

Free-Sloan, N. 2007. "A Brief Overview of the Alaska Weathervane Scallop Fishery and the Vessel Permit Limited Entry Program." CFEC Report 07-2N.

**Abstract:**

Passage of the vessel permit system bill (CSHB206 (RLS) am S) during the 2002 legislative session authorized creation of a vessel-based limited entry program in the statewide weathervane scallop and Bering Sea hair crab fisheries. Under AS 16.43.450-520, the current vessel permit system will expire on December 30, 2008 unless statutory authority is extended. Introduced in the 25<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature in January, 2007, House Bill 16 would extend the existing vessel permit system until December 30, 2013.

This briefing report has been prepared for the Alaska Legislature to review the statewide weathervane scallop vessel entry permit program. The report provides a brief history of the fishery. The history includes development of North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Fishery Management Plan for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska, the federal vessel moratorium in the exclusive economic zone, the state vessel moratorium in Alaska waters, the federal permanent license limitation program in the exclusive economic zone and the state vessel permit limited entry program. The report also provides an analysis of vessel participation and harvest figures in both fisheries before restricted access and in the years following restricted access.