



Skokomish Indian Tribe

Natural Resources Department (360) 877-5213

N. 541 Tribal Center Road

Fax (360) 877-5148

Skokomish Nation, WA 98584

Skokomish Indian Tribe 2026 Annual Spot Shrimp Regulation PUB-S#26-8

1. Introduction

The following regulation is promulgated by the Skokomish Indian Tribe and shall govern the conduct of commercial and subsistence fisheries for shrimp within Hood Canal by Skokomish Tribal members. The term of this regulation is from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Ceremonial fisheries shall be conducted under the provisions of the Skokomish On-Reservation and Treaty Fishing Ordinance. All areas not specifically opened by these regulations shall remain closed to the harvest of shrimp. Only shrimp pots, ring nets and hand dip-nets may be legally used.

2. Harvest Areas and Times

Harvest areas for the Skokomish Tribe include Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife marine shellfish management and catch reporting areas 25C, 27A, 27B and 27C. Openings apply to both commercial and subsistence fishing and will be announced by emergency regulations. The daily subsistence limit shall be set by emergency regulation; all subsistence catch must be reported on harvest logs, shrimp subsistence cards or to the shrimp harvest monitor. Subsistence fishing will close for 24 hours after every commercial shrimp opening to allow enforcement the opportunity to check for illegal pots.

3. Commercial and Subsistence Shrimp Pots and Ring Nets

The maximum allowable total number of pots and/or ring nets which may be used when harvesting shrimp will be announced by emergency regulations. Each harvester is permitted to operate one vessel per day; shrimp pots registered to a particular vessel must be set and pulled by that vessel unless otherwise approved by a Skokomish Public Safety Officer. For subsistence fishing, the number of allowable pots will be established by emergency regulation. If subsistence fishing occurs concurrently with commercial fishing, the total allowable shrimp pot and or/ring net limit will not exceed the commercial limit stated in the emergency regulation opening the fishery.

4. Buoy Use Requirements

Buoy use requirements are described in the Skokomish On-Reservation and Treaty Fishing Ordinance. Those requirements are modified for the shrimp fishery as follows:

- a. Long lines are allowed in the Hood Canal shrimp fishery provided that all long lines as well as single pots and ring nets have buoys attached.
- b. Buoys attached to gear used for either subsistence or commercial purposes shall be any color except a combination of red and white.
- c. Each Buoy shall be conspicuously marked with the initials of the harvester's tribe ("SKK" for Skokomish) followed by the Tribal identification card number of the harvester operating the gear. The buoy shall also be marked with the number of pots attached. The buoy must be marked in such a way that the fisher's ID number, Tribal affiliation and number of attached pots can be seen without removing the gear from the water.
- d. All buoys shall be constructed of a durable material, excluding plastic or metal bottles and other containers, and must remain floating when at least five pounds of weight is attached. The buoy line shall be weighted to keep the line from floating up.

5. Shrimp Pot Requirements

Shrimp pots are defined as an enclosed trap made of netting stretched over a rigid frame which incorporates entry tunnels and is used to entrap shrimp in a live condition. The design requirements of a shrimp pot are included in the Skokomish On-Reservation and Treaty Fishing Ordinance. Within Hood Canal, the following provisions apply:

- a. Shrimp pots are the only lawful gear in the Hood Canal shrimp fishery. Only pots with a minimum mesh size of 1 inch will be allowed. A mesh size of 1 inch is defined as a mesh opening that a 7/8-inch square peg will pass through, excluding the entrance tunnels, except for flexible (web) mesh pots where the mesh must be a minimum of 1 ¼ inch stretch measure. Stretch measure is defined as the distance between the inside of one knot to the outside of the opposite vertical knot of one mesh, when the mesh is stretched vertically. Ladner and Ladner-type collapsible pots are allowed.
- b. There is no minimum size mesh for entry tunnels, but the tunnels must be located on the sides of the pot only.
- c. The sum of the maximum widths of all entrance tunnels must not exceed one-half the size of the perimeter of the bottom of the pot. Pots must be equipped with a biodegradable escape device that consists of either:
 1. a pot lid secured with a single loop of untreated cotton cord no larger than thread size 120 so the pot lid may open freely if the cord is broken, or an opening in the pot mesh not less than 3" X 5" sewn closed with untreated cotton twine no larger than thread size 120. The opening must be located within the top half of the pot and be unimpeded by the entry tunnels, bait boxes, or anything else.

6. Fishery Registration

All Tribal fishers wishing to participate in the Hood Canal commercial and subsistence shrimp fishery must register at the Skokomish Natural Resources office prior to fishing. At the time of registration, fishers must report the number of shrimp pots to be used and the intended off-load site. At any time during the fishery, any changes in the number of pots used or the off-load site must be reported to the Skokomish Natural Resources office.

7. Catch Reporting

All harvesters participating in the fishery must fill out a harvest log while fishing (Figure 1). It is the responsibility of all commercial spot shrimp fishers to provide the pull-log to the monitor at the off-load site or to the Skokomish Natural Resources Office daily. If a commercial fisher does not turn in their shrimp catch, they will be prohibited from participating in the following shrimp opening. All subsistence catch must be reported on a shrimp subsistence catch card supplied by the Natural Resources Office and turned in to the Natural Resources Office within one week of the expiration date stated on the card. A record of fishing activity must be made each time pots are set regardless of whether any shrimp were caught. All commercial catches shall be reported on Treaty Indian Fish Receiving Tickets or Roadside Sales Forms as specified in the Skokomish On-Reservation and Treaty Fishing Ordinance.

8. Pot Pulling Restrictions

No pots shall be pulled either before or after the open hours listed in the regulation or in subsequent emergency regulations. Time periods available for Tribal fishers to drag for lost shrimp pots will be announced by emergency regulation.

9. Authority

The above regulations are promulgated by the Skokomish Fish Committee and adopted by the Tribal Council under the authority of the Skokomish On-Reservation and Treaty Fishing Ordinance, section 7.02.025. The above regulations may be amended at any time by emergency regulation.

 3-20-26

Alex Gouley
Deputy Director Natural Resources
North 541 Tribal Center Road
Skokomish Nation, WA 98584