

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

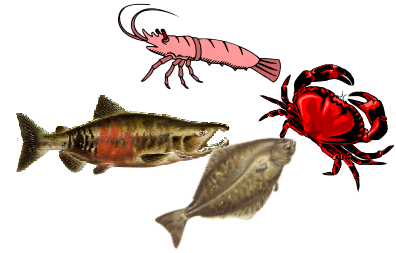
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February 25, 2011

Alaska State Legislature

Senate Resources

Senator Joe Paskvan, Co-Chair

Senator Tom Wagoner, Co-Chair

120th 4th Street, State Capitol, Room 3

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Support SB 91

Dear Senate Resource Committee Members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) supports the extension of the sunset date to Jan 1, 2013 for the sport fishing guide licensing and logbook program. This is very important for the following reasons:

- Need accurate accounting of our resources being harvested
- Registration of guides is a requirement for our exemption to the National Saltwater Angler Registry Program
- Federal law for guided halibut sport fishing is tied to the Alaska Sport fishing logbooks and failure to keep this program in place would likely result in the development of a federal logbook for halibut which would create duplication of efforts at a later date.

SEAFA would like to request the legislature consider expanding the program to include self-guided operations leaving from lodges at a minimum. Alaska will make the same mistake as other west coast states if we do not start having better knowledge of the number of fish being harvested and removed from the water in a timely manner so that we can manage our fisheries sustainably as required by the constitution. With the changes in halibut laws there is an increased growth in the unguided sector but this cannot be measured as there is no registration program that keeps track of the businesses providing these services.

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance is a membership based non-profit

organization representing our members involved in salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and we look forward to seeing this legislation more forward and maintaining this important program for the sustainability of our fishery resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn LA", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Executive Director