

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

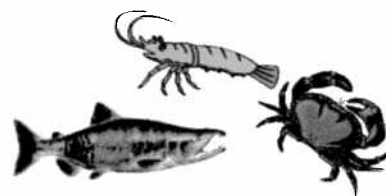
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February 2, 2009

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chairman

House Special Committee on Fisheries

State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100

Juneau AK 99801

Fax 907-465-3445

RE: Support for HB 20 for Energy Improvement Loans

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFa) is a multi-gear group representing our members involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska. We support HB 20 which would allow borrowers under the A program access to the engine retrofit loans as was accomplished by regulation for the B program.

Converting the Alaskan commercial fishing industry to more efficient fuel engines will reduce the carbon footprint, reduce costs and be better for the environment overall. Access to low cost loans will help the fleet convert to these more efficient engines.

We appreciate the Division of Investments making the B loans available last summer since it only took regulation changes and support the legislature making the necessary statute changes to allow borrowers under the A program the same consideration to access low cost loans for engine retrofits.

We would like the fisheries committee to consider amending this legislation to also allow quota shares to be refinanced. With the cuts in quota catch limits some fishermen are now facing incredibly difficult times making their payments and with the current economic crisis are having some difficulties being able to refinance their current loans that are attached to their homes and vessels. We would be willing to discuss this issue with you if you are interested in the problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathy Hansen'.

Kathy Hansen

Executive Director.