

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

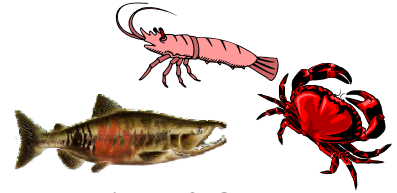
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March 8, 2010

House Special Committee on Fisheries

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair

Alaska State Legislature; State Capitol, Room 124

Juneau, AK 99801

Representative Edgmon, Chair and committee members,

RE: Support for HB 365/SB 255

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) supports HB 365/SB 255. This is legislation that simply allows NMFS to confirm that all the assessment collected from the fishermen by the Processors for a buyback program using federal loan programs has been collected and paid to the federal government and allows for enforcement against those who have not paid.

This legislation would not allow NMFS to collect information for programs that don't have a federal buy-back assessment. This legislation would allow this tool to be used in the future if another buyback with federal funds occurs. The other thing we would point out is that any buyback program has been created occurred by a vote of the fleet.

We support the legislation as a housekeeping measure to correct an oversight to the legislation previously passed to set up associations to conduct buy-back programs.

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance is a multi-gear/multi-species non-profit membership organization representing our members involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska. We represent salmon gillnet, seine and troll fishermen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Hansen" followed by a long horizontal line.

Kathy Hansen, Executive Director