

March 15, 2017

I have been to many Southeast Board of Fish meetings in the past 20 years, as an Advisory Committee chair and member, a gear group representative, and an interested permit holder.

It is common for a BOF member(s) to be conflicted out because of a strict adherence to conflict of interest, sometimes losing valuable knowledge and expertise and most times an important vote in the process. A prime example of this was at the Southeast BOF fin fish meeting held in Sitka two years ago. Two Board members were conflicted out and one was excused. That left four members. A majority is needed to pass a proposal which would could not happen especially on controversial proposals where a change needs to be made.

I support HB 87 as a common sense way to help the BOF process work better by narrowing the definition of families in the conflict of interest language.

Sincerely,

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