

**From:** Elliott, Magy E (DFG) <[magy.elliott@alaska.gov](mailto:magy.elliott@alaska.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 4:31 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Vincent-Lang, Douglas S (DFG) <[doug.vincent-lang@alaska.gov](mailto:doug.vincent-lang@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: HB 117

Senator Giessel,

I spoke with the Commissioner, and he noted that some set-net operations in Bristol Bay already function in a cooperative manner. HB 117 would give the Board of Fisheries the authority to formally address those practices where they exist, while also allowing the Board to prohibit them in other parts of Bristol Bay if they are not appropriate for those districts. In his view, this ensures that the region is not managed with a one-size-fits-all approach.

He also explained that any Bristol Bay-specific concerns would be handled through the Board of Fisheries' regular Bristol Bay regulatory cycle. If fishermen and communities in the region do not support cooperative fishing structures, the Board could simply take no action on proposals. Alternatively, if the region prefers a more limited or tailored approach, the Board has the discretion to set tight limits on the size or extent of any cooperatives.

In short, the Commissioner emphasized that the bill does not impose cooperatives on Bristol Bay. Instead, it provides the Board with flexible authority so that local stakeholders can determine what is appropriate for their area.

Additionally, I let Paige know that he will be online for questions during the second hearing of HB 117. Please let me know if you have any further questions!

*Magy Elliott*  
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**From:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 3:04 PM  
**To:** Elliott, Magy E (DFG) <[magy.elliott@alaska.gov](mailto:magy.elliott@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** HB 117

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The commissioner, speaking the Senate Resources committee this morning, said that each set net area would be managed individually.

One size doesn't fit all.

Please ask the Commissioner if he has considered the impacts on Bristol Bay.

How would those impacts/concerns be managed, in his perspective?

The bill is heard again tomorrow morning, 9 AM.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Cathy

**Senator Cathy Giessel**

Alaska State Senate, District E

Majority Leader, Alaska Senate Bipartisan Coalition

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