

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

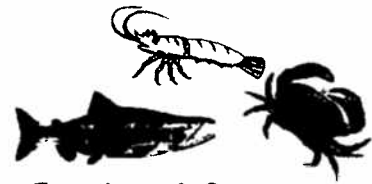
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February 3, 2009

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (Mail Stop 3100)
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Chairman Edgmon, and Committee Members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance is a multi-gear membership based organization representing our members mainly involved in the salmon, crab shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska halibut & blackcod IFQ fisheries.

We support HB 41 dealing with Board of Fish member's conflict of interest. We have steadfastly supported this legislation for at least the last 8 years. We believe that it is very important to clarify the regulations regarding conflict of interest as being only the immediate family that lives in the household. In addition, even if the members don't vote, they should participate in the deliberations.

A good balanced board of fish has members with a wide variety of knowledge and experience. These members are picked for that reason and then are conflicted out from participating when that knowledge is beneficial to the board because of their personal involvement in the fishery. Relaxing the conflict of interest standard for Board of Fish members while still preventing the ability to provide for their own personal financial gain is a balance to strive for and HB 41 reaches that balance.

One of the strengths of the Board of Fish is that it is still a lay board but people are reluctant to submit their name if they are unable to speak on the fisheries they are knowledgeable about.

Please support and pass HB 41. We really need to get this legislation passed through the legislature this session.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen