

# STATE OF ALASKA

## COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION

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January 30, 2009

The Honorable Donny Olson  
Alaska State Senator  
State Capitol, Room 514  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SB 3 "An Act authorizing an Alaska regional development organization to use the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission as an informational resource"

Dear Senator Olson:

We have reviewed SB 3 and support this legislation.

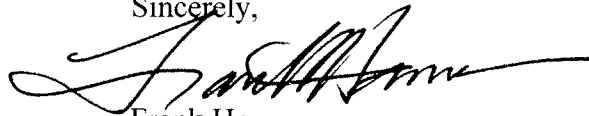
We understand that the intent of SB 3 is to allow Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORS) established under AS 44.33.895 to request public information from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) fishery database without charge. As you know, CFEC has a wealth of public information regarding Alaska's commercial fisheries that we regularly make available upon request to any person or entity. However, there may be a fee required depending on the extent of the effort needed to provide the data. Under SB 3 we would provide data to ARDORS just as we would without this bill, however, without charge.

As a clarification, any CFEC public information available from CFEC data sources must comply with AS 16.05.815 "Confidential nature of certain reports and records." (See enclosed) Basically this statute prohibits the release of any individual fisherman's earnings and harvests obtained from fish ticket information unless aggregated to protect confidentiality. That prohibition is not affected by SB 3.

We do not believe SB 3 would be a significant impact on CFEC resources since there are a limited number of ARDORS and not all represent coastal areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 3.

Sincerely,



Frank Homan  
Chairman

Enclosure

(1) during the first full 10 days after the time when a taking is prohibited, except as provided in (3) of this section;

(2) if the fish or game or part of fish or game is in a preserved condition whether frozen, smoked, canned, salted, pickled, or otherwise preserved; or

(3) with respect to crab aboard a commercial crab fishing vessel, during the first full three days after the time when a taking is prohibited. (§ 26 art I ch 94 SLA 1959; am § 1 ch 42 SLA 1974)

**Sec. 16.05.815. Confidential nature of certain reports and records.** (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, records required by regulations of the department concerning the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery products, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors required by regulation of the department are confidential and may not be released by the department or by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission except as set out in this subsection. The department may release the records and reports set out in this subsection to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. The department and the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release the records and reports set out in this subsection to the recipients identified in this subsection if the recipient, other than a recipient under (5) — (9) of this subsection, agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the records and reports. The department and the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release

(1) any of the records and reports to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the professional staff of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council as required for preparation and implementation of the fishery management plans of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council within the exclusive economic zone;

(2) any of the records and reports to the professional staff of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission who are employed in the Alaska Fisheries Information Network project for the purpose of exchanging information with users authorized by the department;

(3) any of the records and reports to the Department of Revenue to assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities;

(4) records or reports of the total value purchased by each buyer to a municipality that levies and collects a tax on fish, shellfish, or fishery products if the municipality requires records of the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery products to be submitted to it for purposes of verification of taxes payable;

(5) such records and reports as necessary to be in conformity with a court order;

(6) on request, the report of a person to the person whose fishing activity is the subject of the report, or to a designee of the person whose fishing activity is the subject of the report;

(7) on request, annual statistical reports of a fisherman, buyer, or processor to the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the subject of the report, or to a designee of the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the subject of the report;

(8) any of the records and reports to the Department of Public Safety for law enforcement purposes;

(9) fish tickets, fish ticket information, records required of sport fishing guides, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors and information in those reports to the law enforcement personnel of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the purpose of enforcing fishery laws in waters of this state and in waters of the exclusive economic zone adjacent to this state;

(10) fish tickets, fish ticket information, and records required of sport fishing guides regarding halibut to the International Pacific Halibut Commission;

(11) any of the records and reports to the child support services agency created in AS 25.27.010, or the child support enforcement agency of another state, for child support purposes authorized under law; and

(12) any of the records and reports to the Department of Natural Resources to assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities in regard to sport fishing operations and sport fishing guides within the Kenai River Special Management Area under AS 41.21.500 — 41.21.514.

(b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, records or reports received by the department which do not identify individual fishermen, buyers, or processors or the specific locations where fish have been taken are public information.

(c) Crab stock abundance survey information that reveals crab catch by sampling location is confidential and is not subject to inspection or copying under AS 40.25.110 — 40.25.120 until the close of the fishing season for which the survey was conducted.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the department shall keep confidential (1) personal information contained in fish and wildlife harvest and usage data; and (2) the records of the department that concern (A) telemetry radio frequencies of monitored species; (B) denning sites; (C) nest locations of raptors that require special attention; (D) the specific location of animal capture sites used for wildlife research or management; and (E) the specific location of fish and wildlife species. The department may release records and information that are kept confidential under this subsection if the release is necessary to comply with a court order, if the requestor is a state or federal agency, if the requestor is under contract with the state or federal agency to conduct research on a fish or wildlife population, or if the requestor has been authorized by the department to perform specific activities and agrees to use the records and information only for

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purposes as provided under a contract or agreement with the department. After 25 years, the records and information that are kept confidential under this subsection become public records subject to inspection and copying under AS 40.25.110 — 40.25.140 unless the department determines that the release of the records or information may be detrimental to the fish or wildlife population. In this subsection, "personal information" has the meaning given in AS 40.25.350. (§ 1 ch 117 SLA 1970; am § 1 ch 117 SLA 1974; am § 1 ch 66 SLA 1980; am §§ 1, 2 ch 72 SLA 1982; am § 1 ch 84 SLA 1985; am §§ 1, 2 ch 115 SLA 1988; am § 1 ch 32 SLA 1989; am § 10 ch 200 SLA 1990; am § 1 ch 89 SLA 1994; am § 19 ch 87 SLA 1997; am § 1 ch 59 SLA 1999; am § 1 ch 119 SLA 2002; am § 5 ch 70 SLA 2004; am § 1 ch 41 SLA 2007)

**Revisor's notes.** — In 2000, in subsection (c), "AS 40.25.110 — 40.25.120" was substituted for "AS 09.25.110 — 09.25.120" and in subsection (d) "AS 40.25.110 — 40.25.140" was substituted for "AS 09.25.110 — 09.25.140" to reflect the 2000 renumbering of AS 09.25.110 — 09.25.140.

In 2004, "child support enforcement agency created in AS 25.27.010" was changed to "child support services agency created in AS 25.27.010" in paragraph (a)(11) of this section in accordance with § 12(a), ch. 107, SLA 2004.

In 2007, "AS 40.25.350" was substituted for "AS 44.99.350" in subsection (d) to reflect the 2004 renumbering of AS 44.99.350.

**Cross references.** — For exceptions to this section related to the weathervane scallop fishery, see AS 16.43.911(c) and to other fisheries, see AS 16.43.520(i); for reporting of wholesale canned salmon prices, see AS 43.80.050 — 43.80.100.

**Effect of amendments.** — The 2002 amendment, effective July 6, 2002, in subsection (a) inserted "fishermen" in the first sentence and updated an internal reference, added the language beginning "or to a designee" to the end of paragraph (6), added present paragraph (7) and redesignated former paragraphs (7)-(10) as paragraphs ((8)-(11), rewrote paragraph (8), in paragraph (9) inserted "and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors and information in those reports"; and made stylistic changes.

The 2004 amendment, effective January 1, 2005, in subsection (a), substituted "department" for "Department of Revenue" in paragraph (3), rewrote paragraph (8), and added paragraph (12).

The 2007 amendment, effective July 4, 2007, inserted "records required of sport fishing guides" in paragraphs (a)(9) and (a)(10), and made related changes.

**Editor's notes.** — The delayed amendments to this section by § 148(c), ch. 87, SLA 1997, as amended by § 53, ch. 132, SLA 1998, which were to take effect July 1, 2001, were repealed by § 15, ch. 54, SLA 2001.

**Sec. 16.05.820. Research by the federal government.** The Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States and their authorized agents or other appropriate federal agencies may conduct fish cultural operations and scientific investigations in the state in the manner and at the times jointly considered necessary or proper by the Board of Fisheries and the secretary and their authorized agents. (§ 29 art I ch 94 SLA 1959; am § 14 ch 206 SLA 1975; am § 10 ch 208 SLA 1975)

**Sec. 16.05.822. Transplanting of musk oxen.** The board may transplant surplus musk oxen from

Nunivak Island to appropriate areas on the mainland of the state, when good management practices dictate the action. The board shall determine which transplant sites are appropriate and whether a surplus of animals exists. (§ 1 ch 220 SLA 1975)

**Revisor's notes.** — Formerly AS 16.05.865. Renumbered in 2008.

**Sec. 16.05.825. State upland game bird release program.** (a) In addition to any other program for the stocking or propagation of game birds that the department has as of July 23, 1974, the department shall establish a special program for the raising, maintenance, and release of upland game birds in the state. Birds raised under this program may be released in an appropriate area of the state, at any time, but may be harvested only during regular hunting seasons, as specified by the board under AS 16.05.255(a)(2). The board shall adopt regulations necessary to implement this section.

(b) The department shall establish an appropriate facility for the raising and maintenance of upland game birds to be located at an appropriate place, as determined by the commissioner, in interior Alaska.

(c) The department shall employ a method of tagging game birds released under this section and compile harvest statistics.

(d) In this section, "upland game bird" means a game bird for which a season is established under AS 16.05.255(a)(2) as of July 23, 1974, excluding waterfowl. (§ 1 ch 31 SLA 1974; am § 15 ch 206 SLA 1975; am § 7 ch 126 SLA 1994)

**Sec. 16.05.826. Waterfowl conservation stamp program.** (a) The waterfowl conservation tag authorized in AS 16.05.340(a)(17) shall be produced annually in stamp form by the department in an amount the commissioner considers appropriate. The department shall make stamps available for the creation of waterfowl conservation limited edition prints and shall provide for the sale of stamps and prints to the public.

(b) The department shall provide by appropriate means for the selection of the design of the annual waterfowl conservation stamp and for the production and sale of the stamps.

(c) The department may contract to others the performance of the department's responsibilities under this section. Contracting under this subsection is governed by AS 36.30 (State Procurement Code), except that a contract may include provisions for advance payment or reimbursement for services performed under the contract. All costs incurred under this section may be paid from the fish and game fund.

(d) [Repealed, § 28 ch 90 SLA 1991.] (§ 5 ch 71 SLA 1984; am § 8 ch 106 SLA 1986; am § 31 ch 138 SLA 1986; am E.O. No. 73 § 12 (1989); am § 28 ch 90 SLA 1991)