

Nathaniel Rose
CFEC ID: 826368
1812 Mission Rd
Kodiak, AK 99615

Darren Platt
CFEC ID: 206101
10708 Birch Cir
Kodiak, AK 99615

10/2/2023

CFEC Commissioner Glenn Haight

P.O. Box 110302
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811
907-789-6150

Subject: Request for Issuance of Limited Entry Permits for the H1DK Herring Food/Bait Purse Seine Fishery in Kodiak, Alaska

Dear Commissioner Haight:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the current monopolization of the H1DK, Herring Food/Bait Purse Seine Fishery in Kodiak, Alaska, and to formally request the issuance of limited entry permits in accordance with the provisions set forth in Alaska Statutes AS.16.43.300 and AS.16.43.330.

According to the Alaska State Constitution Article VIII section 15: "No exclusive right or special privilege of fishery shall be created or authorized in the natural waters of the State. This section does not restrict the power of the State to limit entry into any fishery for purposes of resource conservation, to prevent economic distress among fishermen and those dependent upon them for a livelihood and to promote the efficient development of aquaculture in the State."

The current H1DK permits are all registered under the same mailing address and the same vessel ADFG number despite the fact that some individuals listed as owners of those permits do not actually reside at that address, and it should be noted that for nearly two decades, a single vessel has participated in the fishery making deliveries to one of the 5 seafood processing companies in Kodiak despite a desire from other herring fishermen to participate in the fishery, and a demand from additional processors to have access to buy that bait/food herring. Additionally, since the initial issuance of permits for the food/bait and sac roe herring fisheries, the economics of the herring industry as a whole has shifted from the predominant value being in the sac roe herring fishery to the value now being in the bait herring fishery. The initial issuance of 5 total permits, which were easily

consolidated by a single entity, is now insufficient to meet the economic needs and potential productivity of this fishery.

It is imperative the CFEC address the pressing issue of exclusive right of access for the H1DK fishery in Kodiak. The current situation not only undermines the principles of fairness and access that underlie our state's fisheries management, but it also jeopardizes the economic stability and long-term health of our coastal communities. As a result of this consolidation of access, and lack of processor competition, fishermen participating in other fisheries such as the halibut, tanner crab, and pot cod fisheries are faced with paying hyper-inflated costs for bait herring, further exacerbating the economic difficulties in maintaining profitable fisheries businesses.

It should also be noted that the current biomass of herring in the Kodiak Management area is of a magnitude never seen before.

The limited entry system, as established by AS.16.43.330, was designed with the aim of preventing monopolization and ensuring a level playing field for all participants. It seeks to strike a balance between economic stability and preventing overcapitalization, while safeguarding the interests of local fishermen. By allowing one entity to exert undue control over this fishery, we risk the degradation of the herring population and the broader marine ecosystem, while also placing excess economic hardship on participants of other fisheries reliant on the bait herring product.

We are committed to adhering to the guidelines and regulations set forth by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the CFEC. We are prepared to provide any necessary documentation, demonstrate our readiness, and the readiness of our vessels to participate, and comply with all relevant regulations to demonstrate our dedication to responsible fishing practices. We understand that our request may seem unusual or extreme, but we believe that this is likely the only limited entry fishery in the state that is completely (and unconstitutionally) controlled by a single entity.

We kindly request your intervention and support in rectifying the current situation and facilitating the process for issuing additional limited entry permits for the H1DK Food/Bait Herring Fishery. It is our sincere hope that through your assistance, we can restore balance and equity to this vital fishery.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this pressing matter. We understand this letter should pass through the CFEC research section in order to validate claims of current participants in the H1DK fishery, and we look forward to the opportunity to speaking with you and hearing any concerns or answering any questions you may have.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Nate Rose: [REDACTED]

Darren Platt: [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Rose and Darren Platt