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Co-chair Rep. Robyn Niayuk Burke
Co-chair Rep. Maxine Dibert
House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

sent by email to matt.gruening@akleg.gov

Dear Co-chairs Burke and Dibert and Committee members:

Subject: Support for HB117

Our family has operated a setnet fishery in Cook Inlet near Ninilchik as a family unit since statehood. We have delivered and accounted for our fish by consolidating them by following our understanding of Board of Fisheries and Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission rules.

Although the setnet fishery from Ninilchik to Nikiski has been shutdown in 2023 and 2024, and will again be closed for the 2025 season, we understand that upon advice from the Department of Law, Department of Public Safety officers have started citing fishermen in other areas who deliver fish the same way we have with multiple permits. Fortunately, we haven't been cited. There's not much reason for an enforcement officer to visit our site these days.

The suggestion that we segregate fish from each net and assign that specific catch to be delivered by the fisherman whose registration numbers are on its buoys is impractical, and perhaps impossible. HB117 corrects the misguided attempt to change how fishermen have been reporting their catch for decades—a change that provides no benefit to the State of Alaska.

I offer an amendment that will help the Board of Fisheries as it adopts regulations. Revise the last sentence in Sec. 2 to read: "Fish harvested collectively by the cooperative may be sold by a single **or multiple** permit holder **members** of the cooperative or by a transporter acting as the cooperative's agent."

The reason for this is that we, and likely many others, often spread our catch over multiple permits if each permit holder is present when the delivery is made. We do not want this practice to be disallowed. However, we do want it clear that as few as one permit holder (or transporter) could make the delivery.

Respectfully submitted,

Loren Leman

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