

SENATE BILL NO. 121**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA****EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION****BY SENATOR ZHAROFF****Introduced: 2/19/93**
Referred: RES, JUD**A BILL****FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to temporary transfers of commercial fisheries entry permits;
2 and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

5 (1) current law relating to the emergency transfers of limited entry permits
6 does not adequately address the concerns of commercial fishermen who are 65 years of age
7 or older and suffer from illness or disability;

8 (2) commercial fishermen 65 years of age or older who, because of illness or
9 disability, can no longer participate in physically demanding commercial fisheries should not
10 be forced to sell their permits, but instead should be allowed to transfer them to younger
11 individuals and to plan for themselves an orderly transition from active commercial fishing
12 to retirement;

13 (3) commercial fishermen 65 years of age or older, who suffer from illness or
14 disability, should be allowed to participate in the fisheries in a less strenuous manner, thereby

1 **imparting the knowledge gained from many years of experience to younger fishermen;**

2 **(4) 65 years of age is the established age of retirement in our society and the**
3 **qualifying age for a large number of programs for senior citizens;**

4 **(5) allowing limited entry permit holders who are 65 years of age or older to**
5 **transfer a permit from year-to-year will enable many young Alaskans with low incomes to**
6 **participate in commercial fishing as gear operators and give them the opportunity to acquire**
7 **the capital necessary to purchase their own limited entry permits;**

8 **(6) allowing all limited entry permit holders to transfer a permit from year-to-**
9 **year would result in speculation in fisheries entry permits by individuals who purchase permits**
10 **with the intention of living off the income generated by other individuals who actually operate**
11 **the permits; such a practice would be disruptive to the commercial fishing industry and should**
12 **not be allowed;**

13 **(7) commercial fishermen who have participated as an entry permit holder in**
14 **commercial fisheries for 10 years or more are bona fide commercial fishermen who have**
15 **invested considerable time and money in the commercial fishing industry and who have**
16 **demonstrated their commitment to commercial fishing as a livelihood and a profession.**

17 *** Sec. 2. AS 16.43.180 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:**

18 **(c) The commission shall adopt regulations providing for the temporary**
19 **transfer from year-to-year of an entry permit if the permit holder is at least 65 years**
20 **of age, has held an entry permit for at least 10 years, and is unable to participate in**
21 **the fishery due to illness or disability.**

22 *** Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).**