



# Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

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February 13, 2020

Representative Louise Stutes, Chair  
House Transportation Committee  
State Capitol, Room 124  
Juneau, AK 99801

## **RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 185**

Dear Representative Stutes, Chair and Committee Members

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) is a multi-gear/multi-species non-profit fishing association representing our 330+ members involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska and groundfish and halibut in the Gulf of Alaska. The vessels in our fleet range anywhere from skiffs to 59' long. The majority of the vessels are in the 36 ft to 45 ft and are documented.

Representative Stutes, we would like to thank you for introducing this legislation to exempt commercial fishing vessels that are registered with Commercial Fishing Entry Commission (CFEC) while clarifying that vessels not documented with the USCG need to be titled and registered with the State. Last year when it became known that vessels needed to be registered with the State through DMV there were a lot of problems. Many vessels were never able to be registered as they were out on the fishing grounds and not able to get to a DMV office. The DMV offices weren't sure what was happening and as a result commercial fishermen in some places had to return to the DMV office 2 & 3 times, wait times of up to 5-6 hours and some fishermen were so confused that they thought the registration took the place of their USCG documentation accidentally letting the document lapse. Even those fishermen who took advantage of the mail in option had the process take several months before receiving the registration.

The intent of SB 92 was to have vessels registered in a state database, CFEC vessel registration meets that expectation. In addition, CFEC vessel registration is required yearly and collects the owner's name, current address, the State AK numbers or USCG documentation number, vessel dimensions, construction material, type of fuel, fuel capacity, builder and year of construction. A CFEC registered vessel is very obvious by the requirements to mark the side of the vessel in 12 inch x 1 inch contrasting letters as well as the metal triangle on the port side of the vessel with an updated yearly sticker posted on it. The CFEC database is public and easily accessed by anyone.

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance supports the passage of HB 185 ver S reducing redundant registration for vessels with current CFEC licenses while still requiring undocumented vessels to be titled and registered with the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathy Hansen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen  
Executive Director