



# AAHPA

Alaska Association of Harbormasters & Port Administrators

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February 3, 2020

TO: Representative Louise Stutes, Chair House Fisheries Committee

RE: AAHPA Board of Directors Statement on House Bill 185

The AAHPA's primary goal on this issue is to work with the State to track the ownership of vessels using public waters, similar to our state tracking of vehicles and boat trailers on public roads. After a challenging roll-out of the new registration requirements last year, and hearing the frustrations of the commercial fleet that already has a state-level system of a similar annual vessel registration through the CFEC, the AAHPA supports efforts that continue to meet the goal of increased vessel tracking while reducing bureaucratic burden where possible. While our membership fully supported an automatic registration of vessels active in the CFEC database, the Board of Directors understand the efforts to streamline the process of tracking ownership with state departments, and logistical barriers to automatic registration. At this time, we do not oppose HB185 and will continue to offer our support and expertise to the Legislature as you consider this and other bills impacting Alaska's public waters, municipal harbors, and maritime infrastructure.