



Fishery Notice

Category(s): COMMERCIAL - Invertebrates: Prawn and Shrimp by Trap
Subject: FN0286-Prawn and Shrimp: by Trap - North/Central Coast - Season Opens

Open 12:00 May 7, 2009 until further notice for all species of shrimp, including prawns in the following areas:

1. Areas 2, 3, 5 to 10, 101 to 110, 130 and 142.
2. Subareas 1-1 to 1-5 and 1-7.
3. Subareas 4-1 to 4-9 and 4-12 to 4-15.

Subareas are described in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.

Variation Order No. 2009-134.

Note:

- This notice applies to the North and Central Coast, Areas 1 to 10 and Offshore Areas 101 to 110, 130 and 142 inclusive. Please refer to the South Coast/ Fraser River Notice for Areas 11 to 29, 111, 121 and 123 to 127.
- On the first day of the fishery, May 7, 2009, fishers will be permitted to set their gear and haul and reset it once only, provided they do so by 19:00 hrs.
- Effective May 8, 2009 hauling of prawn and shrimp by trap gear, line and buoys is permitted only once per day as a condition of licence in all areas of the coast. This is referred to as single hauling.
- In all areas, after opening day, all setting and hauling of prawn and shrimp traps will be permitted only between 07:00 h (7:00 am) and 19:00 h (7:00 pm) and hauling of traps will be permitted only once per day.
- All in season area closures will be implemented at 19:00 hrs unless otherwise announced.
- There is no offshore fishery option for this season.
- Vessel masters are advised to carefully consider stability when loading their vessels and packing gear.
- J.O.Thomas is the service company selected by industry to provide: trap tags, logbooks, hail in, and the in season charter vessel monitoring program. The hail in number is 1-866-930-4000. Timely and accurate hails by Subarea are required by condition of license.
- Fishers are reminded that the conditions of licence require the string location and the haul time are to be recorded in the "Time of Haul" column within ½ hour of hauling, and before the next string is hauled. Fishers are advised that the old logbooks can no longer be used.
- The minimum size limit for prawns is 33 mm measured as carapace length. The minimum size for tailed prawns is 22 mm telson length.
- Traps must be sorted and undersized prawns released as each trap comes on board.

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- All berried prawns must be released from opening day May 7 and until June 30, 2009.
- Fishers may fish a total of 300 traps on 6 strings or 500 traps on 10 strings if they stack two licences on one vessel for the season in regular coastal areas. These trap and string limits do not apply in the special management areas.
- Trap and string limits are reduced in Special Management Areas in: Howe Sound and Indian Arm (Subareas 28-1 to 28-5 and 28-11 to 28-14); Alberni Inlet (Subareas 23-1 to 23-3); Salmon Sechelt Inlets (Subareas 16 -5 to 16-08); and Saanich Inlet (Subareas 19-7 to 19-12). Individual "W" licenced vessels may fish 150 traps in three ground lines and those vessels with two "W" licences (stacked) licences are permitted to fish 250 traps on 5 ground lines.
- Sponge Reef Advisory: Four unique sponge reef ecosystems in Hecate Strait (in Subareas 105-2 and 106-1, Subareas 106-2 and 107-1, and Subarea 107-2) and Queen Charlotte Sound (in Area 110) are being considered as an Area of Interest for establishment of a Marine Protected Area (MPA). Fishers are requested to refrain from fishing within the sponge reef areas. Maps are available from the North Coast Area Resource Management Biologist (see Contacts in Section 1 of the Integrated Fishery Management Plan).
- All W and FW licence holders other than those with zero trap allocations due to transfers may fish and report octopus. Selection of an octopus option is not longer required. All fishers are required to accurately report information about the octopus catch. See the Commercial Harvest Plan for more information.
- Fishers are reminded that section 25(1) of the fisheries act prohibits all prefishery fishing efforts or the setting of any fishing gear or apparatus prior to the opening time at 1200 h May 07, 2009.
- All frozen and fresh product on board must be in a condition that it can be readily measured and identified by species. Freezing of whole or tailed product in solid blocks or tubs of ice will require that the fisher provide randomly selected samples to be thawed for inspection by Fishery Officers.

Refer to 2009 Prawn and Shrimp by Trap Integrated Fishery Management Plan for the detailed fishing plan, closed area descriptions, Special Management Area (SMA) restrictions and contact numbers for further information or clarification.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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