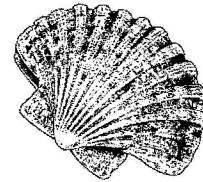


Alaska Scallop Association

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March 26, 2015

House Fisheries Committee Representative Louise Stutes, Chair

Alaska State Legislature,
House Fisheries Committee State Capitol,
Room 416 Juneau,
AK 99801

RE: HB 112 – Repeal CFEC and Transfer Functions to ADF&G

Dear Representative Stutes and House Fisheries Committee Members,

Alaska Scallop Association does not support the advancement of this bill at this time.

We believe that action should be delayed until the legislative audit requested last year is available for review and a thorough impact study is done. CFEC for decades has ensured commercial fishermen's rights are not taken away unjustly, without any political bias. To dismantle them because of a few perceived internal organizational issues without a full study of the impacts does an injustice to the Commission as well as to Alaska's fishermen they are charged to protect.

Allowing CFEC time to reorganize as they presented in their response to the Lawson audit, will give us all time for a fair assessment. Reorganization seems to us to be the logical first step rather than immediately jumping to the draconian action of dissolving the whole commission.

We believe there is some balance and benefits when CFEC is an autonomous division that would be lost with transferring the functions to ADF&G.

CFEC is funded 100% by fishermen's permit fee and operates with a surplus. These are the fishermen's funds paid directly by us. Please give us fishermen time to assess what is at stake if the CFEC's important function was to be moved to a more politically charged agency such as ADF&G.

No hurry, let's make sure any corrective action is done in a logical manner and most importantly that the rights of Alaska's fishermen will be properly protected.

Sincerely, Jim Stone- President