



Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

1008 Fish Creek Rd

Juneau, AK 99801

Email: kathy@seafa.org

Cell Phone: 907-465-7666

Fax: 907-917-5470

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>

March 10, 2025

House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: SUPPPORT HB 116 – COMMERCIAL FISHING INSURANCE CO-OP

Dear Representative Louise Stutes, Chairwoman and Committee Members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) is a multi-gear/multi-species commercial fishing association representing our 300+ members involved in salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries mainly in Southeast Alaska. SEAFA has an associated insurance pool (Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance Reserve (SEAFAR)) which over 200 of our members participate in, operating in Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound drift salmon and Gulf of Alaska/Southeast longline fisheries. Members involved in our pool have 3 or less crew members, no wood or concrete vessels. We do not insure any purse seine vessels as per our agreement with PSVOA who administers our insurance pool, so we are not in competition with them and our vessels have a different set of vessel parameters and operating areas than the Seine Vessel pool.

SEAFAR was able to get started in 2002 due to the helping hand provided by PSVOA/Bristol Bay Reserve insurance pools by backing SEAFAR until we had sufficient reserves on hand to support ourselves. Every insurance pool is slightly different in how they operate, but all insurance pools that we are aware of have some type of insurance committee that reviews applications. In reviewing an application, the sea worthiness, care and maintenance of the vessel is considered, but as important is the reputation and judgement of the owner-captain. In our insurance pool, we only insure vessels that

are owner-operated, no relief skippers are allowed. SEAFAR has not raised its hull rate since it was established in 2002 but we have recently had to raise our minimum liability level for Protection and Indemnity (P&I) and mandatory pollution coverage. We have attached our insurance brochure describing our pool.

SEAFA supports HB 116 exempting commercial fishing vessel cooperatives from Alaska insurance regulations. Just understand that it takes time and effort to develop a successful insurance pool.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Hansen", followed by a long horizontal line.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director