



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of
Fish and Game

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
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April 2, 2013

The Honorable Paul Seaton
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Seaton:

The House Special Fisheries Committee is reviewing the sunset of legislation regarding the current limited entry program in the Alaska scallop fishery. In the process of that review you have asked the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to answer two specific questions and also prepare a longer response on what kind of management regime might be developed in lieu of limited entry in this fishery. I am providing answers to the questions through this letter; a longer response outlining a potential alternative management regime will follow in a few days.

Question: What is the extent of fishery observer coverage in the current scallop fishery?

Answer: All scallop vessels are required to carry observers, except vessels fishing in Cook Inlet. Vessels fishing in Cook Inlet may be required to accommodate an ADF&G observer if requested to do so by ADF&G.

Question: Are trip limits a management tool that can be used in the scallop fishery in lieu of limited entry as a means of slowing the fishery, avoiding a derby situation, and maintaining an orderly fishery?

Answer: ADF&G does not currently have the authority to impose trip limits in the scallop fishery; such authority would have to be granted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries to ADF&G in order for trip limits to be used as a management tool in the state waters scallop fishery.

I have asked the scallop management staff to prepare a short paper on options for management in this fishery, if the limited entry system currently in place for the fishery is not extended. I expect this paper to be ready for you by the end of this week, April 5, 2013. I expect this paper to reiterate some of the information that was provided to you


Representative Seaton

- 2 -

April 2, 2013

previously by John Hilsinger, my predecessor, as the director of the Division of
Commercial Fisheries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Regnart", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jeff Regnart
Director