

Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators



RESOLUTION NO. 2019-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF HARBORMASTERS AND PORT ADMINISTRATORS ENCOURAGING AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION FOR VESSELS ACTIVE IN THE ALASKA CFEC DATABASE.

Whereas, the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators represents small boat harbors and ports across Alaska's coast and rivers; and

Whereas, derelict vessels are a large and growing problem at all of our communities, 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 Membership of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators 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 Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators on this 3rd day of October, 2019.

ATTEST:



Rachel Lord, Executive Secretary

Carl Uchytel, President