

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

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USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

January 31, 2020

Representative Louise Stutes
Chair House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Stutes and Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters is an organization dedicated to the economic viability of the gillnet salmon fishery in Southeast Alaska. We represent the interests of 473 permit holders, of which over 80% are residents of Alaska.

USAG supports HB 185. Passage of this bill will eliminate redundancy in registration for commercial fishing vessels. Commercial fishing vessel owners must annually renew their vessel's license with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission to conduct business in the state. For our fleet the annual fee is \$60. CFEC registration includes the owner's name and current address, vessel dimensions, material of construction, horse power, type of fuel, fuel capacity, hold capacity, year constructed and who made it. When a vessel is licensed by the CFEC, it is assigned a permanent ADF&G 5-digit number, which must be displayed on both sides of the vessel in 12" high by 1" wide numbers. The vessel is also assigned an aluminum triangular plate with that same number stamped into it which is displayed on the port side of the vessel in a visible location. A decal with the current year is issued annually with renewal which is placed on this triangle. All the information contained in a particular registration is available on CFEC's public database. It can easily be accessed with a smart phone or computer by anyone.

Passage of SB 92 last session required that documented vessels must register with the Division of Motor Vehicles. Passage of HB 185 would exempt currently licensed commercial vessels registered with CFEC from registering with DMV. Our view is that having to register with both state agencies is redundant, unnecessary, serves no purpose or efficiency, and creates undue burden to commercial boat owners, and for those reasons, we ask for passage of HB 185.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Worhatch', with a stylized, cursive script.

Max Worhatch, Executive Director, United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters