Alaska State Legislature
House Fisheries Committee

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HOUSE BILL 28
Version I

"An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and providing for an effective date."

SPONSOR STATEMENT
(Revised 5.3.21)

House Bill 28 exempts active commercial fishing vessels from duplicative registration requirements largely created by the passage of SB 92, "the derelict vessel bill," in 2018. Specifically, the bill removes the requirement for U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) documented vessels with a current Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) license to register every three years with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Prior to the passage of SB 92, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) documented vessels were exempt from DMV registration; however, that exemption was repealed by the bill and as a result, documented vessels now need to be registered with the DMV.

The rationale for this requirement was to provide the State and local municipalities with a state-maintained database of who owns and operates vessels in Alaskan waters, as well as how to contact those individuals. However, the database the CFEC maintains for commercial fishing vessels was overlooked. Active commercial fishing vessel owners must renew their vessel license annually with the CFEC and the commission provides the necessary contact information in a sharable, state database.

Alaska's commercial fishing fleet is the backbone of our state's most vital industry. We should not require those vessels to register every three years with the DMV, only to provide information that the State already has through the vessel's annual license renewal process.

If you have any questions, please contact the House Fisheries Committee Aide, Thatcher Brouwer at 465-6007.