Every season every trap counts!

Prawn fishing in the Pacific Region has grown in popularity and recreational fishers share responsibility for the conservation and wise use of this valuable resource. By observing conditions of licence, and catching and reporting your catch, you show your commitment to managing a sustainable fishery. When you set your traps, remember your day limit is not a fishing target and prawns are seasonally variable and short-lived, so fish safely and responsibly and respect seasonal closures. On behalf of sustainable fishing opportunities for everyone in our waters, thank you for demonstrating your best practices in the prawn fishery!

What to expect?
Catch success varies all year round

When it comes to prawn fishing there is no such thing as “an average condition of abundance.” Every season marks a new life stage and environmental conditions that impact survival, stock strength and what you can expect to see in the water or inside your trap. One thing is certain: count on a variable mix of life stages and catch success every season, area to area, year over year, throughout the region.

SPRING (APR-JUNE)
NEW SEASON
What’s important this season: New larvae may not be visible but they live in the upper water column for up to 3 months as they settle to the ocean floor.

SUMMER (JULY-SEPT)
BREEDING SEASON
What’s important this season: After an 8-month male-to-female sex transition period, newly transitioned 3-year-old females will breed with younger, 1- and 2-year-old males.

FALL (OCT-DEC)
SPAWNING SEASON
What’s important this season: Large, mature, egg-bearing females increase in prominence and seasonal closures will be in effect to protect them.

WINTER (JAN-MAR)
EGG SEASON
What’s important this season: Winter closures will be in effect to protect large, mature, egg-bearing females as their eggs prepare to hatch before the 4-year lifecycle ends.

What counts & why?

Check your licence & know your catch limit.
Check make sure your fishing licence is up to date. Know your sport fishing regulations and mandatory conditions of licence.

Know your intended fishing area before you go.
Plan where you intend to fish. Check fisheries notices throughout the year for subarea restrictions and closures.

Handle catch with care & release egg-bearing females.
While the size of individual prawns is not restricted in the recreational fishery, fishers share responsibility for stock conservation. Handle catch with care, releasing all egg-bearing females and smaller prawns to help reduce mortality and improve abundance next season.

Check carefully for bycatch & release all rockfish.
Check all your gear and remove all bycatch. Many rockfish populations are depressed and must be released from prawn traps.

Expect biological monitoring. Respect seasonal & area closures. The commercial fishery is open for an average of 40 days annually during the spring season. Recreational fishing is open to licence holders year round. Expect biological monitoring and respect seasonal and area closures in the spring during the commercial fishery and again in the fall/winter during spawning season.

Haul your traps slowly.
Hauling your gear slowly allows smaller prawns and bycatch to exit before traps are brought on board.

SET TRAPS FOR SAFETY & SUCCESS

TRAPS & LINES
Each licenced individual is allowed 4 traps maximum. Each single trap must be marked with a buoy at 2 traps are attached to one ground line, the ground line may be marked with a single buoy. This applies to all traps fished from a dock, shoreline or by boat. A tautum (all lines are allowed on a single ground line with a floating tag or buoy required at both ends). Mechanical devices are permitted to recover traps.

PREVENT GEAR ENGAGEMENT
Keep navigation channels clear of lines and buoys. Use sinking line and/or weights, or call the local fisheries office to ensure enough to stay afloat in tides and currents in your fishing area. Only take what you need!

RECREATIONAL PRAWN FISHERY
YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES
ALWAYS:
• Fish with a valid licence
• Expect biological monitoring
• Respect seasonal and area closures
• Observe trap and catch limits and always release egg-bearing female prawns
• Report your catch
• Mark buoy(s) with your name
• Release catch beyond your legal catch limit with the least amount of harm
• Release live catch where it was caught
NEVER:
• Keep more than your daily catch limit or possession limit
• Trap prawns during seasonal closures or in permanently closed areas
• Use someone else’s marked traps to fish
• Release live catch into habitat other than where it was caught
• Fish in sensitive glass sponge reefs
• Buy, sell or barter for any fish caught by sport fishing
• Kill, harm, or capture endangered species under the Species at Risk Act

TO CONSERVE PRAWN POPULATIONS IT IS MANDATORY TO RELEASE EGG-BEARING FEMALES AND OBSERVE ALL FISHING REGULATIONS.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TRAPS = 4
MAXIMUM DAILY CATCH = 125 PRAWNS

Daily catch limits are NOT a target number. Only take what you need!

For_MORE_INFORMATION: 1-866-431-3474
Pacific Prawn Fishery and Shellfish Information, Limits & Closures

22-34 MM CL
34-40 MM CL
37-42 MM CL
42-48 MM CL

22-34 MM CL
34-40 MM CL
37-42 MM CL
42-48 MM CL

Supporting Species

To conserve prawn populations it is mandatory to release egg-bearing females and observe all fishing regulations.

PREPARE TO SHARE CATCH INFORMATION
Catch information is important for science and fisheries management. Know your limits, keep a record of your catch and be prepared to share information when monitored or asked to report. Individual results are strictly confidential.

24-HOUR REPORTING LINE: 1-800-465-4336
OFR (Observe, Record, Report Fisheries Violations)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 1-866-431-3474
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