



February 4, 2020

Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB 185 - Registration of Boats; DMV Exemption

Dear Representative Stutes and Committee Members,

The Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (ABSC) is a non-profit trade association representing the harvesters of king, snow, and tanner crab in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands region. We represent approximately 70 vessels and are actively involved in fisheries management, policy development, scientific research, and marketing. ABSC would like to express our support for HB 185 (An act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and providing for an effective date).

ABSC supports this remedy to last year's Derelict Vessel Bill (SB 92) by allowing commercial fishing vessels that are already registered with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) to be exempt from acquiring a title and registering with the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Requiring additional registration through the state DMV is redundant when vessels registered with CFEC are already entered in databases managed by the state of Alaska. Our fishermen actively work to be in compliance with state laws but found the DMV registration requirements cumbersome, time consuming, duplicative, and unnecessary. Fishermen voiced frustration in having to submit similar information to the state twice, through the CFEC and the DMV, and noted misinformation and confusion from DMV offices, long wait times, and limited open days in which to register.

Adoption of HB 185 will uphold the purpose of SB 92 which is to maintain a record of commercial fishing vessels in a state-managed database while eliminating redundancy and easing the burden to commercial fishermen of Alaska. ABSC supports HB 185.

This position is in alignment with the United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), of which ABSC is a member.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Goen
Executive Director
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers
absc.jamie@gmail.com