

**WAC 220-340-530 Commercial shrimp trawl fishery—Puget Sound.**

**License**

(1) It is unlawful to take, fish for, land, or deliver shrimp taken for commercial purposes with trawl gear from Puget Sound waters without a valid Puget Sound shrimp trawl license and a shrimp trawl permit, issued annually by the director, and without complying with all provisions of a Puget Sound shrimp trawl fishery permit.

A Puget Sound shrimp trawl license will only be issued to an individual who is a natural person, and this person shall be the primary operator. Holders of Puget Sound shrimp trawl licenses may designate a single alternate operator per license.

**Trawl gear and area**

(2) It is unlawful to fish for shrimp for commercial purposes in Puget Sound using trawl gear except during seasons opened by emergency rule and authorized by a permit issued by the director.

It is unlawful to operate shrimp beam trawl gear in Puget Sound from one hour after official sunset to one hour before official sunrise.

(3) It is unlawful to retain spot shrimp with trawl gear.

(4) Gear restrictions - Beam trawl gear is the only lawful trawl gear type permitted for Puget Sound. Use of otter trawl gear or other trawl gear types is unlawful.

(a) Maximum beam width in Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 20A, 20B, 21A, and 22A is 25 feet.

(b) Maximum beam width in Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 23A (trawl Catch Area 23A; WAC 220-320-140), 23B, 23C, 25A, and 29 is 60 feet.

(5) Area restrictions:

(a) Catch Areas 21B, 22B, and those waters of Catch Area 20A 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°) are closed year round.

(b) 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°) are closed through July 31st.

(c) Catch Area 21A is closed year round, except that those waters 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 are closed through June 30th.

(d) In Catch Area 22A:

(i) Shrimp trawl fishing is closed in Lopez Sound south of a line projected true east-west from the northern tip of Trump Island (48.5064°, -122.8369°) from the season opening through July 9th, except as described in (f) of this subsection.

(ii) Shrimp trawl fishing is closed that portion 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 from the season opening through June 15th, except as described in (f) of this subsection.

(e) Subregion 1B (Catch Areas 20B and 22A) is closed through June 15th, except as described in (f) of this subsection.

(f) The following areas may open on the described dates and remain open from that date contingent upon the results of department-approved observer sampling to evaluate bycatch. Bycatch parameters must

be satisfied for the fishery to remain open earlier than the dates described in (d) and (e) of this subsection.

(i) In Catch Area 22A, in Lopez Sound south of a line projected true east-west from the northern tip of Trump Island (48.5064°, -122.8369°): May 1st.

(ii) That portion of Catch Area 22A 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 1st.

(iii) Subregion 1B (Catch Areas 20B and 22A): May 16th.

(iv) Trawl fishers seeking to open before the dates described in (d) and (e) of this subsection must coordinate with the department to arrange a department-approved bycatch observation plan prior to commencing fishing.

(g) It is unlawful to fish for shrimp in Puget Sound with beam trawl gear in waters shallower than 100 feet.

(h) It is unlawful to fish for shrimp with beam trawl gear shallower than 120 feet in Catch Area 20A.

(i) A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.750.

### **Landing and reporting**

(6) All shrimp taken in the Puget Sound commercial shrimp fishery must be landed and recorded on Washington state fish receiving tickets within 24 hours of harvest. No fisher may land shrimp without immediate delivery to a licensed fish buyer, or if transferred at sea, without transfer to a licensed fish buyer. A fisher who is a licensed fish buyer or a limited fish seller may complete and return a fish receiving ticket to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

(7) Harvesters must also comply with reporting provisions of WAC 220-340-030.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04-055 [77.04.055], 77.12.045, and 77.12.047. WSR 22-08-048, § 220-340-530, filed 3/31/22, effective 5/1/22.]