commercial “mop up” allowed with limits

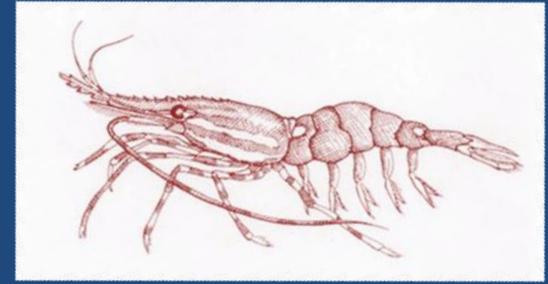
Crab - Allocation to the user groups



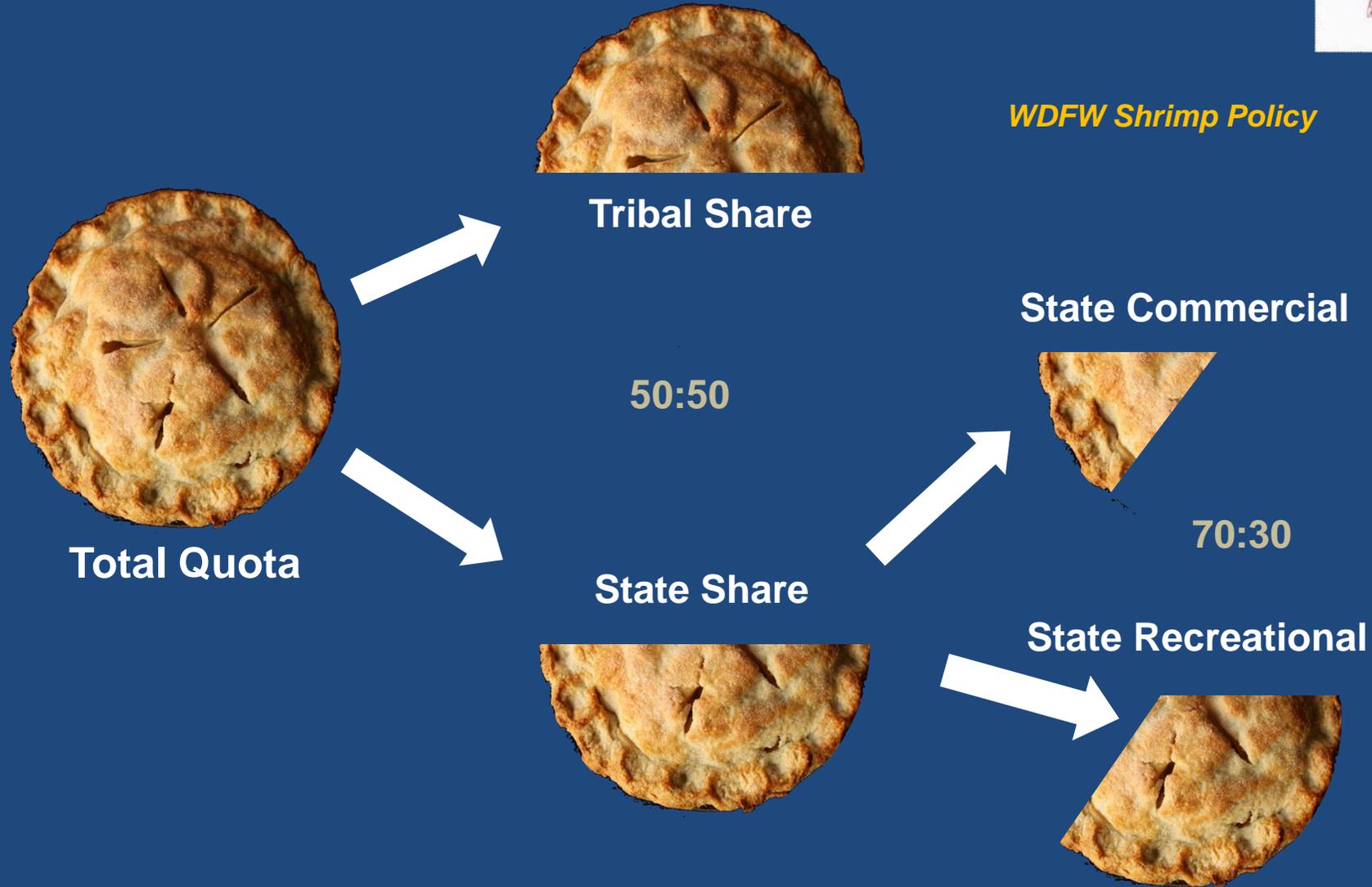
Crab - Allocation to the user groups



Spot Shrimp – Allocation to the user groups



Federal Court Order



WDFW Shrimp Policy

Quotas are determined by co-manager agreement

Crustacean Fishery Management in PS

Overall Goals:

- Keep harvests within the agreed-to quota
 - Conservation objectives
 - Court mandated sharing for Treaty/non-Treaty
 - FWC policy sharing for commercial/recreational
 - Provide for safe and successful legal harvests
 - Reduce/eliminate unregulated harvest (illegal activity)
 - Manage the fishery in line with the FWC policies
- *Defined seasons and allocations*

Crustacean Fishery Management in PS

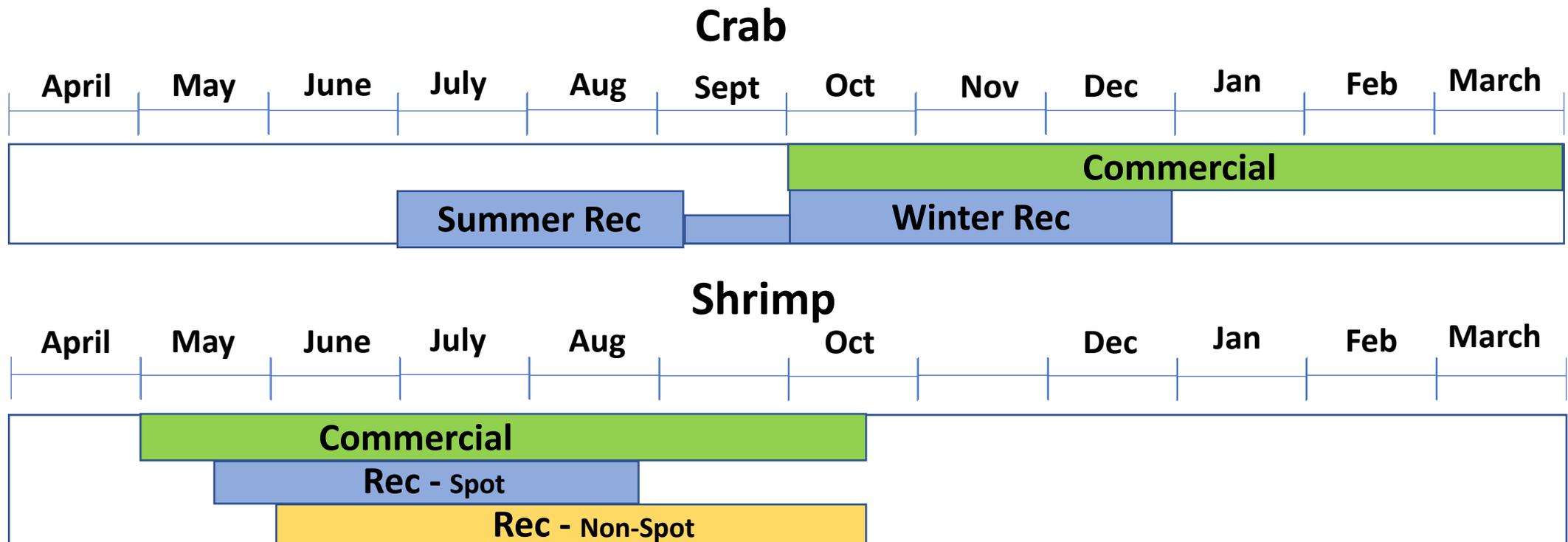
Setting Quotas:

- Typically based on historical and recent harvest
- Test Fisheries - Pre and often Post Season
- In-season adjustments for crab somewhat common
 - Based on fishery performance and catch metrics
 - Indicators suggest enough resource available

Crustacean Fishery Management (Puget Sound)

Managing Fisheries in PS

- *Limited resources – LOTS of users*
- Managing recreational and commercial fisheries simultaneously



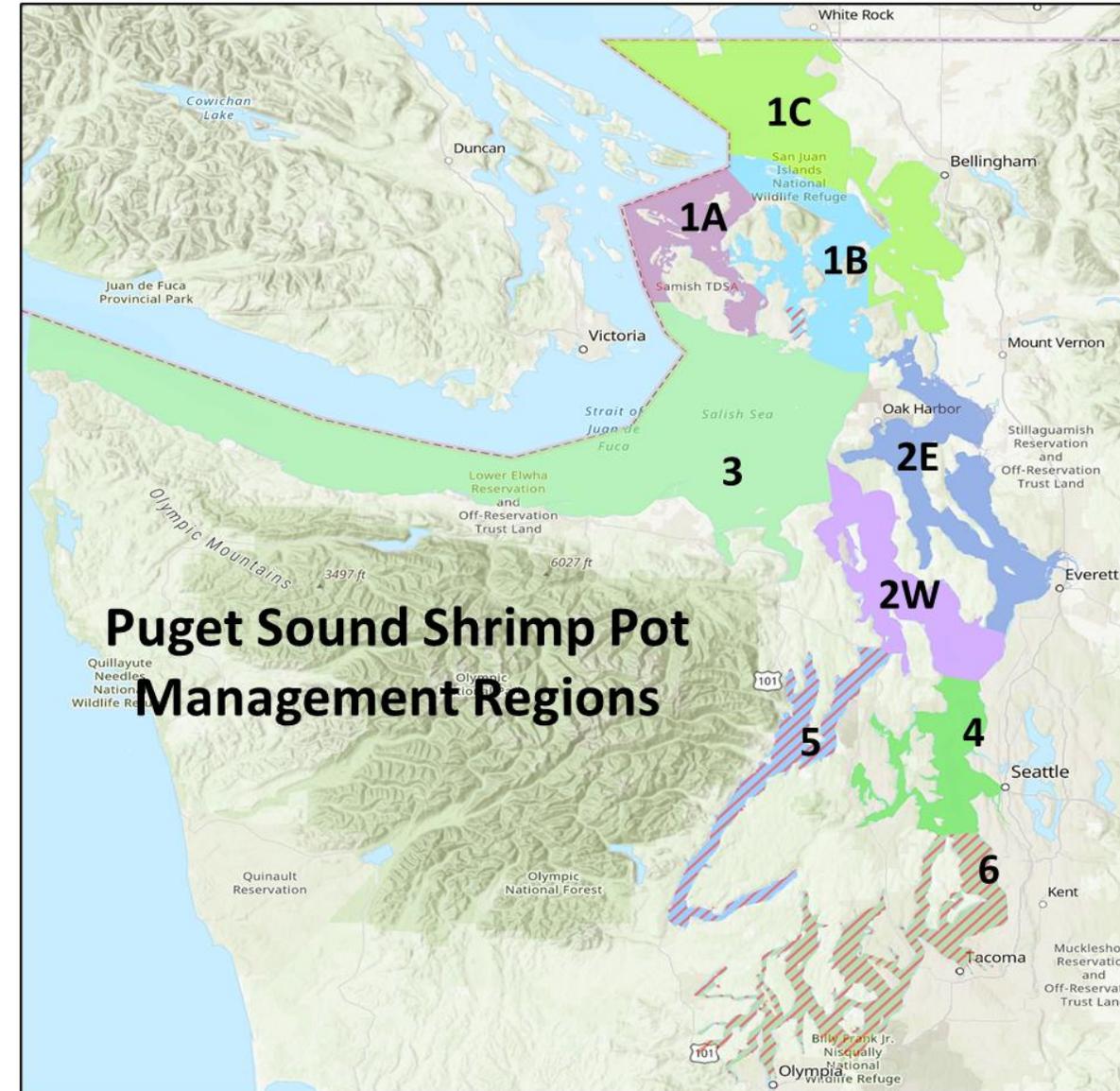
Shrimp Topics

- 2024 Shrimp Season Summary
- Test fisheries – latest data
 - 2024 Post Season
 - 2025 Pre-season
- 2025 Shrimp Seasons
 - Update on regional management plans
 - Likely starting May 22 /seasons yet to be announced

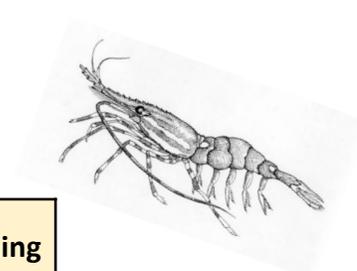
Shrimp Management Regions

- Seven management regions
- Policy C-3610 provides commercial and recreational opportunity in Regions 1 and 3. Regions 2E, 2W, 4, 5, and 6 are reserved for recreational opportunity only.
- Annual harvest quotas and regional State/Tribal harvest shares are established annually through co-management agreements.

Region	Marine Areas (Approximate)
1 (A-C)	7 (portion)
2E	8-1, 8-2
2W	9
3	4 (portion), 5, 6, 7 (portion)
4	10
5	12
6	11, 13



Spot Shrimp - 2024 State Harvest Summary

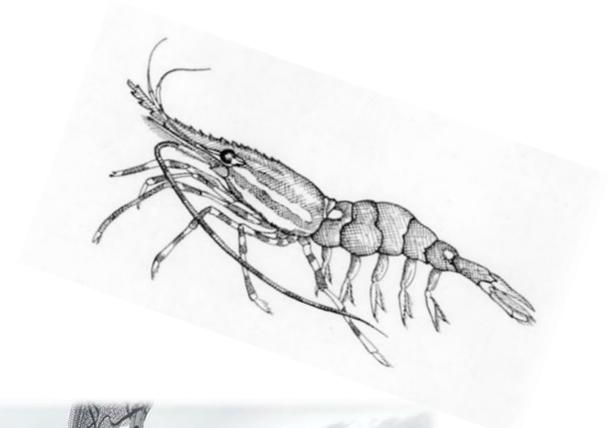


Spot Shrimp Management Regions	Quota	Total State Share	Adjusted State Share	Rec. Harvest	Comm. Harvest	Total	Remaining
1A/20B, 22A (west)	80,000	40,000	38,630	37,251	3,451	40,702	-2,072
1B/20B, 22A (east), 21A	16,800	8,400	4,459	4,935	833	5,768	-1,309
1C/20A, 21A, 21B, 22B	6,000	3,000	3,000	1,000	2,000	3,000	0
REGION 1 TOTALS	102,800	51,400	46,089	43,186	6,284	49,470	-3,381
2E/24A-D, 26A-E (Skagit - Mukilteo)	46,000	23,000	21,529	20,855	702	21,557	-28
2W/25B-D, 26AW (Edmonds - Admiralty Inlet)	15,000	7,500	7,381	6,756	512	7,268	113
REGION 2 TOTALS	61,000	30,500	28,910	27,611	1,214	28,825	85
3/23A-E (S Lopez I-Iceberg Pt, etc)	42,000	21,000	16,309	14,843	2,039	16,882	-573
3/23A-W (S San Juan I-Salmon Bank, etc)	40,000	20,000	20,000	2,500	17,470	19,970	30
3/23A-C, 23B (Straits-Hein, Eastern Bank, Smith I)	127,000	63,500	63,500	5,872	57,623	63,495	5
3/23A-S, 23D (Straits-NE of P.A.)	17,000	8,500	8,500	2,000	6,290	8,290	210
3/23C (Straits-Sekiu to P.A.)	4,000	2,000	2,000	800	902	1,702	298
3/25A Outside District 1 (North of Protection Is.)	42,000	21,000	18,265	19,167	1,033	20,200	-1,935
3/25A,25E (Inside Disco. Bay SD)	4,000	2,000	2,000	1,741	0	1,741	259
3/29 (Straits - Neah Bay)	2,000	1,000	1,000	500	0	500	500
REGION 3 TOTALS	278,000	139,000	131,574	47,423	85,357	132,780	-1,206
4/26B-1, 26C (Seattle - Bainbridge Is.)	11,000	5,500	5,176	2,224	432	2,656	2,520
4/26B-2 (Elliott Bay)	13,000	6,500	6,500	5,491	652	6,143	357
REGION 4 TOTALS	24,000	12,000	11,676	7,715	1,084	8,799	2,877
5/27A-C (Hood Canal)	200,000	100,000	100,000	96,137	4,177	100,314	-314
REGION 5 TOTALS	200,000	100,000	100,000	96,137	4,177	100,314	-314
6/26D (Vashon Island)	10,000	5,000	5,000	710	0	710	4,290
6/28A-D (South Puget Sound)	300	150	150	0	0	0	150
REGION 6 TOTALS	10,300	5,150	5,150	710	0	710	4,440
ALL REGIONS GRAND TOTAL	676,100	338,050	323,399	222,782	98,116	320,898	2,501

2024 Allocations

Rec	Com
69%	31%

Spot Shrimp - 2024 Recreational Creel Summary

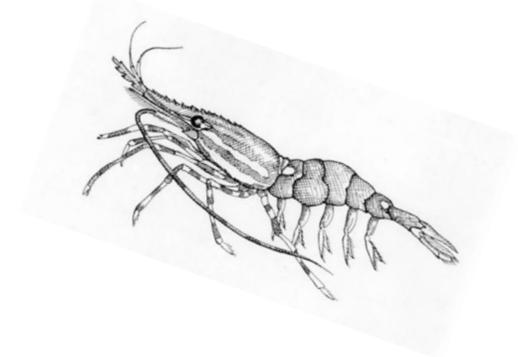


Recreational Statistics:

- **3,898** boats interviewed
- **25** different sites sampled
- **110** Site*Dates of coverage
 - **19** Site*Dates in Hood Canal
 - **54** Site*Dates in MA 6/7
 - **37** Site*Dates in MAs 8, 9, 10, 11, & Discovery Bay

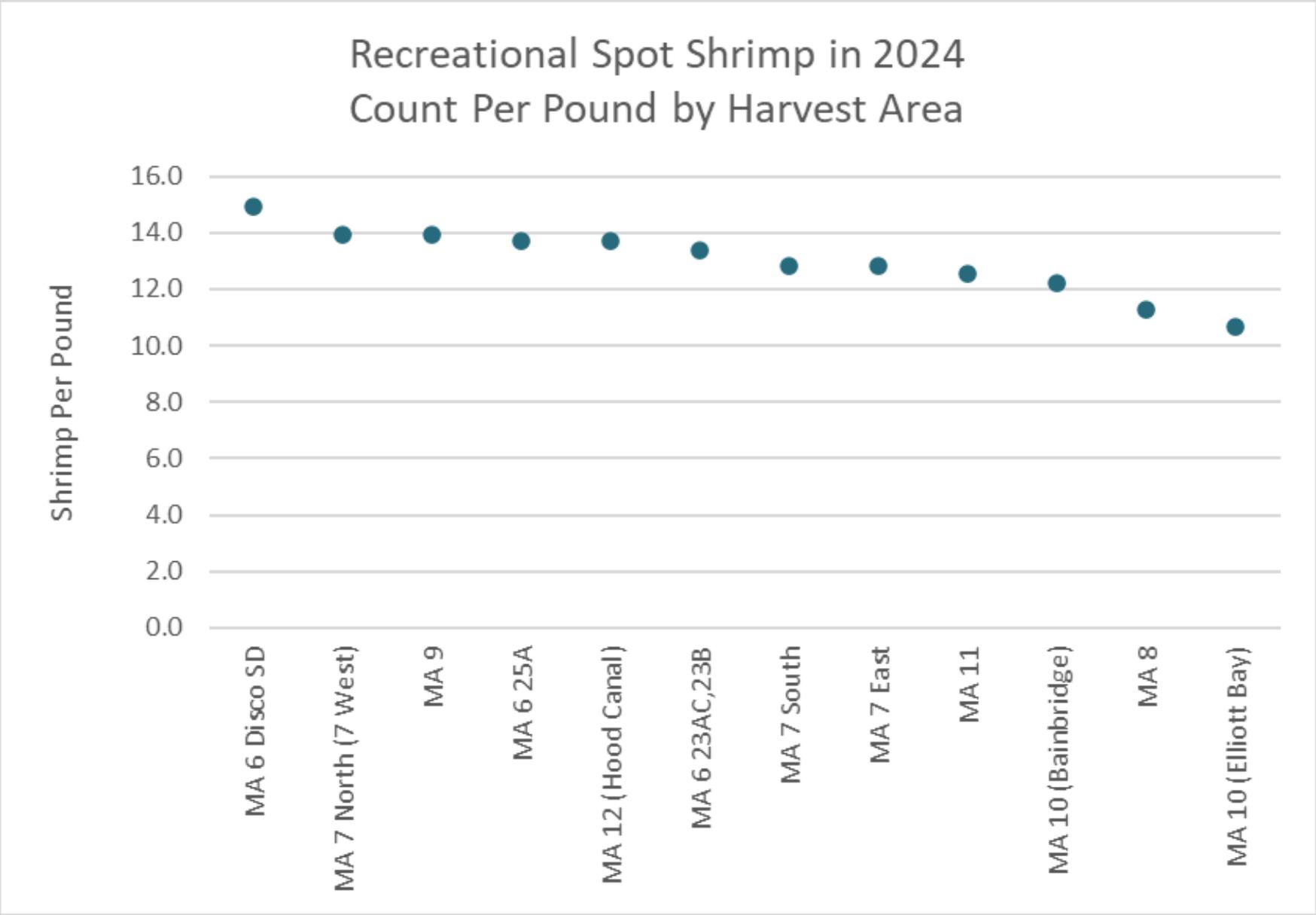
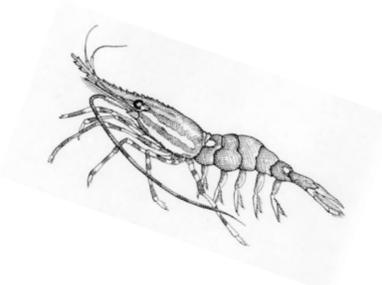


Spot Shrimp – 2024 Recreational Creel Summary



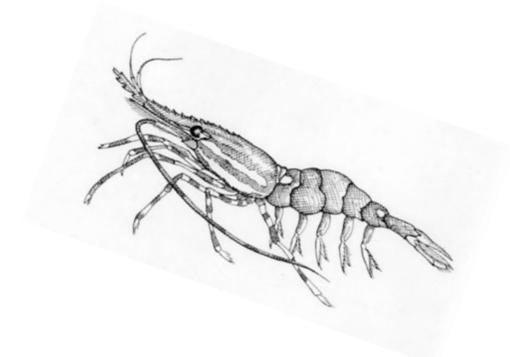
Creel Site	Boats Interviewed
Bellingham Ramp	167
Camano Island State Park Ramp	68
Cape George Marina	19
Cornet Bay State Park Ramp	713
Cushman Ramp	128
Don Armeni Ramp	125
Ediz Hook Ramp	61
Edmonds Marina	20
Everett Ramp	404
Gardiner Ramp	34
Griffin Bay Ramp	12
John Wayne Marina Ramp	662
Kingston Ramp	22
Misery Point	183
Pleasant Harbor Marina	215
Point Defiance Ramp	77
Port Angeles Boat Haven Ramp	36
Port of Friday Harbor Marina	50
Port Townsend Boat Haven Ramp	64
Roche Harbor Marina	12
Salsbury County Park Ramp	222
Shilshole Ramp	62
Triton Cove SP Ramp	155
Twanoh SP Ramp	284
Washington Park Ramp	103
Total Boats from All Sites	3,898

Spot Shrimp - 2024 Shrimp Size from Creels



Spot Shrimp – Recreational Pounds Per Boat (by year)

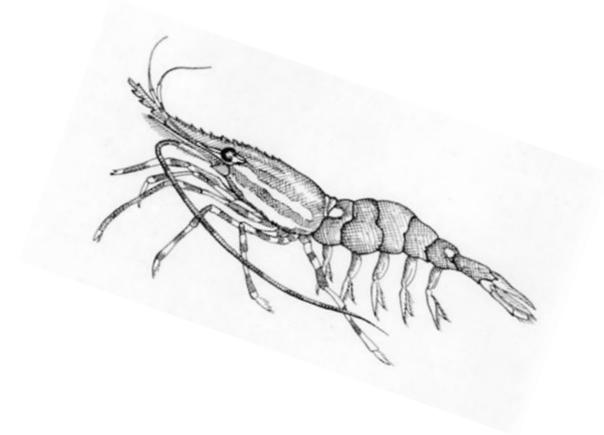
Year	MA 6 (non Disco Bay)	MA 6 Disco Bay	MA 7 East & MA 7 West	MA 7 South	MA 8	MA 9	MA 10 (non-Elliott Bay)	MA 10 Elliott Bay	MA 11	MA 12	MA 13
2002		8.1	11.1	11.1	8.3	6.7	7.2	13.2	0.0	16.1	NA
2003		13.3	10.4	10.4	9.3	12.1	12.0	12.0	11.7	16.1	NA
2004		10.9	6.9	6.9	9.2	9.2	12.4	13.7	11.5	14.0	NA
2005		10.5	9.1	14.4	10.8	16.9	12.3	14.9	14.2	15.1	NA
2006		closed	11.4	15.4	14.2	14.3	14.7	14.7	10.7	15.8	NA
2007		closed	10.6	16.2	16.3	14.3	10.4	13.6	10.0	12.6	NA
2008		closed	10.4	15.3	14.5	13.4	10.7	15.8	11.2	13.3	NA
2009		closed	11.2	15.8	16.0	16.6	16.2	14.5	13.9	15.1	NA
2010	4.6	10.5	9.9	10.2	16.2	12.8	14.2	13.6	4.5	15.8	NA
2011	10.1	10.2	12.7	15.0	17.9	13.7	16.3	14.8	9.4	15.0	NA
2012	11.0	7.3	8.5	14.4	17.9	18.2	17.8	18.8	8.2	16.6	NA
2013	15.9	11.1	12.1	17.4	17.9	16.8	16.5	19.6	10.2	17.0	NA
2014	12.6	7.6	11.2	18.6	14.1	17.3	18.1	18.2	12.2	16.7	NA
2015	12.1	10.7	11.0	14.5	16.3	16.9	20.3	16.7	16.8	17.2	5.9
2016	17.9	9.6	15.3	16.3	17.6	19.8	18.7	24.1	17.4	14.5	10.0
2017	18.8	10.1	13.7	15.6	18.4	15.9	19.0	18.1	15.1	13.1	7.5
2018	16.8	10.3	12.7	15.5	15.8	16.2	19.9	21.5	13.0	12.4	1.8
2019	13.6	10.5	12.2	15.2	16.7	13.6	15.4	23.0	11.8	12.4	Closed
2020	14.0	11.1	13.3	16.6	18.9	14.9	16.0	23.7	14.0	16.7	Closed
2021	14.4	11.5	14.7	16.2	14.2	15.3	13.6	21.7	10.0	16.3	Closed
2022	15.4	13.2	14.5	15.4	15.8	15.6	15.4	Closed	11.5	16.1	Closed
2023	14.5	11.9	16.7	16.2	13.5	16.6	13.1	16.0	5.4	18.6	Closed
2024	16.7	12.3	14.5	18.4	13.7	16.1	6.9	15.1	3.2	18.3	Closed



**Recreational
lbs per boat trip
from creel data**

Spot Shrimp - Recreational Season Length (days)

Area	2020 # of Days	2021 # of Days	2022 # of Days	2023 # of Days	2024 # of Days
MA 4	88	119	114	114	123
MA 5	111	119	114	114	123
MA 6 Discovery Bay only	2	2	1	3	2
MA 6 outside Disco Bay	26	27	21	19	13
MA 7 South	7	16	17	18	9
MA 7 East	16	16	7	7	6
MA 7 West	39	20	19	22	12
MA 8-1, 8-2	1	4	3	2	4
MA 9	2	2	2	1	2
MA 10 Elliott Bay only	1	1	0	3	3
MA 10 outside Elliott Bay	1	1	1	1	2
MA 11	1	1	2	2	1
MA 12	5	5	6	4	5



Spot Shrimp – 2024 Recreational Effort Mapped

ShrimpEffort_12062024

Predominant category

● # BUOYS

● # BOATS

Sum of categories

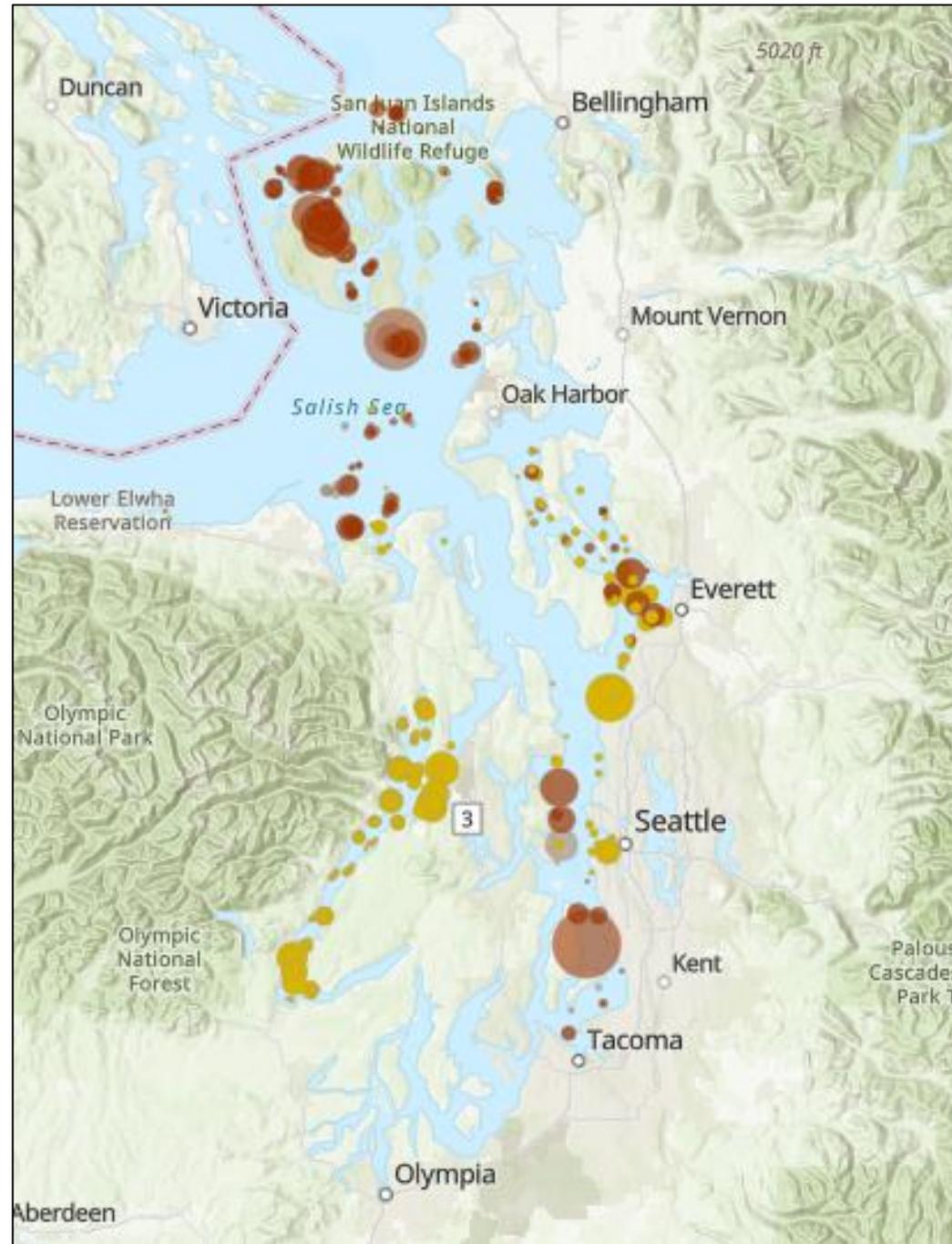
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○ 300

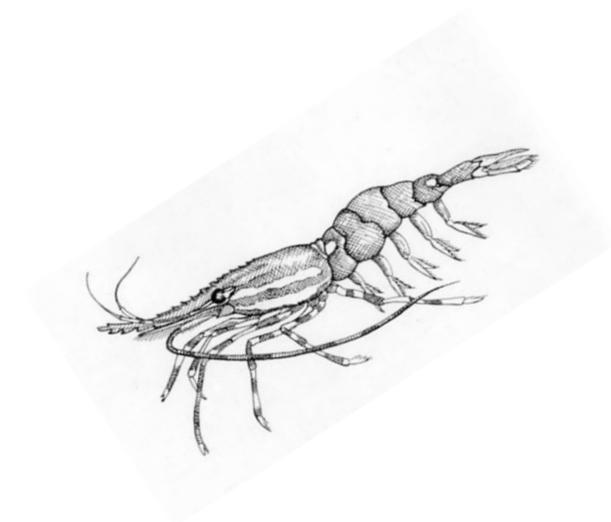
○ 200

○ 90

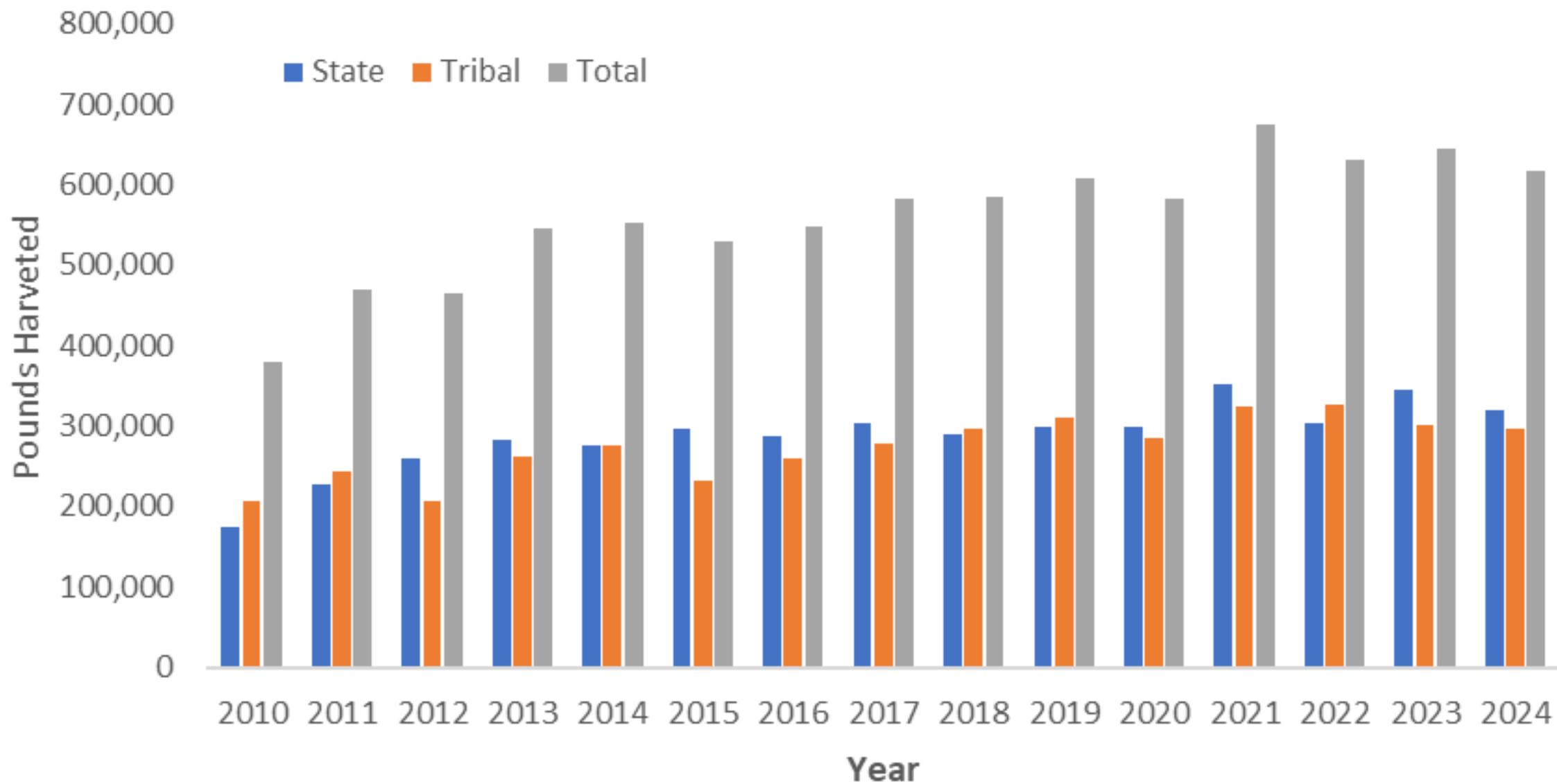
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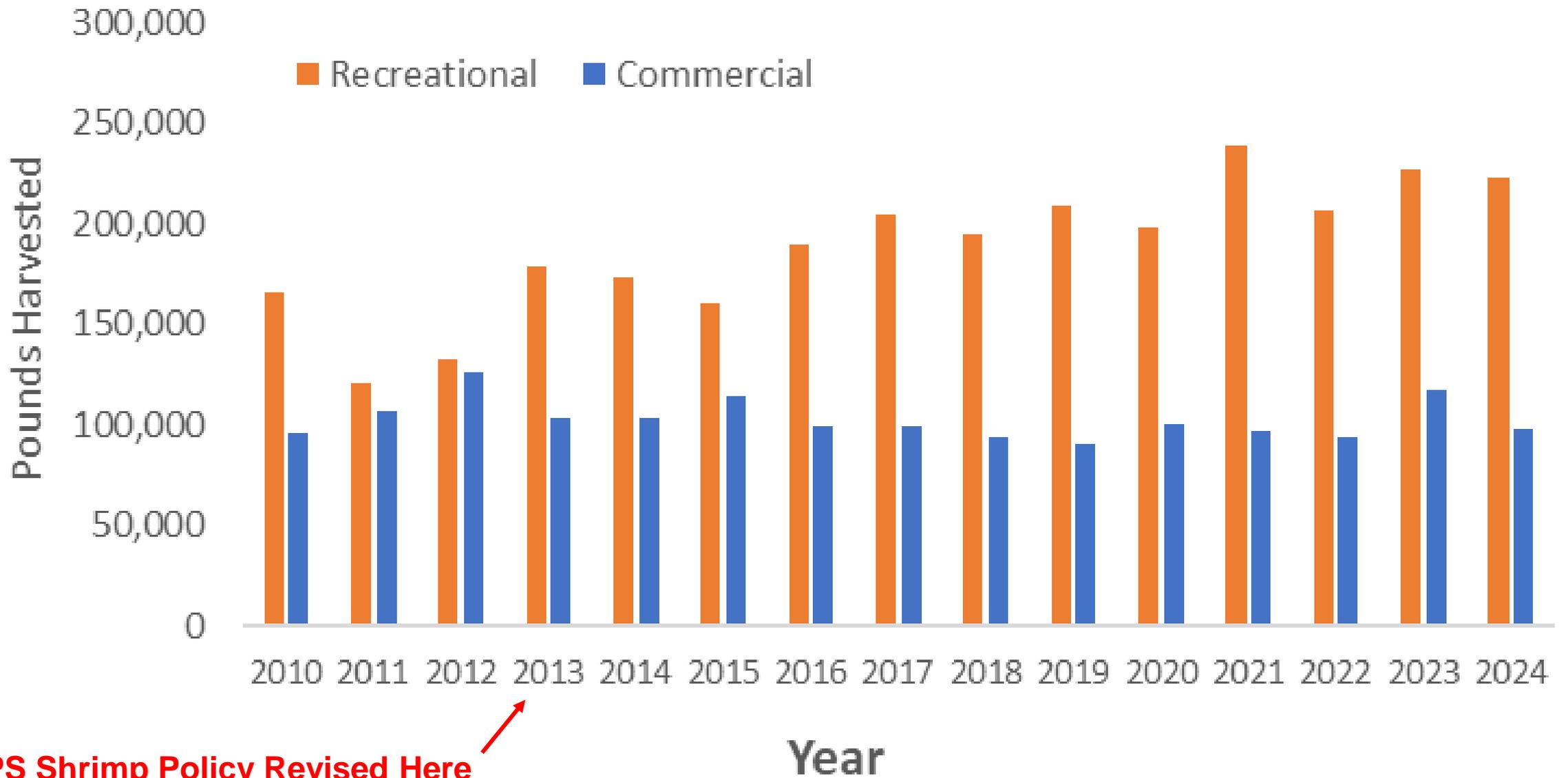
Red – Buoys
Yellow - Boats



Spot Shrimp Harvest (2010 - 2024)



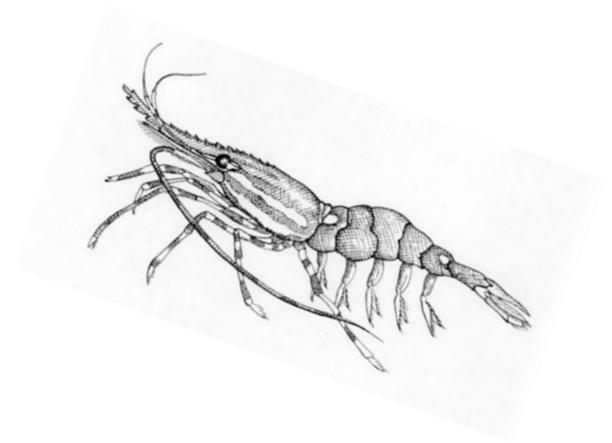
State Spot Shrimp Harvest (2010-2024)



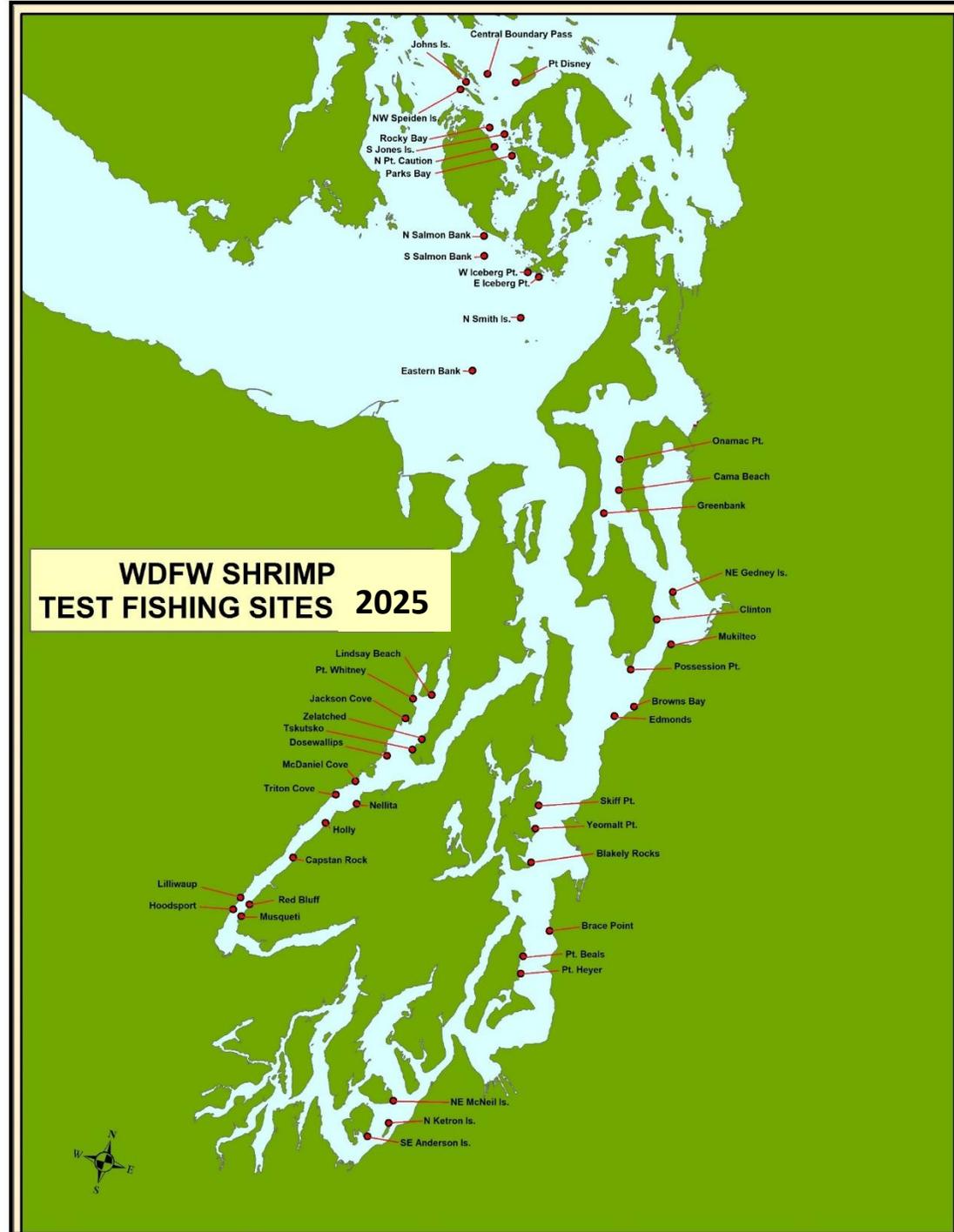
Spot Shrimp – Recreational Spot Shrimp Season Dates

Primary Considerations

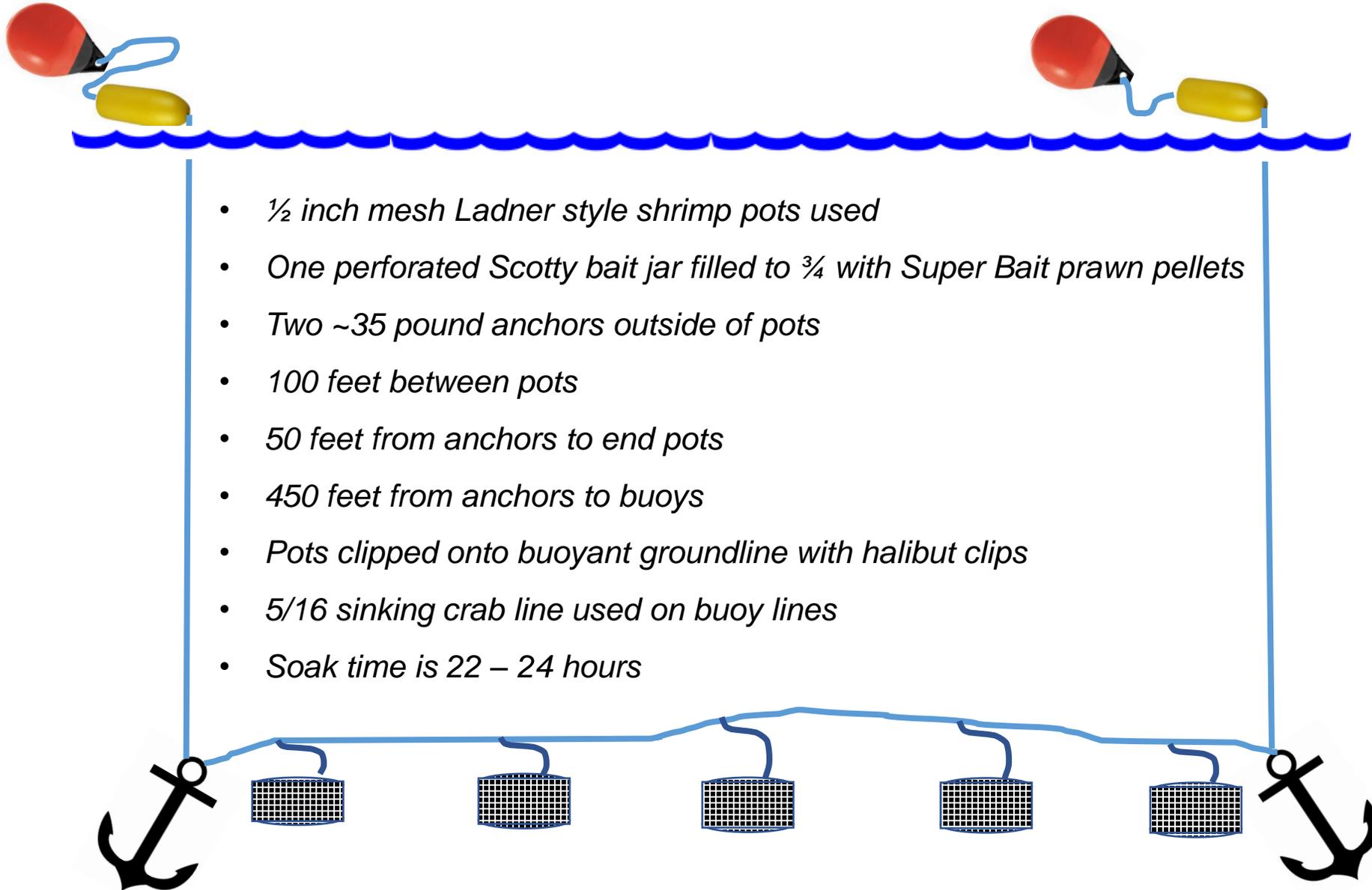
- Agreed harvest quotas
- Tides and currents
- Weekend and weekday opportunities *when possible*
- Availability of creel samplers
- Keeping effort distributed between areas
- Opportunities through summer
- Tribal harvest dates
- Navy range activity (Hood Canal)



Spot Shrimp - Test Fishing

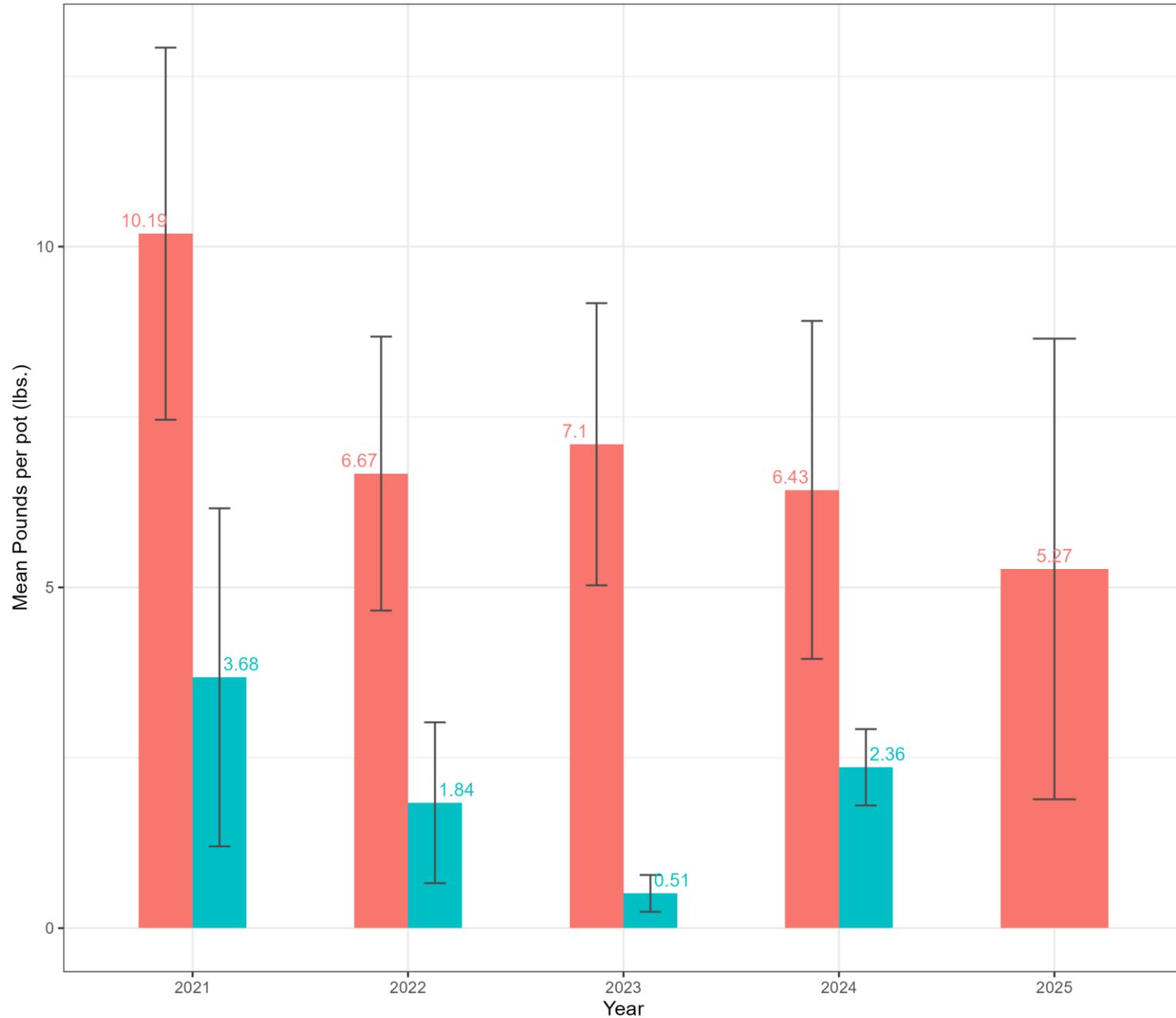


Spot Shrimp - Test Fishing Gear



- *½ inch mesh Ladner style shrimp pots used*
- *One perforated Scotty bait jar filled to ¾ with Super Bait prawn pellets*
- *Two ~35 pound anchors outside of pots*
- *100 feet between pots*
- *50 feet from anchors to end pots*
- *450 feet from anchors to buoys*
- *Pots clipped onto buoyant groundline with halibut clips*
- *5/16 sinking crab line used on buoy lines*
- *Soak time is 22 – 24 hours*

Reg 4 Mean CPUE (lbs.)



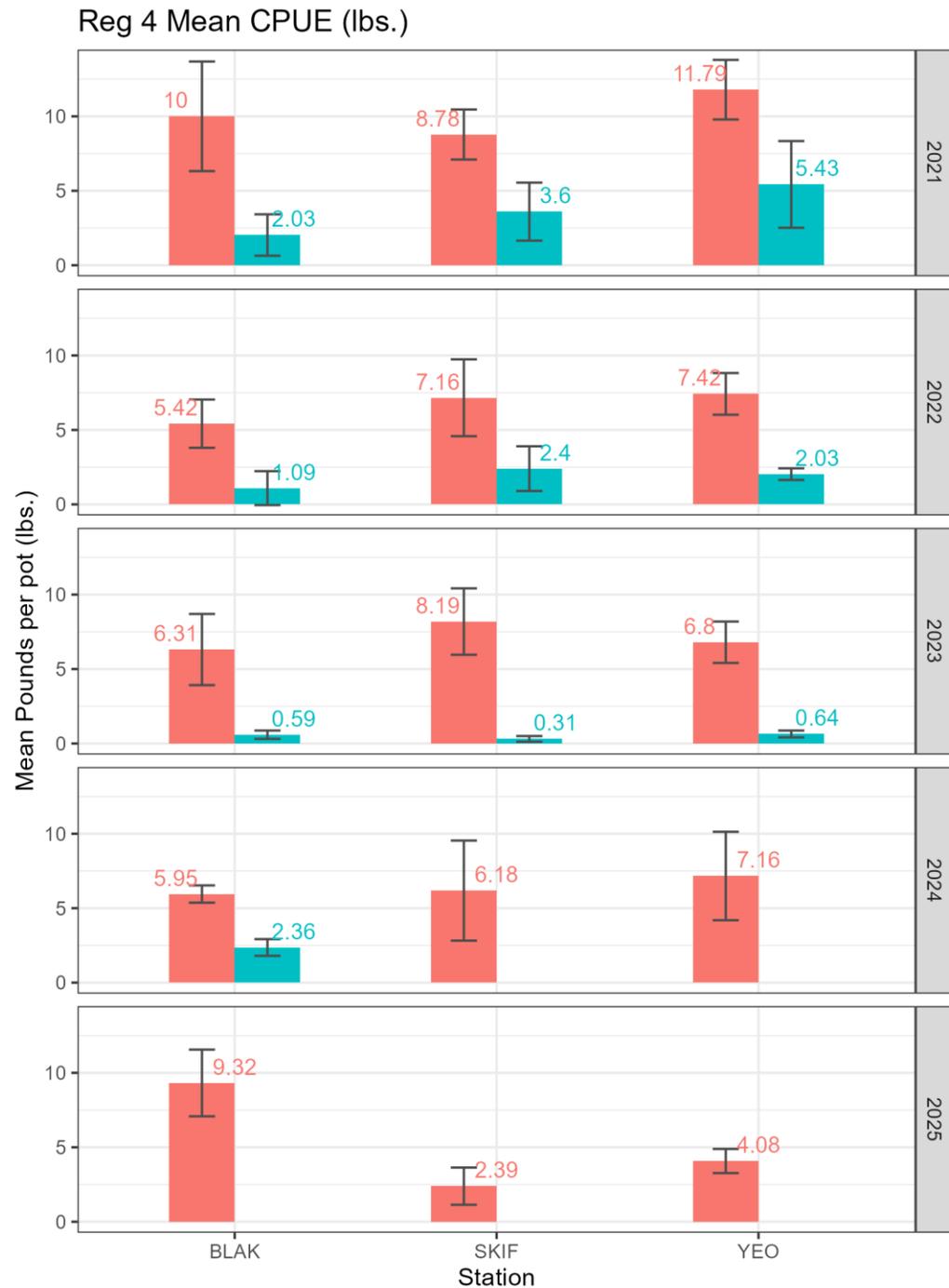
Marine Area 10 Shrimp Test Fishing Pounds Per Pot

2021 through 2025

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- PRE
- POST

- * Much lower lbs/pot than other MAs
- * Post-season pounds much lower than pre-season
- * Values level or trending downward

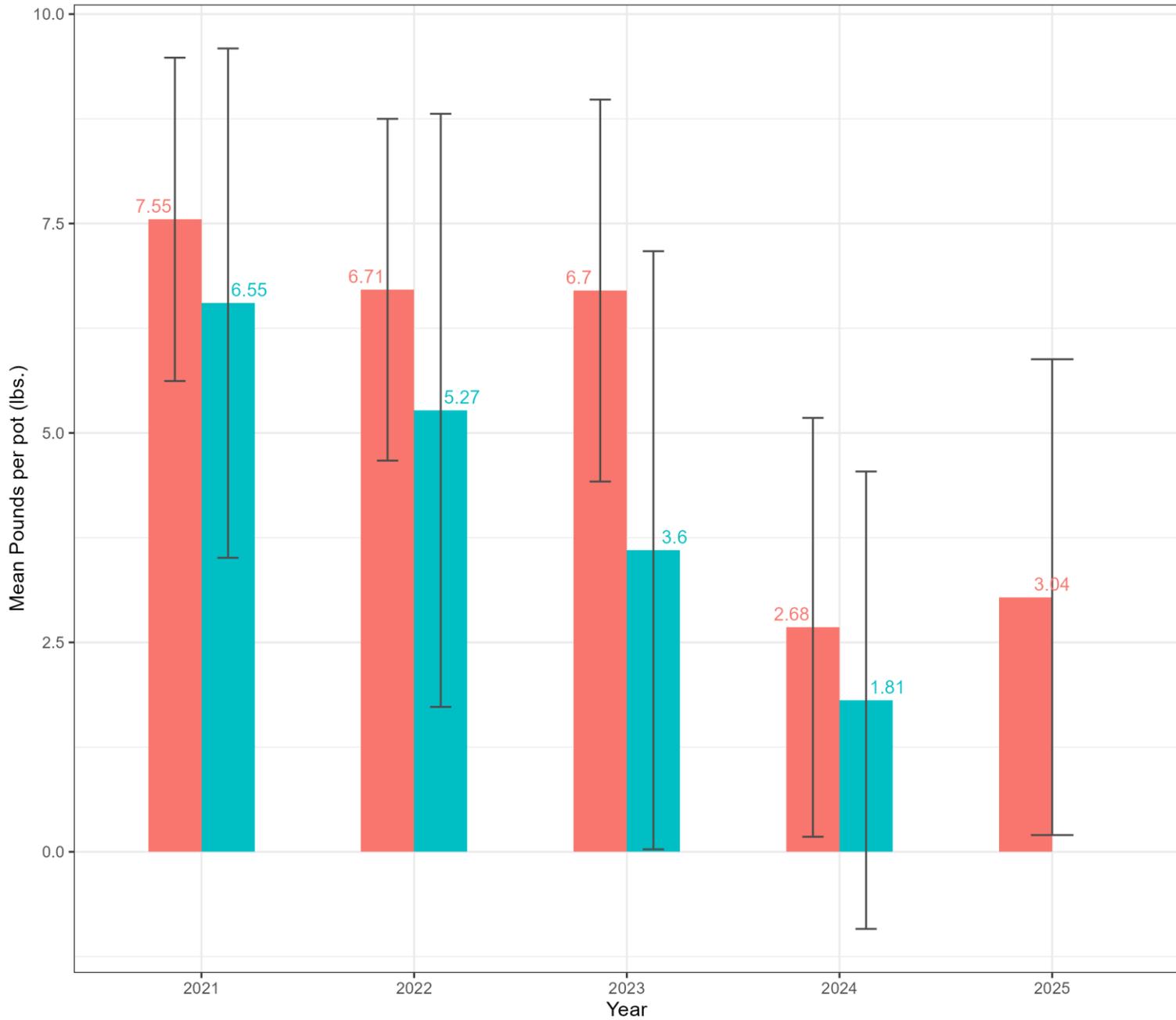


Marine Area 10 Shrimp Test Fishing Pounds Per Pot By Station

2021 through 2025

*Extreme post-season reduction in lbs. per pot indicates the fishery is strongly impacting the population

MA 11 Mean CPUE (lbs.)



Marine Area 11 Shrimp Test Fishing Pounds Per Pot 2021 through 2025

- * Much lower lbs/pot than other MAs
- * Post-season pounds lower than pre-season
- * Values trending downward

MA 11 Mean CPUE (lbs.)

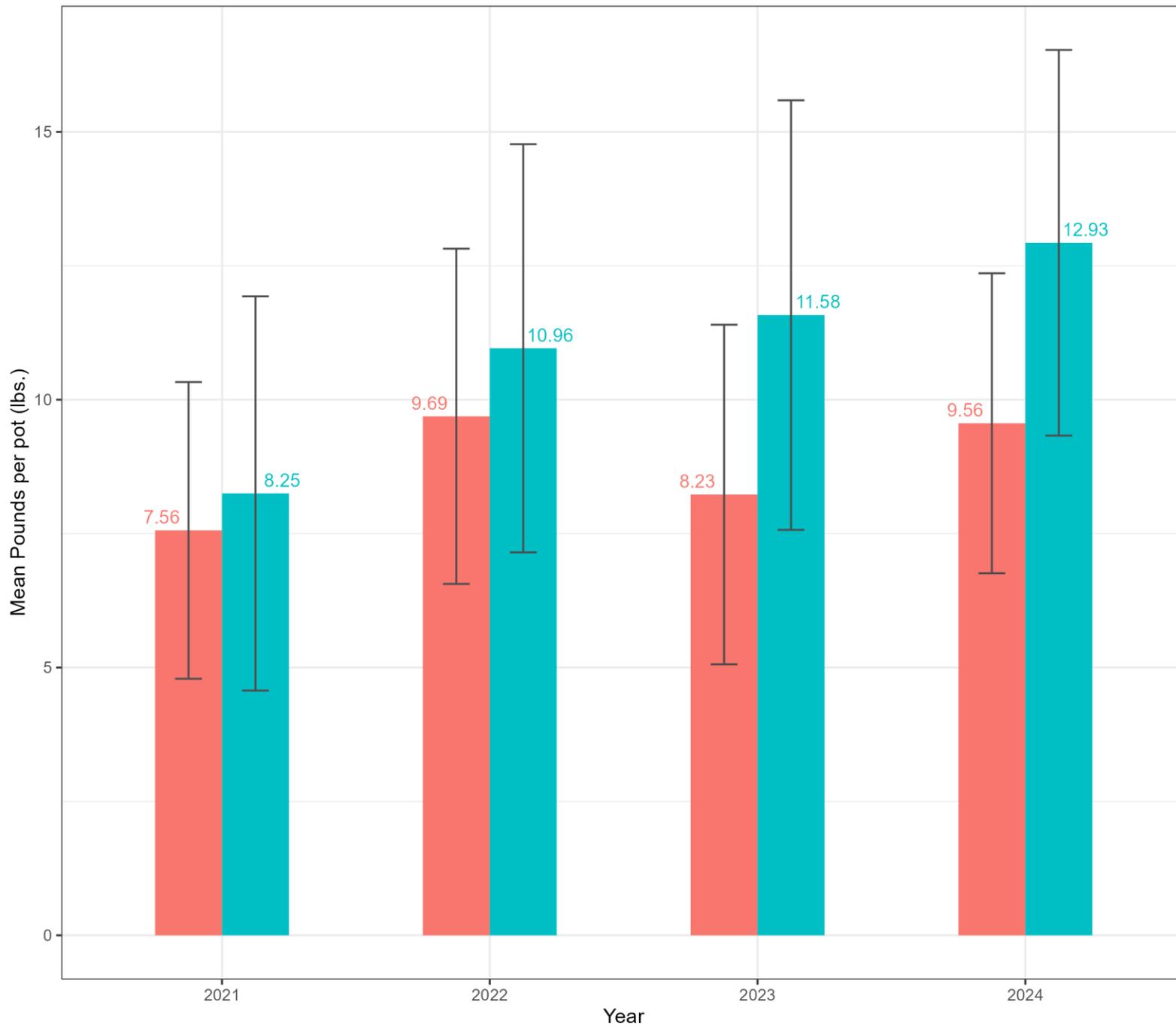


Marine Area 11 Shrimp Test Fishing Pounds Per Pot By Station

2021 through 2025

*Concerns of potential
population depletion

Reg 5 Mean CPUE (lbs.)



Marine Area 12 Shrimp Test Fishing Pounds Per Pot

2021 through 2024

pre_or_post

PRE

POST

- * Much higher lbs/pot than MA 10/MA 11
- * Post-season pounds higher than pre-season
- * Values level or trending upward

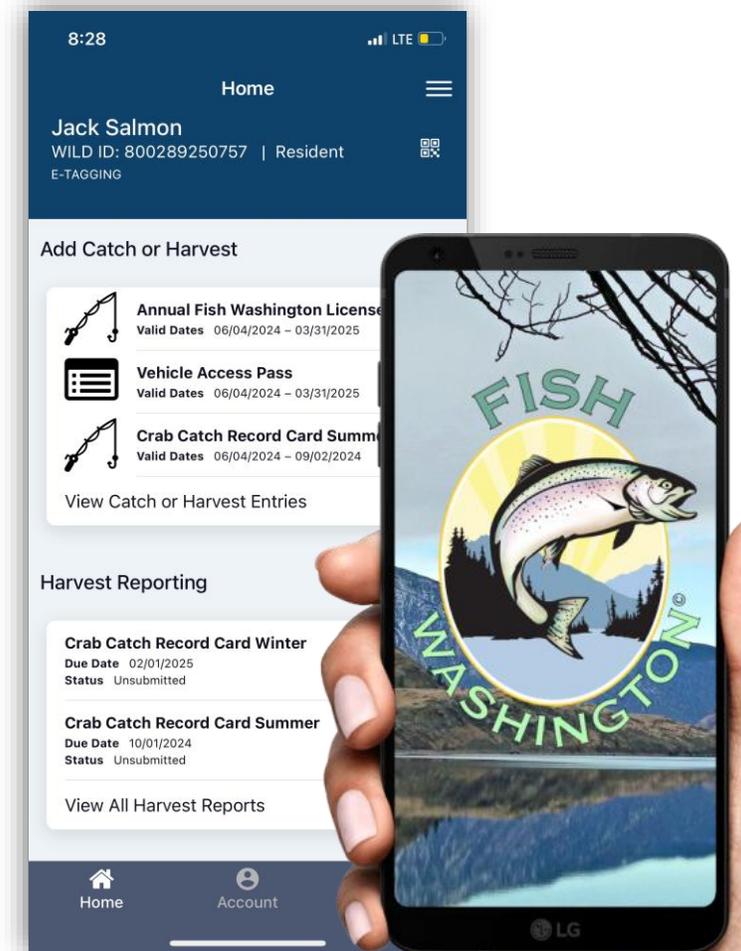
Joint State-Tribal Shellfish Technical Working Group

- **Long-time disagreement with tribes on CRC-based recreational crab catch accounting methods**
- **Tribal policy requested formation of a joint technical group to:**
 - review and document all current catch accounting methods
 - recommend changes to the current system
 - develop new, manager-approved catch accounting methods
- **Tremendous workload for the crustacean team – *Lots of work and meetings***
- **Work has paused during the winter but will resume in May**
- **State and tribal policy representatives will work together to determine priorities for the technical group.**
- **Preparing the groundwork for rollout of eCRC**

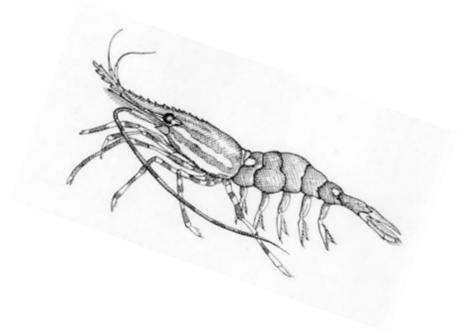


Electronic Catch Record Card

- The agency has extended the timeline to roll out new electronic license system to 2026
- New contract for system rebuild and application development
- Background database and harvest estimation work is currently underway
- Goal is to implement for summer crab 2026
 - *Recording* options will include paper or eCRC
 - *Reporting* options will be eCRC, mail, internet
- Outreach plan will include Comanagers and the Public
 - Meeting with comanager policy and technical staff
 - WDFW Communication team developing formal outreach plan for public and dealers



Legislative/Rules Updates



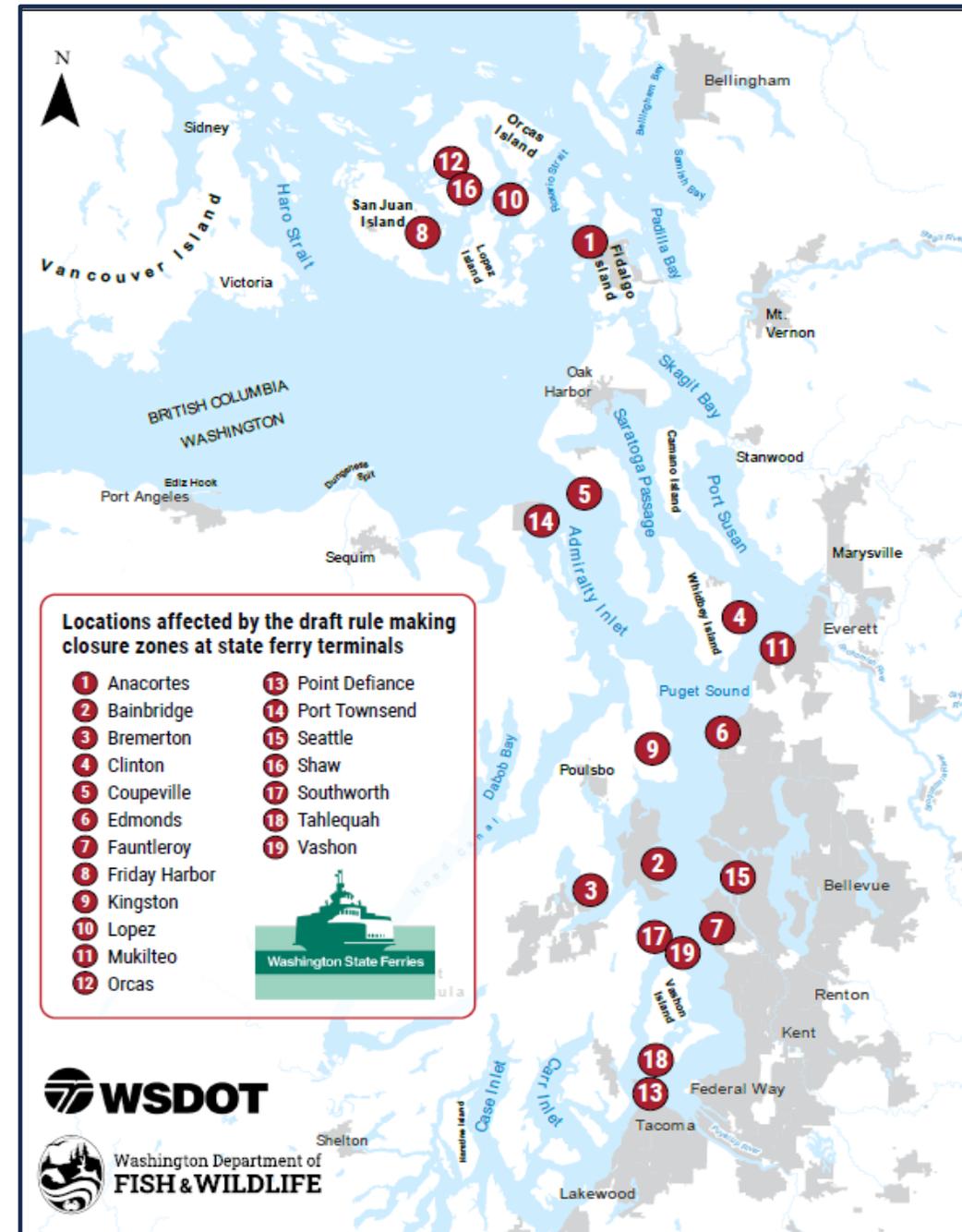
- **Two bills are currently moving through the legislature relevant to PS crustacean fisheries**
- **SB 5076** – Establishing a Puget Sound non-spot shrimp pot fishery license
 - Allows current commercial trawl license owners to convert to a new non-spot pot license.
- **SB 5583** – Concerning recreational fishing and hunting licenses
 - Increases recreational fishing and hunting license fees by 38%
 - Removes cap on reporting penalties (currently a 10 fee and only for the previous license year)
 - Transfers the authority to the commission to set/raise administrative penalties and inflationary surcharges

Legislative/Rules Updates

WDFW Rule Pre-proposal under review

This one establishes closure zones at WSF terminals for
State shellfish trap and finfish net fisheries.

- Closures at 19 terminal areas on the map proposed.
- Will not apply to Treaty fisheries.
- 400 yards straight out from the end of each ferry terminal dock and 100 yards on either side of each dock.
- To view the proposed rule, refer to the [WDFW current rule making webpage](#).
 - Public comments can be submitted [online](#)
 - Public comments can be submitted via email to ferriesandfishinggear@publicinput.com
 - Public comments can be submitted via voicemail at 855-925-2801, enter project code 10992.





Advisor Input, Ideas, and Comments

Adjourn Thank you!

