

WSR 23-16-049
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 23-139—Filed July 25, 2023, 4:17 p.m., effective July 25, 2023, 4:17 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: WAC 220-340-52000J:

(1) Clarifies the pot limit for shrimp pot fisheries is specific to each gear type and allows a separate maximum 100 pot limit for spot shrimp pots and nonspot shrimp pots respectively.

(2) Defines the first spot shrimp catch accounting period as being from May 8 to August 1, 2023, and allows 5,000 pounds of spot shrimp to be harvested per license for the first catch accounting period.

(3) Defines the second spot shrimp catch accounting period as being from August 2 to 22, 2023, and allows 5,400 pounds of spot shrimp to be harvested per license for the first and second catch accounting periods combined.

(4) Closes Marine Fish-Shellfish (MFSF) Catch Area 23AW to commercial spot shrimp harvest on July 27, 2023, and Areas 23AC and 23B on July 26, 2023 due to quota attainment.

(5) Defines the nonspot species complex.

(6) Opens nonspot shrimp quota areas, defines the nonspot shrimp catch accounting periods; sets per license catch limit of 1,500 pounds for catch period number 1 and 1,200 pounds for each subsequent catch period; in Subregions 1A, 1B, and 1C and Region 2E; clarifies there is no weekly harvest limit in Regions 3 or 2W; and sets a 175-foot depth limit in Subregion 1A and MFSF Catch Area 23A.

WAC 220-320-14000B: Defines beam trawl areas for the purpose of designating fishing seasons.

WAC 220-340-54000H:

(1) Opens Region 3 shrimp trawl fisheries effective immediately.

(2) Opens Region 1 trawl fisheries as required by permanent rule.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-52000I, 220-340-54000G and 220-320-14000A; and amending WAC 220-340-520, 220-340-540, and 220-320-140.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Permanent rules regulating state commercial shrimp harvest in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca require adoption of harvest seasons contained in this emergency rule. This emergency rule is necessary to prosecute state commercial shrimp pot and trawl fisheries in Puget Sound. This rule allows harvesters to both respond to dynamic changes in market conditions and promotes full utilization of the commercial spot and nonspot shares. These rules are in congruence with comanager agreements. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0,

Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 3, Amended 0, Repealed 3.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: July 25, 2023.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-52000J Commercial shrimp pot fishery—Puget Sound.

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-520, effective immediately, until further notice, or until they expire pursuant to RCW 34.05.350, it is unlawful to fish for shrimp for commercial purposes using pot gear in Puget Sound except as provided for in this section:

(1) In all areas fishers are limited to a maximum of 100 spot shrimp pots, as defined in WAC 220-340-520 (5)d, and a maximum of 100 non-spot shrimp pots, as defined in WAC 220-340-520 (5)e.

(2) Spot Shrimp Pot Harvest:

(a) Spot shrimp harvest is permitted as indicated in the following table opening one hour before official rise until further notice. Any closures take effect one hour after official sunset.

Geographical Management Unit (WAC 220-320-140; WAC 220-320-120)	Open Period
Subregion 1A	Open until further notice
Subregion 1B	Closed
Subregion 1C	Closed
Region 2E	Closed
Region 2W	Open until further notice
Subarea 23A-E	Open until further notice
Subarea 23A-W	Open through July 27, 2023
Subarea 23A-C and MSFS Catch Area 23B	Open through July 26, 2023
Subarea 23A-S and MSFS Catch Area 23D	Open until further notice
MFSF Catch Area 23C	Open until further notice
MFSF Catch Area 25A, excluding the Discovery Bay Shrimp District	Closed
Discovery Bay Shrimp District	Closed
MFSF 29 (Straits - Neah Bay)	Open until further notice
Subarea 26B-1 and MFSF Catch Area 26C	Closed
Subarea 26B-2	Closed
Region 5	Open until further notice
MFSF Catch Area 26D	Closed
MFSF Catch Areas 28A, 28B, 28C, and 28D	Closed

(b) The first spot shrimp catch accounting period started one hour before official sunrise on May 8, 2023, through one hour after official sunset on August 1, 2023.

(c) It is unlawful for the combined total harvest during the first spot shrimp accounting period to have exceeded 5,000 pounds of spot shrimp per license from all Puget Sound shrimp management regions combined.

(d) The second spot shrimp catch accounting period starts one hour before official sunrise on August 2, 2023, through one hour after official sunset on August 22, 2023.

(e) It is unlawful for the total harvest during the first and second spot shrimp accounting periods to have exceeded 5,400 pounds of spot shrimp per license from all Puget Sound shrimp management regions combined.

(f) It is unlawful to harvest spot shrimp from more than one Geographical Management Unit listed in 2(a) in a single day with the following exceptions:

(i) Spot shrimp may be harvested from subregion 1A and subregion 1C on the same day.

(ii) Spot shrimp may be harvested from subarea 23A-E, and either 23A-W, 23A-C or MFSF Catch Area 23B on the same day.

(g) It is lawful to have deactivated non-spot shrimp pots on-board of a commercial vessel that is listed on a Puget Sound shrimp pot license while fishing for spot shrimp.

A deactivated pot is un-baited, has the draw string or door fastened open, and/or is unable to be readily fished.

(3) Non-spot shrimp pot harvests:

(a) The non-spot shrimp species complex is defined as the following species of pandalid shrimp classified in WAC 220-320-010: Dock shrimp (*Pandalus danae*), Coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*), Humpy shrimp (*Pandalus goniurus*), Ocean pink shrimp (*Pandalus jordani*), pink shrimp (*Pandalus eous*), Side stripe shrimp (*Pandalus dispar*).

(b) Non-spot shrimp pot harvest is permitted as indicated in the following table opening one hour before official rise until further notice. Any closures take effect one hour after official sunset.

Geographical Management Unit (WAC 220-320-140; WAC 220-320-120)	Open Period
Subregion 1A	Open until further notice
Subregion 1B	Closed
Subregion 1C	Closed
Region 2E	Open until further notice
Region 2W	Open until further notice
Region 3, not including Discovery Bay Shrimp District	Open until further notice
Discovery Bay Shrimp District	Open until further notice
Region 4	Closed
Region 5	Closed
Region 6	Closed

(c) The non-spot shrimp catch accounting periods begin one hour before official sunrise and end one hour after official sunset on the date listed in the following table:

Period Number	Start Date	End Date
1	5/1/2023	5/16/2023

Period Number	Start Date	End Date
2	5/17/2023	5/30/2023
3	5/31/2023	6/13/2023
4	6/14/2023	6/27/2023
5	6/28/2023	7/11/2023
6	7/12/2023	7/25/2023
7	7/26/2023	8/8/2023
8	8/9/2023	8/22/2023
9	8/23/2023	9/5/2023
10	9/6/2023	9/19/2023
11	9/20/2023	10/3/2023
12	10/4/2023	10/15/2023

(d) It is unlawful for the total harvest of non-spot shrimp per license to exceed 1,500 pounds during non-spot shrimp catch accounting period number 1 from subregions 1A, 1B, 1C, and Region 2E combined.

(e) It is unlawful for total harvest of non-spot shrimp to exceed 1,200 pounds per non-spot shrimp catch accounting period from subregions 1A, 1B, 1C, and Region 2E combined during catch accounting periods 2 through 12.

(f) There is no weekly harvest limit of non-spot shrimp from Region 2W, Region 3, or the Discovery Bay Shrimp District.

(g) Harvest of non-spot shrimp is not permitted deeper than 175 feet in Catch Area 23A and all of its subareas (23AE, 23AW, 23AC, 23AS).

(h) Harvest of non-spot shrimp is not permitted deeper than 175 feet in subregion 1A.

(i) It is unlawful to harvest non-spot shrimp in more than one geographical management unit listed in subsection 3(a) in a single day with the following exceptions:

(i) Non-spot shrimp may be harvested from more than one subregion of Region 1 on the same day.

(ii) Non-spot shrimp may be harvested from Discovery Bay Shrimp District and Region 3 on the same day.

(j) It is lawful to have deactivated spot shrimp pots on-board of a commercial vessel that is listed on a Puget Sound shrimp pot license while fishing for non-spot shrimp.

A deactivated pot is un-baited, has the draw string or door fastened open, and/or is unable to be readily fished.

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Reviser's note: The spelling error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-320-14000B Commercial shrimp geographical management units—Puget Sound. Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-320-140, for the purposes of Puget Sound shrimp trawl fishing seasons the following areas are designated as 'Beam Trawl Areas'. Non-spot shrimp trawl harvest areas:

Non-spot shrimp beam trawl specific harvest area definitions:

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.

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NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-54000H Commercial shrimp trawl fishery—Puget Sound. Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-540, immediately, until further notice, or until they expire pursuant to RCW 34.05.350, it is unlawful to fish for shrimp for commercial purposes using beam trawl gear in Puget Sound except as provided for in Tables a, b, and c of this section:

(a) Non-spot shrimp beam trawl harvest is permitted starting one hour before official sunrise on the hard season opening dates listed for each of the areas detailed below.

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, 2023, until further notice.
Those waters within the Lummi-Sinclair Triangle.	Open immediately, until further notice.
Those waters of South Lopez Sound.	Open immediately, until further notice.
All waters within subregion 1B, excluding those waters of South Lopez Sound and the Lummi-Sinclair Triangle.	Open immediately, until further notice.
Subarea 23A East, MFSF Catch Areas 23B, and MFSF Catch Area 25A outside of the Discovery Bay Shrimp District.	Open immediately, until further notice.
Subarea 23A West	Open immediately, until further notice.
MFSF Catch Area 23C	Open immediately, until further notice.
MFSF Catch Area 29	Open immediately, until further notice.

(b) Non-spot shrimp beam trawl harvest is permitted starting one hour before official sunrise in the areas detailed below contingent on the harvester bringing an on-board observer on the first trip of 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.	Open immediately, until further notice.
Those waters of Catch Area 22A within subregion 1B, excluding the Rosario Box and South Lopez Sound.	Open immediately, until further notice.
Those waters of Catch Area 20B within subregion 1B.	Open immediately, until further notice.

(c) Non-spot shrimp beam trawl harvest is not permitted in the areas of Shrimp Management Regions 1 and 3 detailed below.

Geographic Area Description (WAC 220-320-140(3); WAC 220-320-120)
Discovery Bay Shrimp District
Sequim Bay CSMA
MFSF Catch Area 23D
Subregion 1A

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Reviser's note: The typographical errors in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appear in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

REPEALER

The following sections of Washington Administrative Code are repealed, effective immediately:

- WAC 220-340-52000I Commercial shrimp pot fishery—Puget Sound. (23-125)
- WAC 220-340-54000G Commercial shrimp trawl fishery—Puget Sound. (23-71)
- WAC 220-320-14000A Commercial shrimp geographical management units—Puget Sound. (23-62)