

**Petersburg Borough, Alaska
RESOLUTION #2019-16**

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION FOR VESSELS ACTIVE IN THE
ALASKA COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION (CFEC) DATABASE**

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough owns and maintains boat harbors and ports within its boundaries;
and

WHEREAS, derelict vessels are a large and growing problem in our community and other coastal communities across Alaska, resulting in increased costs to the public, environmental, and navigational hazards;
and

WHEREAS, defining ownership and holding individuals responsible for their vessels has been identified as one of the top barriers to effective management to prevent derelict vessels; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the legislature passed Senate Bill 92, the Derelict Vessel Act; and

WHEREAS, in addition to substantially re-writing and updating AS 30.30, the derelict vessel chapter of state statute, SB 92 addressed tracking vessel ownership through changes to AS 05.25; and

WHEREAS, these changes expand vessel registration requirements in Alaska effective January 1, 2019 and, similar to Washington and other states, Alaska now requires federally documented vessels to also be registered with the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska did not inform the newly regulated vessel community nor do any outreach of any kind in advance of this change; and

WHEREAS, active fishermen around the state were caught unaware, and raised the fact that their vessels are already in the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Database; and

WHEREAS, the intent of SB 92 was to better track vessel ownership in Alaska regardless of its engagement in a fishery and across the life of the vessel which is best accomplished through state registration; and

WHEREAS, vessel registration should be simple, creating minimal added burden to help effectively address the problem of identifying vessel ownership.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Petersburg Borough Assembly recommends an update to Alaska state statute directing vessels active in the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Vessel Database be automatically issued Alaska vessel registration numbers, and that the CFEC and the Division of Motor Vehicles create a system for information sharing to this end.

Passed and Approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on November 18, 2019.

ATTEST:


Danielle Aikins, Deputy Clerk


Jeigh Stanton Gregor, Vice Mayor