

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION

2019 PRELIMINARY ANNUAL REPORT

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.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 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 for 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.

COMMISSION BASICS

- Quasi-judicial commission supported by four sections: Licensing, Adjudications, Data Processing, Research
- 21 staff positions
- Processed \$7.44 million in revenue
- \$3.13 million annual operating budget
- \$321,105 transferred 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

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Agency Statistics

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

Administrative

- Efficient resource utilization for FY19
- Migrated to Microsoft Office 365 and adopted 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

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 subject to adjudication. A total of 16,723 transferable and non-transferable permits have been issued, 5,994 have been denied and 94 were withdrawn.
- ✎ Final decisions were issued on 11 of 13 pending permit application cases
- ✎ Most cases were decade's old and involved complex issues and voluminous evidence.
- ✎ Each case has potential to impact previous decisions – due diligence is essential.
- ✎ All CFEC decisions are reviewed under array of laws; regulations; legal precedent; and 45 years of administrative practice applicable to permit adjudications.
- ✎ In the event of an unfavorable Final Commission Decision, there are additional administrative and judicial remedies that a party might choose to pursue.
- ✎ Since 1976, the Supreme Court has made 86 rulings affecting CFEC practices.

Other Adjudicative Decisions

- ✎ Issued 30 decisions on miscellaneous matters
- ✎ Permanent/emergency transfers
- ✎ Permit forfeitures
- ✎ Demerit points, lien requests, etc.
- ✎ Further defined statutory and regulatory rules and provided policy guidance to staff.
- ✎ Worked with Adjudications Section to review and approve 65 special fee refunds and waivers.

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.