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PRESS RELEASE

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New CFEC Survey Seeks Feedback on Commercial Fishing Permit Transfers to Minors

March 21, 2024/Juneau, AK. The Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) which works to conserve and maintain the economic health of Alaska's commercial fisheries by limiting the number of participating fishers, announced the launch of a new survey on the topic of transfers of CFEC permit ownership to minors under the age of 16 (or under 10 years of age for set net permits).

The CFEC oversees permit transfers, including transfers to minors, and is working to refine internal procedures that guide that work. Alaska law creates a presumption that kids under the age of 16 (10 for set nets) are unable to "participate actively" -- a requirement for owning a CFEC permit. The presumption is rebuttable, and minors can request hearings where they can rebut the legal presumption by providing evidence of their ability.

The survey, which takes about eight minutes to complete, is about kids under 16 (or under ten for set net permits) receiving commercial fishing permit transfers and the factors the CFEC uses to evaluate those requests. The survey solicits advice from those with roots in Alaska's family fishing traditions, those with experience fishing commercially in the state, Alaska's youth-focused commercial fishing organizations, and others interested in the subject. Survey takers will be asked about several topics including what skills, experience, and abilities a child should have before receiving ownership of a CFEC permit.

The feedback collected from this survey will play an important role in shaping CFEC policy on the issue, together with consideration of Alaska's family fishing traditions, CFEC precedent, state and federal law, safety, and feedback from minor-focused commercial fishing organizations in Alaska. CFEC Hearing Officer Robin Loreth noted, "The CFEC welcomes feedback from the fleet and is always looking for ways to support Alaska's family fishing traditions and create quality opportunities for Alaska's fishing kids to learn the skills they'll need to become the next generation of Alaska's commercial fishermen."

A link to the survey can be found on CFEC's website at www.cfec.state.ak.us. For further information, please contact: Robin Loreth, Commercial Fisheries Permit Hearing Officer, email: dfg.cfec.adjudications@alaska.gov or visit cfec.state.ak.us