



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

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Date: 24 August 2016

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From: Commercial Fisheries Entry
Commission (CFEC)
Bruce Twomley, Chair
Benjamin Brown, Commissioner

Subject: CFEC comments related to
emergency petition by
Mr. Bill Connor

B. Twomley * *B. Brown*

Consistent with Assistant Attorney General Seth Beausang's 18 August 2016 comments on Mr. Bill Connor's emergency petition, CFEC is seriously considering whether to propose a regulation authorizing limited entry permit holders in the Southern Southeast Inside sablefish longline fishery to employ pot gear as alternative gear. CFEC statute AS 16.43.100(a)(12) authorizes CFEC to adopt such a proposal if doing so would be consistent with the purposes of the Limited Entry Act.

CFEC does not believe that any action by the Board would be required for CFEC to initiate this process.

CFEC's initial hesitation about proposing such a regulation was prompted by (1) previous advice from the Dept. of Law (addressing earlier wording of a proposal calling for combining two limited fisheries) and (2) the fact that the Board of Fisheries employed a different procedure when it adopted a similar proposal in 2005 to authorize Prince William Sound limited entry permit holders for the sablefish longline and the sablefish net gear fisheries to longline pots as alternative gear.

CFEC would welcome comments by the Board and DFG, when CFEC does propose such a regulation.