



Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

2019 PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW

House Fisheries Committee – January 23, 2020



Photos Courtesy of ASMI



Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Mission

...to promote the conservation and the sustained yield management of Alaska's fishery resource and the economic health and stability of commercial fishing in Alaska by regulating and controlling entry of participants into the commercial fisheries in the public interest and without unjust discrimination.

This is accomplished by:

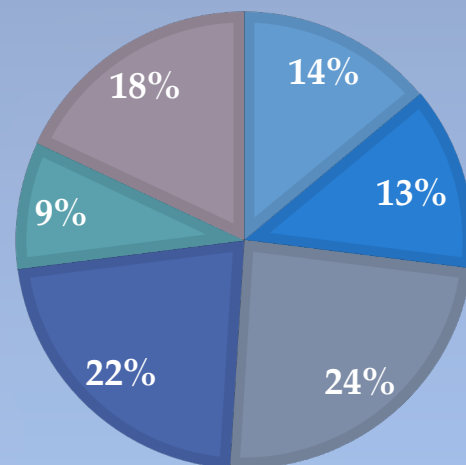
- Monitoring the economic health of 200+ open access and 66 limited entry fisheries.
- Limiting entry to Alaska fisheries to achieve conservation and fishery development goals.
- Adjudicating permit applications for limited fisheries.
- Enforcing statutory requirements governing permanent and emergency permit transfers.
- Assessing court ordered demerit points in specific salmon fisheries.
- Promulgating regulations to further the purposes of the Limited Entry Act.
- Providing fishery data and other relevant information to policymakers and the public.



Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

CFEC BASICS

- ✦ Quasi-judicial commission supported by four sections:
 - Adjudications
 - Research
 - Licensing
 - Data Processing
- ✦ 21 Staff Positions
- ✦ \$7.44 million in revenue generated FY19
- ✦ \$3.13 million annual operating budget
- ✦ \$321,105 to Fisherman's Fund
- ✦ Surplus contributions:
 - \$4.0 million to Commercial Fisheries Division operating budget
 - \$236,400 to Department of Fish and Game capital projects
 - \$272,100 to Department of Commerce capital projects



Commission

Administration

Licensing

Data Processing

Adjudications

Research



Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Agency Statistics

- Provided service to 18,000+ license holders
- 17,339 commercial fishing permits issued
- 8,806 vessel licenses issued
- 1,884 permit transfers processed
- Improved online licensing renewal system
- Refreshed agency computer hardware
- 32 new adjudication cases; 29 hearings and 25 decisions
- 8 published research reports

Administrative Results

- Efficient resource utilization for FY19
- Migration to Microsoft Office 365 and adoption of Employee Self Service (ESS)
- Collaborated with DFG to address Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliance
- Initiated licensing records scanning project - 20% complete
- Ensured timely response to information requests



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COMMISSION DECISIONS

Permit Application Cases

Since 1974, CFEC has issued decisions on 22,865 applications for limited entry permits; the process involved many appeals that were adjudicated. A total of 16,723 transferable and non-transferable permits have been issued, 5,994 have been denied and 94 were withdrawn.

• **In 2019, Final Decisions were issued on 11 of 13 pending permit application cases.**

FCD	Fishery
1	Kodiak Roe Herring
1	Kodiak Bairdi Tanner
1	Norton Sound Gillnet
1	SSEI Sablefish
2	SE Red/Blue King Crab
2	SE Tanner
3	NSEI Sablefish

30 Additional Decisions

- Transfers
- Permit forfeitures
- Demerits, liens, refunds
- Project with Adjudications reviewed 41 refund/waivers.

- Most cases were decade's old and involved complex issues and voluminous evidence.
- Potential impact on prior decisions; due diligence is key.
- All decisions reviewed under array of laws; regulations; legal precedent; and 45 years of administrative practice applicable to permit adjudications.
- Fishermen have additional administrative and judicial remedies available in the event of unfavorable ruling.
- The Alaska Supreme Court has made 86 rulings affecting CFEC practices.



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AGENCY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Executive Director hired to oversee day-to-day operations, manage resources, and promote cohesion and collaboration among sections.
- Policies and Procedures Manual comprehensively reviewed and overhauled.
- Initiated internal audit of permit transfer decisions made by Licensing Section.
- Provided informational reports, background, and commentary to the Board of Fisheries and public.
- Optimum number study launched for Cook Inlet Setnet fishery.
- 2019 regulation package successfully completed; 2020 package of proposed regulation changes drafted and currently being processed for file opening with Department of Law.
- Scanning project launched to protect CFEC licensing records and improve flow of information.
- Continued development of Online Renewal System (LEON) automation.
- Update, modernize, and streamline agency operations.

Questions?

