



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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January 20, 2020

Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Stutes,

United Fishermen of Alaska expresses our support for HB 185: "An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and providing for an effective date".

We support the reasons behind the Derelict Vessel Bill (SB 92), but we find having commercial fishing vessels register with the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles who are already registered with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) repetitive thus creating unnecessary burden for commercial fishermen and the State.

When SB 92 was first introduced, UFA requested to both Senator Micciche and the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators that vessels registered with the CFEC be exempt from this law. Vessels registered with CFEC are entered into a state-managed database, which is one of the main objectives SB 92 set out to accomplish.

Our fishermen are doing their best to comply under the current law. However, many DMV offices were not ready to deal with the onslaught of this new bill. Several offices throughout the state were lacking proper forms and stickers, and many employees were confused by the new law, giving fishermen wrong information. In addition, many DMV offices were only open a few days a week and some were closed for multiple weeks. Many of our fishermen were already fishing in Bristol Bay and Prince William Sound when word of this new law reached them, and could not readily make it to a DMV office to comply. As a result, the UFA office became a clearing house for frustrated vessel owners who wanted to comply with the law but were having trouble doing so due to the various DMV office difficulties mentioned above.

Adoption of HB 185 will still serve the purpose SB 92 set out to accomplish without making fishermen jump through unnecessary hoops and incur additional expenses.

Regards,

Matt Alward
President

Frances H. Leach
Executive Director



February 4, 2020

Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB 185 - Registration of Boats; DMV Exemption

Dear Representative Stutes and Committee Members,

The Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (ABSC) is a non-profit trade association representing the harvesters of king, snow, and tanner crab in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands region. We represent approximately 70 vessels and are actively involved in fisheries management, policy development, scientific research, and marketing. ABSC would like to express our support for HB 185 (An act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and providing for an effective date).

ABSC supports this remedy to last year's Derelict Vessel Bill (SB 92) by allowing commercial fishing vessels that are already registered with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) to be exempt from acquiring a title and registering with the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Requiring additional registration through the state DMV is redundant when vessels registered with CFEC are already entered in databases managed by the state of Alaska. Our fishermen actively work to be in compliance with state laws but found the DMV registration requirements cumbersome, time consuming, duplicative, and unnecessary. Fishermen voiced frustration in having to submit similar information to the state twice, through the CFEC and the DMV, and noted misinformation and confusion from DMV offices, long wait times, and limited open days in which to register.

Adoption of HB 185 will uphold the purpose of SB 92 which is to maintain a record of commercial fishing vessels in a state-managed database while eliminating redundancy and easing the burden to commercial fishermen of Alaska. ABSC supports HB 185.

This position is in alignment with the United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), of which ABSC is a member.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Goen
Executive Director
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers
absc.jamie@gmail.com



February 3, 2020

Representative Louise Stutes
Chair House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Stutes and members of the House Fisheries Committee,

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) is a membership-driven non-profit organization that represents and advocates on behalf of the commercial fishing fleet who participate in fisheries in Prince William Sound, the Copper River, and the northern Gulf of Alaska. We would like to take the time to express our support of HB 185 “An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and providing for an effective date”.

This bill would eliminate the need for an additional vessel registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles as required by the passage of SB 92, and provide an exemption for vessels registered with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Currently, all vessel owners who participate in State of Alaska commercial fisheries are required to register their vessel with the CFEC, which provides each vessel with a permanent ADF&G number. Each registered vessel must also display their ADF&G number clearly and visibly on both sides of the vessel, and all of the data about that vessel and its owner is well tracked by a state agency in a database that has been consistently updated for decades. This database is easily searchable and publicly accessible online, and vessels registered with the CFEC are all well documented by the State of Alaska. Many of these vessels are also documented by the U.S. Coast Guard, a standard that SB 92 initially sought to achieve.

For many vessel owners in our region, an additional registration with DMV was difficult to obtain over the summer months when the requirement was first rolled out. Our local DMV office was closed down for several weeks, and though it did eventually open up during the season, many fishermen were already out in Prince William Sound by that point, unable to return to town to register their vessels without a significant loss of income. Unfortunately, this left many vessel owners out of compliance and at risk of a citation, and led to a great deal of frustration for fishermen.



Cordova District Fishermen United
PO Box 939 | 509 First Street | Cordova, AK 99574
phone. (907) 424 3447 | fax. (907) 424 3430
web. www.cdfu.org

We support an exemption for CFEC registered vessels, as this would help to ease the regulatory burdens on small business owners.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Haisman
Executive Director

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

P.O. Box 1464 • Dillingham, Alaska 99576 • (907) 842-4370 • Fax (907) 842-4336 • 1-800-478-4370



Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Stutes

The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) expresses our support for HB 185: "An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and providing for an effective date."

While we support the reasons behind the Derelict Vessel Bill (SB 92), we believe commercial fishing vessels that already register with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) should not have to be registered with the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles as it appears redundant and could create a potential hardship on Bristol Bay resident commercial fishers.

Many of BBEDC's CDQ communities do not have a DMV, and in the communities that do, there is minimal staff and availability to assist commercial fishers. While local fishers are trying their best to comply with the current law, traveling between communities creates additional expenses and will be a burden for many. Also, the majority of commercial fishers obtain a vessel license through CFEC annually and are accustomed to the process. Requiring that they also register with the DMV is repetitive and puts a strain on commercial fishers with limited resources.

Adoption of HB 185 will meet the intent of SB 92, and will alleviate unnecessary steps and expenses for commercial fishers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "NVC", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Norman Van Vactor
Chief Executive Officer

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

Box 2196, Petersburg AK 99833 * (253) 279-0707 * usag.alaska@gmail.com * akgillnet.org

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

January 31, 2020

Representative Louise Stutes
Chair House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Stutes and Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters is an organization dedicated to the economic viability of the gillnet salmon fishery in Southeast Alaska. We represent the interests of 473 permit holders, of which over 80% are residents of Alaska.

USAG supports HB 185. Passage of this bill will eliminate redundancy in registration for commercial fishing vessels. Commercial fishing vessel owners must annually renew their vessel's license with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission to conduct business in the state. For our fleet the annual fee is \$60. CFEC registration includes the owner's name and current address, vessel dimensions, material of construction, horse power, type of fuel, fuel capacity, hold capacity, year constructed and who made it. When a vessel is licensed by the CFEC, it is assigned a permanent ADF&G 5-digit number, which must be displayed on both sides of the vessel in 12" high by 1" wide numbers. The vessel is also assigned an aluminum triangular plate with that same number stamped into it which is displayed on the port side of the vessel in a visible location. A decal with the current year is issued annually with renewal which is placed on this triangle. All the information contained in a particular registration is available on CFEC's public database. It can easily be accessed with a smart phone or computer by anyone.

Passage of SB 92 last session required that documented vessels must register with the Division of Motor Vehicles. Passage of HB 185 would exempt currently licensed commercial vessels registered with CFEC from registering with DMV. Our view is that having to register with both state agencies is redundant, unnecessary, serves no purpose or efficiency, and creates undue burden to commercial boat owners, and for those reasons, we ask for passage of HB 185.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Worhatch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Max Worhatch, Executive Director, United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

**CITY OF SELDOVIA
RESOLUTION 20-11**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA, ALASKA
ENCOURAGING AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION FOR VESSELS ACTIVE IN THE
ALASKA CFEC DATABASE**

WHEREAS, derelict vessels are a large and growing problem in small boat harbors and ports across Alaska's Coast and rivers, resulting in increased costs to the public, environmental, and navigational hazards; and

WHEREAS, defining ownership and holding individuals responsible for their vessels has been identified as one of the top barriers to effective management to prevent derelict vessels; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the legislature passed Senate Bill 92, the Derelict Vessel Act; and

WHEREAS, in addition to substantially re-writing and updating AS30.30, the derelict vessel chapter of state statute, SB92 addressed tracking vessel ownership through changes to AS05.25; and

WHEREAS, these changes expand vessel registration requirements in Alaska effective January 1, 2019 and, similar to Washington and other states, Alaska now requires federally documented vessels to also be registered with the state Department of Motor Vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska did not inform the newly regulated community nor do any outreach of any kind in advance of this change; and

WHEREAS, active fishermen around the state were caught unaware, and raised the fact that their vessels are already in the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Database; and

WHEREAS, the intent of SB92 was to better track vessel ownership in Alaska regardless of its engagement in a fishery and across the life of the vessel which is best accomplished through state registration; and

WHEREAS, vessel registration should be simple, creating minimal added burden to help effectively address the problem of identifying vessel ownership; and

NOW THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the City Council of the City of Seldovia recommends an update to Alaska state statute directing vessels active in the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Vessel Database be automatically issued Alaska vessel registration numbers, and that the CFEC and the Division of Motor Vehicles create a system for information sharing to this end.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Seldovia, on this 28th day of October, 2019.

ATTEST:


Heidi Geagel, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Dean Lent, Mayor





AAHPA

Alaska Association of Harbormasters & Port Administrators

602 Shellfish Ave
Homer, AK 99603
Phone: (907)299-9000
info@alaskaharbors.org

February 3, 2020

TO: Representative Louise Stutes, Chair House Fisheries Committee

RE: AAHPA Board of Directors Statement on House Bill 185

The AAHPA's primary goal on this issue is to work with the State to track the ownership of vessels using public waters, similar to our state tracking of vehicles and boat trailers on public roads. After a challenging roll-out of the new registration requirements last year, and hearing the frustrations of the commercial fleet that already has a state-level system of a similar annual vessel registration through the CFEC, the AAHPA supports efforts that continue to meet the goal of increased vessel tracking while reducing bureaucratic burden where possible. While our membership fully supported an automatic registration of vessels active in the CFEC database, the Board of Directors understand the efforts to streamline the process of tracking ownership with state departments, and logistical barriers to automatic registration. At this time, we do not oppose HB185 and will continue to offer our support and expertise to the Legislature as you consider this and other bills impacting Alaska's public waters, municipal harbors, and maritime infrastructure.

Matt Gruening

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 6:47 AM
To: Matt Gruening
Subject: Support for HB 185

Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Stutes,

Thank you for your work to rectify some of the problems coming from the Derelict Vessel Bill (SB 92) through the introduction of HB 185: "An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels." Groundfish Forum fully supports HB 185. While our fleet is not particularly large (only 20 vessels), all of our vessels are registered with CFEC and we are concerned that having to register a vessel in person at a DMV is an unnecessary burden.

Thank you again for your leadership and for supporting Alaska's fishing industry.

Chris Woodley
Executive Director, Groundfish Forum

4241 21st Ave W, Suite 302
Seattle, WA 98199

206-213-5270 (Office)
206-947-6455 (Cell)
chrisw@seanet.com

Matt Gruening

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 9:05 AM
To: Matt Gruening
Subject: Support for HB 185

Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Stutes,

It was great getting to meet you at the young fisherman's summit! Thank you for being supportive of the young commercial fishermen in this state. I am one of your constituents from Cordova and I wanted to pledge my support for HB 185. It seems like an unnecessary redundancy to be registered with the Coast Guard, CFEC, and now the DMV.

Regards,

Nathan Widmann
F/V Orion
PO Box 1883
Cordova AK 99574

Matt Gruening

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 5:20 PM
To: Matt Gruening
Subject: Derelict Vessel Bill

Hello Matt.....I am grateful to Rep. Stutes for introducing the Derelict vessel Bill. My vessel is registered with CFEC and USCG making ownership clearly traceable. Another entity is unnecessary and just adds to the paperwork. Thank You!

Jim Bacon
3357 S. Tongass Hwy
Ketchikan, Ak 99901
907-254-1910

Matt Gruening

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 3:14 PM
To: Matt Gruening
Subject: Please support HB 185

Doing away with having to register a commercial fishing vessel which is tied to a limited entry permit ... from having to register with the DMV....

Thank You

Mark Niver
955 Loch Ness Ct
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Sent from my iPhone

Matt Gruening

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Matt Gruening
Subject: Support for HB 185 - But request that the Commercial Undocumented Vessels continue to have the State DMV issue Certificates of Title

Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Stutes,

I do support HB 185: "An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and providing for an effective date".

The Derelict Vessel Bill (SB 92) that was passed into law has a provision in it that allows for undocumented vessels to obtain a certificate of title just like a motor vehicle from the State of Alaska DMV. I have an undocumented commercial vessel over 24 feet which I have been registering every three years since I had it built. After seeing the new requirements I went through the DMV and applied for and received a title for my vessel. Title of Ownership is a good thing and I hope this requirement will remain in effect. Documented vessels can be used for a lien on a bank loan were as banks will not loan on undocumented vessels do to that there is no title in order to have a lien. Plus when I go to sell my vessel I can sign the title over to the new owner and inform the DMV that I am no longer liable for the vessel if it be comes derelict.

My concern is that HB 185 will completely remove this portion of the Derelict Vessel Bill (SB 92). I could not find a sponcer statement to determine the full effect and I tried to read HB 185 but could not tell what it was going to do the law that is on the books now.

This is the language on the State DMV website concerning the titling of undocumented boats.

New Title requirements - AS 05.25.056

New Alaska Statute 05.25.056 requires the owner of an **undocumented boat that is subject to registration and that is more than 24 feet** to apply for a certificate of title or "No Title Issued (NTI)" registration.

Due to the new titling requirement online renewal is not available for boats more than 24 feet - application must be made in-person.

Titling of an undocumented boat less than 24 feet in length is optional.

You can see that the vessel must be undocumented and subject to registration. If HB 185 removes the requirement to be registered with DMV then the title provisions will or may go away? **Hopefully there is a way to keep the title requirements or an option to getting a title from the DMV.**

I would suggest that US Coast Guard Documented Commercial Vessels that are registered CEFC be exempt from being registered with the state DMV like it was before SB 92 and keep the rest of SB 92 in the books. I think this will eliminate a lot of the confusion (maybe).

If you would like to discuss this issue in more detail you can call me and we can work on coming up with a bill that works best for the Alaska fishing fleets.

Thank you,

Michael Bowen
2150 Innes Cir
Anc, AK 99515
907-354-3312

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Matt Gruening](#)
Subject: HB185
Date: Monday, February 03, 2020 9:44:45 AM

Rep. Stutes I am a commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay and owner of Vessel Razors Edge. Last June this bill was a big problem and still is as written. I questioned way we need to registration of the vessel as we were already registered with Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission this seem repetitive and if need to be able to transfer this data to another data base then just add the fee to our vessel registration with CFEC. And if not fixed it will be a problem this next June again and many of the vessels are owned by fisherman that do not live in the state of Alaska and some owners do not come to the state as they lease there vessel to others..

DMV offices are only open for a few hours a day in many areas.

I do support the bill An act relating to the derelict vessels but provided that those already registered with CFEC be exempt.

Regards

Roseleen Moore

Vessel Razors Edge

Owner of Northern Enterprises Boat Yard Inc.

Homer Alaska