

# 2022 Annual Report



**Commercial Fisheries  
Entry Commission**



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Cover Photo Courtesy of Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute



# CFEC Overview

The Alaska seafood industry is the state's largest private sector employer, adding \$5.7 billion dollars to the Alaska economy each year.<sup>1</sup> For the last 50 years, the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC or Commission) played a vital role in developing and maintaining sustainable fisheries and fisheries businesses across the state.

As a young state in the 1960's and early 1970's, Alaska fisheries, in particular salmon, were facing an onslaught of new entrants leading to concerns of resource overexploitation and dwindling profits for long-time fisheries participants. It was widely viewed that a solution to these problems was to limit participation into the commercial fisheries. In 1972, Alaskans voted to amend the Alaska Constitution paving the way for the creation of the limited entry permit system. CFEC was authorized in 1973 to lead this charge.

As an independent and quasi-judicial agency CFEC has limited over 65 state fisheries since 1973. Over 16,000 permanent limited entry permits have been established through CFEC efforts. Extensive litigation and Supreme Court decisions that at times overturned earlier Commission actions highlighted years of permit application reviews.

Today, litigation from the Commission's previous work is settled, allowing it to collaborate with Alaskans to more finely tune the success of Alaska's fisheries. While it is likely additional "open access" fisheries will be limited in the future, a significant portion of CFEC's work revolves around annual permit and vessel license renewals, serving as Alaska's commercial fisheries economic data repository and leading researcher, upholding the state requirement that permit holders actively fish their permit, and protecting limited entry permits from non-fishing creditors.

In 2022, CFEC renewed 15,841 permanent permits, 4,037 interim-use permits for participants in the state's open access fisheries, and over 8,000 vessel licenses. CFEC is a revenue creator for the state government, routinely generating revenues in excess of \$7 million or twice its budget.

The asset value of all Alaska's limited entry permits is in excess of \$1 billion. These permits help create stable and profitably fisheries, leading to the development of a professional class of working fishermen. While the benefits of limited entry are strong and to be protected, CFEC continues to monitor and work in service of Alaska's commercial fisheries and fishermen through research, advocacy, and governance support.

<sup>1</sup> [The Economic Value of Alaska's Seafood Industry](#), McKinley Research for Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, January 2022.



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# Commissioner's Office

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The Commissioner's Office is staffed by two commissioners (one of whom is the chair), an executive director, a law specialist, and two administrative staff. The commissioners oversee policy direction in the Commission. The executive director oversees administrative functions. All staff in the Commissioner's Office assist in both policy and administrative functions as appropriate.

The Office works in support of the Commission's four sections: Adjudications, Data Processing/Information Technology, Licensing, and Research. There is significant interaction between these sections depending on the work product. Leadership from the four sections and the Commissioner's Office make up the Commission's Management Council which coordinates continued internal and external improvements.

The Commissioner's Office, again in coordination with the four sections, leads the Commission's external work with permit holders, fisheries leaders, state and federal agencies, the legislature, researchers/academia, and interested public, in a continuous effort to improve services, lower costs, and evolve the Commission's work to the benefit of the commercial fishing industry.

Five policy objectives guide the Commission. These include –

- Supporting the economic health of Alaska's commercial fisheries industry
- Advocating for increased Alaskan resident ownership in fisheries
- Providing effective service to permit holders
- Protecting individual fishing privileges
- Increasing accessibility and functionality of commercial fisheries economic information for the public and private sectors



# Commissioner's Office

## 2022 Commission Highlights

- Issued 20 Final Commission decisions on adjudicative cases which help define restrictions applicable to emergency transfer requests consistent with statutory guidelines.
- Redesigned and reinvigorated the scope of a previous Cook Inlet set gillnet optimum numbers study based on advice from staff and permit holders.
- Collaboration ongoing with affected parties on strategies to protect limited entry permits from seizures by courts. Includes tracking current cases with the participation of the Department of Law.
- Promulgated a single regulation project bringing two technical changes to Commission regulations in line with Board of Fisheries regulations passed at previous meetings.
- Worked to restore the Commission's relationship with the Alaska Board of Fisheries through Research Section assistance at Board of Fisheries meetings and partnerships on issues of shared authority.
- Finalized an interim review of a Prince William Sound commercial shrimp pot fishery request to limit the fishery. The Commission did not find a limitation warranted at this time but will continue to review the fishery.
- Revitalized a modest public relations and outreach plan directed at key organizations and agencies including the United Fishermen of Alaska, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development/Division of Investments (DCCED/DOI), Commercial Fishing and Agricultural Bank (CFAB), and legislative offices. CFEC is increasing its outreach and engagement through attendance at events including the Pacific Marine Expo, the Kodiak ComFish, and other fisheries-related economic development forums.
- Approved permit fee schedule for 2023.
- Formalized FY23-FY25 workplans for software upgrades, records retention, and internal production overhaul.
- Numerous other administrative functions including establishing two new in-house policies, transferring funds to the Department of Labor's Fishermen's Fund, revised the Commission's position on emergency transfer requests related to COVID-19, and assisting the Legislature on issues related to Alaska's fisheries.



# Licensing

The CFEC Licensing Section is staffed with six employees who are committed to serving the licensing and transfer needs of Alaska’s commercial fishing industry. Licensing staff are on the front lines at CFEC, assisting commercial fishermen who are confronted by an ever-changing array of complex issues, ranging from biological and economic variables to medical and personal emergencies. Staff members strive to make timely and accurate determinations regarding eligibility, transfers, and renewals, consistent with extensive governing fishery statutes and regulations. Licensing staff works closely with the CFEC commissioners and law specialist to ensure compliance with the Limited Entry Act. This group of six employees, with the help of other sections at CFEC, annually renews over 19,878 permits and 8,000 vessel licenses, leading to upwards of \$1.75 billion in harvest value to commercial fisherman. In addition, this section routinely collects over \$7 million in permit and license fees.

Licensing staff interact with the public daily via telephone, facsimile, email, and written correspondence. They are a source of information for commercial fishermen, answering questions about permitting and licensing regulations affecting the fishing industry. Licensing staff works closely with Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), DCCED/DOI, United States Coast Guard (USCG), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and other agencies to help track changes to the rules and regulations pertaining to Alaska fisheries that impact the issuance of Limited Entry Permits.

## 2022 Core Licensing Statistics

- ➔ 24,054 Commercial Fishing Permits
- ➔ 8,068 Vessel Licenses
- ➔ 4,037 Interim-Use Permits in Open Access Fisheries
- ➔ 907 Permanent Transfer Requests Processed
- ➔ 793 Emergency Transfer Requests Processed
- ➔ 9 Interim-Entry Permits in Limited Fisheries

For additional information, see [Appendix B](#), pages 8 – 10



# Adjudications

The CFEC Adjudications Section is staffed by one hearing officer and one paralegal. In 2022, the Adjudications Section issued a total of 13 decisions based on administrative hearings including 11 on permanent and emergency transfers, and two on miscellaneous matters, such as permit fee refund requests. Decisions issued by the hearing officer are reviewed by the commissioners, who may adopt, modify, or reverse the decisions. There are no more limited entry permit application cases pending before Adjudications or any CFEC cases pending before any court.

Adjudications staff also manages CFEC's records. This involves careful documentation of incoming harvest records and Commission cases. Additional duties including overseeing confidentiality agreements with partner agencies and reviewing requests for information.

### **Core Functions of the Adjudications Section:**

- ➔ Schedule, research, and conduct administrative hearings.
- ➔ Write decisions based on those administrative hearings on issues including emergency transfers, permanent transfers, permit fee refund requests, reinstatement of forfeited permit requests, appeals of the assessment of demerit points, and fee arrearages based on residency.
- ➔ Assess demerit points and suspend fishing privileges for convicted violators of salmon fishing laws under AS 16.43.850-895.
- ➔ Receive, record, and prepare for archiving all commercial fish tickets filed within the state.
- ➔ Maintain historic Commission records and manage active cases.
- ➔ Record and assist with record requests from the public or other government agencies.
- ➔ Classify, adjudicate, and maintain a tracking system for limited entry permit applications.
- ➔ Research legal or historical information for the commissioners or for the commercial fishing public when appropriate.

For additional information, see [Appendix C](#), pages 11-12





# Data Processing

The Data Processing (DP) Section consists of a small, highly skilled and responsive staff that must be flexible and proficient in several disciplines. This includes the installation and maintenance of network hardware, such as switches, routers, servers, printers, cabling and storage area networks. The DP Section is also responsible for the installation and maintenance of desktop hardware including personal computers, printers, embossers and other equipment. DP maintains technical support for office staff and customers. DP staff is responsible for data integrity; application development; maintenance of a wide array of software centered on CFEC's core mission; and the reliable and timely distribution of data to other agencies, fishing organizations and the general public. DP maintains local resources such as web services, network operating systems, shared storage, network topology, file services, digital security, database services, IP telephony, and performs all other DP related tasks. DP solutions at the Commission are organic, efficient, and provided in-house.

## Core Services Provided by Data Processing:

- ➔ Technology Infrastructure & Networking
- ➔ Software & Updates
- ➔ Application Development
- ➔ Security
- ➔ Oracle Database Management
- ➔ Technical Support & Service
- ➔ Legacy Application Services
- ➔ Server Virtualization
- ➔ Enhanced Desktop Utilities
- ➔ Website Design & Maintenance
- ➔ High Availability of Computer Services
- ➔ Gross Earnings Data

For additional information, see [Appendix D](#), pages 13



# Research and Planning

The Research & Planning Section provides the Commission with studies on fishery limitations, management of entry permits to optimum levels, fishery economic analyses, permit reports, and any necessary support specific to cases before the Commission. In addition, the Research Section issues many standard and specialized reports that are used by a variety of people and fishing entities to address a range of issues related to commercial fishing. The foundation for much of the work produced by the Research Section resides in several large electronic databases. Research Section and Data Processing collaborate in monitoring and maintaining the integrity of data in the Gross Earnings databases. Much of the data is in turn shared with ADF&G, NMFS, and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council through the Alaska Fisheries Information Network. This data allows CFEC and others to provide services to local, State and Federal government agencies and policymakers, the Alaska Legislature, researchers, consultants, and other nongovernmental organizations.

## Core Functions of the Research and Planning Section:

- ➔ Fishery Limitation Research and Optimum Number Analyses for Limited Entry Fisheries
- ➔ Economic Reporting
- ➔ Buyback Consultations & Implementation
- ➔ Permit Value Reports
- ➔ Gross Earnings
- ➔ Published Reports ([page 15](#))
- ➔ Data Collaboration and Integrity
- ➔ Regulatory Proposal Review and Comment
- ➔ Data Sharing with Agencies and Private Sector
- ➔ Permit Holder Surveys & Ex-Vessel Price Estimates
- ➔ Fisheries Monitoring

For additional information, see Research Supplemental [Appendix E](#), pages 14-15



# Appendix A: Agency Information

## 2022 Commission Employees

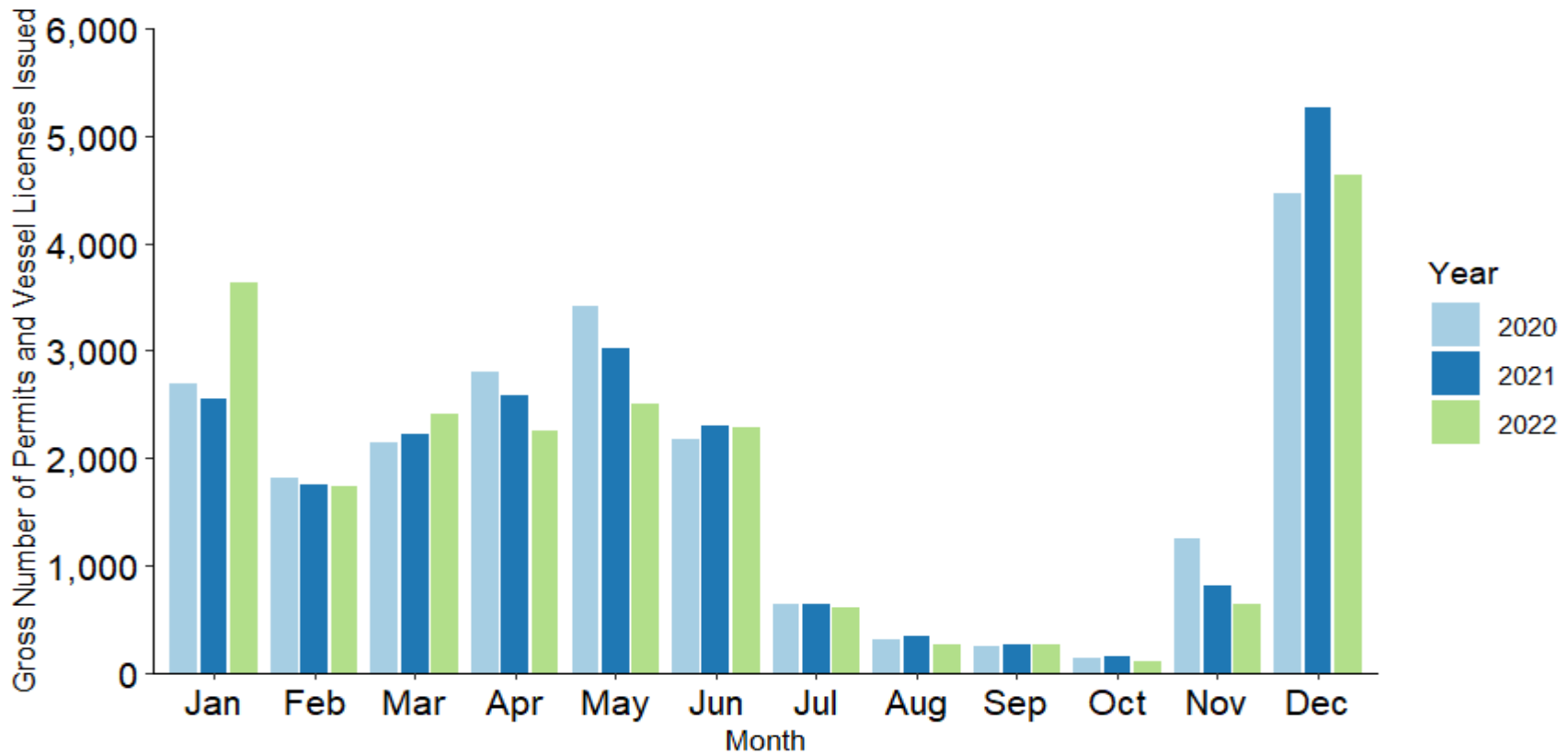
<b>Commission</b>	Glenn Haight	Commissioner, Chair	<b>Adjudications</b>	Nicole Lynch	Leader
	Melvin Smith	Commissioner, Chair*		Randy Lippert	Paralegal
	Dale Kelley	Commissioner*			
			<b>Legal</b>	Jason Kampman	Law Specialist*
<b>Administration</b>	Alysha Guthrie	Executive Director	<b>Data Processing</b>	Ty McMichael	Leader
	Fred Harmon	Commission Assistant		Brant Oliphant	Analyst Programmer
	Jon Haghayeghi	Executive Director*		Joe Kollar	Analyst Programmer
<b>Licensing</b>	Mele Maake	Leader	David Pearce	Network Specialist	
	Suzanne Rumfelt	Transfer Officer			
	Leonita Tupou	Transfer Clerk	<b>Research and Planning</b>	Brad Robbins	Leader
	Marissa Tanuvasa-Tuvaifale	Permit Clerk	Reid Johnson	Fisheries Analyst	
	Mahina Toutairolepo	Permit Clerk	Caitlin Stern	Fisheries Analyst*	
	Mariah Tanuvasa	Permit Clerk	Daniel Strong	Research Analyst*	

\* No longer with CFEC



# Appendix B: Licensing Statistics

## Permits and Vessel Licenses Processed by Month, 2020-2022





# Appendix B: Licensing Statistics

## Counts of Permits by Fee Range

Fee Range (in dollars)	2019	2020	2021	2022
Waived	1,810	2,093	2,309	1,249
\$75 to \$375	11,133	10,406	10,314	10,185
Over \$375 to \$7	4,199	3,850	3,386	3,879
Over \$750 to \$1	5	460	664	115
Over \$1,125 to	255	97	41	6
Over \$1,500 to	224	271	208	227
\$3,000 Fee Cap	423	433	362	332
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,049</b>	<b>17,610</b>	<b>17,284</b>	<b>15,993</b>

There are 40 separate categories for CFEC permit fees, ranging from \$75 to \$3,000 in increments of \$75 dollars. The table above displays the number of permits issued by category. For limited fisheries, renewal fees are calculated using the estimated permit value as of June of a given year. The final fee is calculated by multiplying the permit value by four-tenths of one percent, then rounding to the nearest fee class, with a fee cap of \$3,000. For open access fisheries or fisheries with inadequate data, fees are calculated using the most recent 3 years of gross earnings, then applying the weighted average to the same formula.

## Vessel Fee Categories

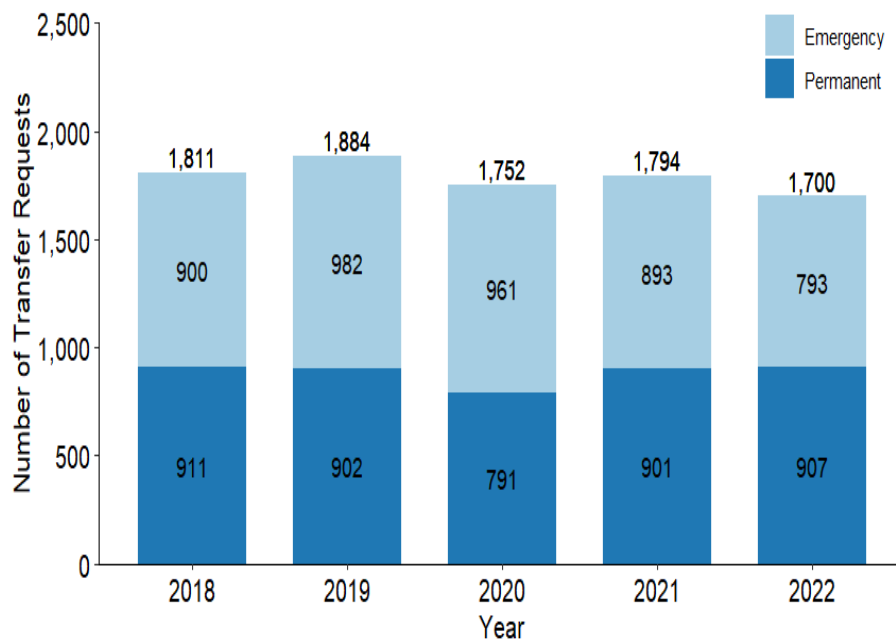
Fee Category (in vessel length)	License Fee	Number of Vessels Licensed
Vessels to 25'	\$24	2,086
Over 25' to 50'	\$60	4,796
Over 50' to 75'	\$120	783
Over 75' to 100'	\$225	205
Over 100' to 125'	\$300	158
Over 125' to 150'	\$375	53
Over 150' to 175'	\$450	37
Over 175' to 200'	\$525	18
Over 200' to 225'	\$600	4
Over 225' to 250'	\$675	3
Over 250' to 275'	\$750	13
Over 275' to 300'	\$825	6
Over 300'	\$900	10
<b>2022 Total</b>		<b>8,172</b>

There are 13 separate categories for CFEC vessel fees determined by vessel length ranging from 25 feet to 300 feet and up in increments of 25 feet. The vessel license fee is based on the United States Coast Guard definition of overall length, as stated in [46 USC 2101 28\(b\)](#).



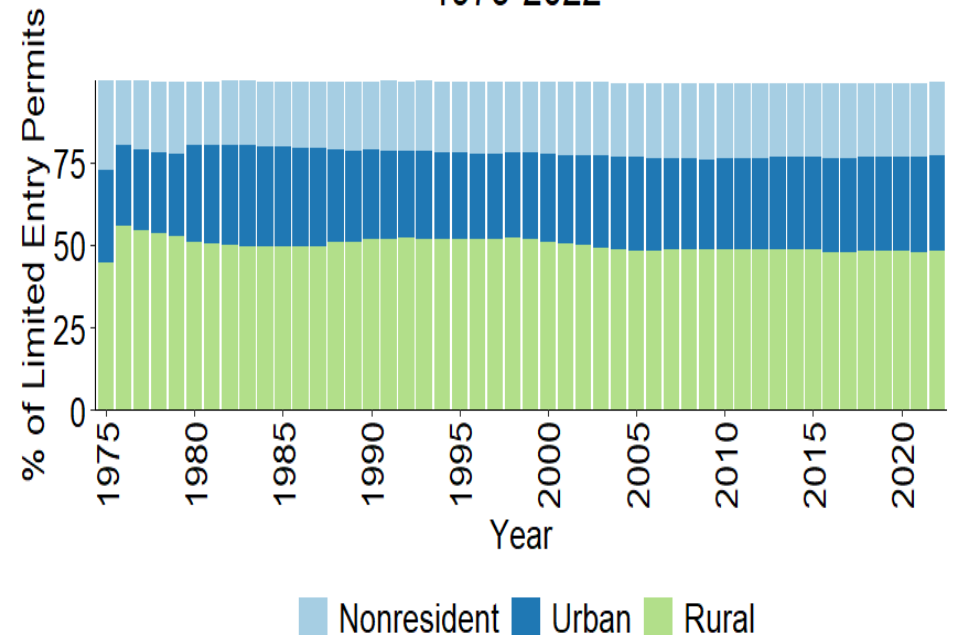
# Appendix B: Licensing Statistics

Permanent and Emergency Transfer Requests Reviewed



In 2022, Licensing staff reviewed 1,700 requests for permanent and emergency transfers of permits. This included 793 emergency and 907 permanent transfer requests.

Residency of Limited Entry Permit Holders, 1975-2022

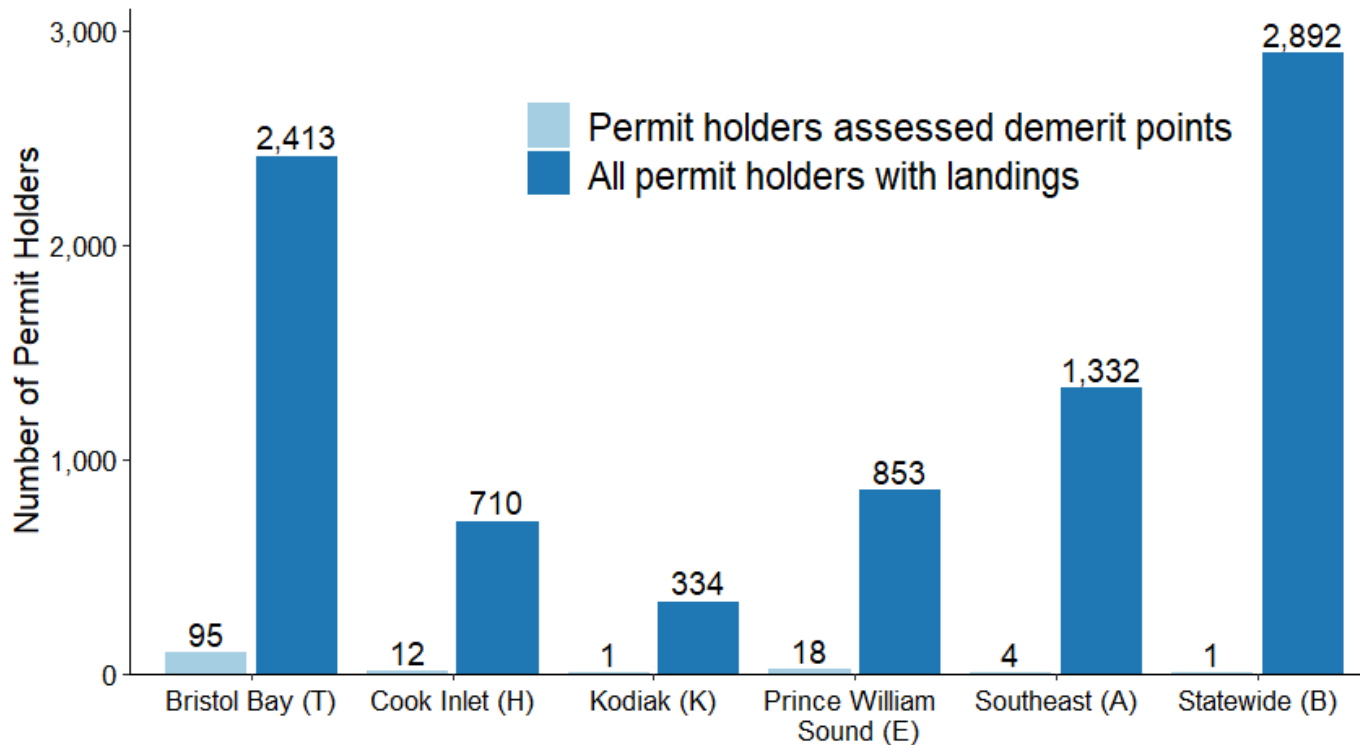


Urban and rural community designations are based on information from the 2010 U.S. Census. Many regions of Alaska have no urbanized areas. For example, every Bristol Bay region community is considered rural. In 2020, of 13,851 limited entry permits, 6,655 were held by Rural Alaskans (48%), 3,964 by Urban Alaskans (29%), 3,110 by Non-residents (22%), and 122 by Alaskans of unknown residence (1%).



# Appendix C: Adjudications Statistics

Permit Holders Assessed Demerit Points in 2022 by Area



Fishing Areas with No Demerit Points Assigned

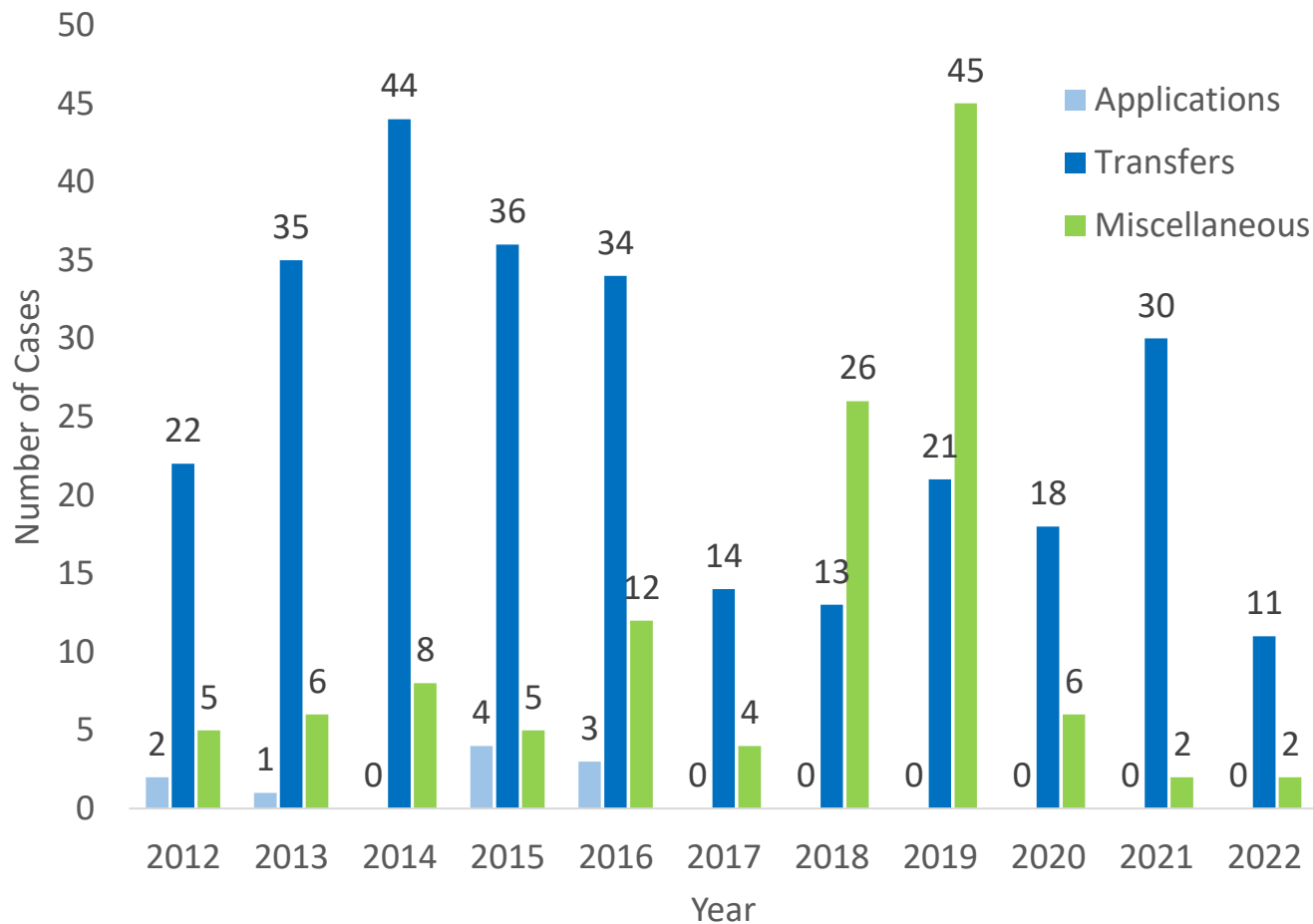
- | Area                   |
|------------------------|
| Southern Southeast (C) |
| Yakutat (D)            |
| Federal Waters (FW)    |
| Gulf of Alaska (G)     |
| Westward (J)           |
| Chignik (L)            |
| Alaska Peninsula (M)   |
| Aleutian Islands (O)   |
| Bering Sea (Q)         |
| State Waters (SW)      |
| Nunivak Island (U)     |
| Kuskokwim (W)          |
| Kotzebue (X)           |
| Yukon, Lower (Y)       |
| Norton Sound (Z)       |

In 1998, the Alaska Legislature established a demerit point system for suspending commercial salmon fishing privileges based on convictions for fishing violations in the salmon fisheries. Under this law, the Commission must suspend a salmon permit holder’s commercial fishing privileges for a period of one to three years if certain threshold levels of demerit points are accumulated in a three-year period.



# Appendix C: Adjudications Statistics

Cases Completed by Adjudications Section, 2012-2022



The Adjudications Section is made up of hearing officers and a paralegal.

As detailed in this graph, miscellaneous cases include requests for reinstatement or refunds; demerit point assessment appeals; and enforcement proceedings. Transfer cases refers to appeals of the denials of emergency and permanent transfers of permits. Application cases refers to original limited entry permit applications.





# Appendix D: Data Processing

## Data Processing Opportunities and Active Projects

### Gross Earnings Database

Gross Earnings refers to a database and reporting system created, maintained, and operated by DP staff at CFEC. The Gross Earnings Database is built by combining ADF&G fish-ticket harvest and CFEC Licensing System data to provide access to both fishery and economic data.

### Online Renewal – LEON

DP staff continues to maintain and improve the Limited Entry Online Renewal System (LEON). Online transactions account for more than 75% of the total annual renewals while providing for enhanced workflow, data collection and reporting.

### CFEC Public and Confidential Permit/Vessel Database

The popular database lookup application offers a range of permit and vessel related criteria, which results in a downloadable file or a print-page feature. It also provides CFEC's list of intent to transfer permit holders, and the ability to generate custom mailing lists and to download annual permit and vessel information.

### The Bristol Bay District Registration Application

In conjunction with ADF&G, DP staff developed and maintains the Bristol Bay District Registration platform for the district registration and transfer processes that occurs in the drift gillnet fishery in Bristol Bay. According to Board of Fisheries regulations, Bristol Bay permit holders must register which district they plan to fish and cannot fish in another district until they reregister and wait 48 hours. The application is utilized by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, ADF&G staff, seafood processors, independent agents and permit holders, and eases the burden of this uniquely regulated fishery.

### Commission Decisions

This internal application allows staff to create and maintain records based on Commission adjudicatory hearings since limited entry inception in 1975. It stores all relevant information pertaining to each case for search purposes and includes the ability for uploading final decisions and audio recordings of the actual hearing.

### Licensing Application

DP staff completed the initial re-write of its internal licensing system and entered into a testing phase. The new system will go into full production in 2023.



# Appendix E: Research Activities

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The Research Section provided the Alaska Board of Fisheries an economic report for its March Southeast and Yakutat Shellfish and Finfish meeting, and December Bristol Bay Finfish meetings. Monthly and annual permit value reports for all limited entry permits in the state were also published. These are used by the CFAB, DCCED/DOI, and fishermen and brokers of fishing permits to understand the value of limited entry permits for loan and sale purposes. The annual report of Limited Entry transfer activity was published for 2021 as well.

Research produced preliminary and final ex-vessel price and earnings estimates for all species of fish harvested in Alaska fisheries in 2021. The estimates are performed in the following year (done in 2022 for the 2021 season), due to the time lag to obtain fish ticket data and adjustments made by fish processors after the end of the season. Research's ex-vessel price and earnings estimates are essential to understanding the basic economics of Alaska's fisheries and are used in the NMFS Groundfish Observer Fee Program to calculate fees fishermen pay into that system.

## **Special Research**

Research continued to monitor basic economic conditions found in the Cook Inlet salmon set gillnet fishery including economics for those set gillnet with and without DNR shore fishery lease sites. The research section changed direction on the Cook Inlet Optimum Numbers Study to focus it on the permit holders on the East Side of Cook Inlet.



# Appendix E: Research Activities

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## Reports Published in 2022

In 2022, Research published the following broad-based informational reports intended to inform the Alaska Legislature, Alaska Board of Fisheries, ADF&G fishery managers, other agencies and regulatory bodies, and the fishing community at large. Previous year's reports are available on the CFEC web site, <https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/Publications/year.htm>.

[An Overview of the Economic Status of Alaska Limited Entry Permit Types. CFEC Report No. 22-01N](#)

[Changes in the Distribution of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries Entry Permits, 1975-2021. CFEC Report No. 22-02N](#)

[CFEC Permit Holdings and Estimates of Gross Earnings in the Bristol Bay Commercial Salmon Fisheries, 1975-2021. CFEC Report No. 22-03N](#)

[Mean and Quartile Estimated Gross Earnings \(in 2022 Dollars\) for Alaska's Limited Commercial Fisheries, 1975-2021. CFEC Report No. 22-04N](#)

[CFEC Permit Holdings and Estimates of Gross Earnings in the Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Commercial Salmon Fisheries, 1976-2021. CFEC Report No. 22-05N](#)



# Appendix F: Statutory Authorities

## Limited Entry, Optimum Levels of Permits, and Buyback Provisions

CFEC performs multiple functions that benefit the economic well-being of commercial fisheries, including monitoring the health of the 200+ open access commercial fisheries, adjudicating permit applications for limited entry permits, issuing commercial fishing permits and vessel licenses to qualified applicants, enforcing statutory requirements governing permanent and emergency permit transfers, suspending salmon fishing privileges for frequent violators of commercial fishing rules, and promulgating regulations to further the purposes of the Limited Entry Act.

To date, CFEC has limited entry for 68 fisheries (two have since been statutorily rescinded). The last limited fishery was done in 2004. While more fisheries will likely be limited in the future, the level of effort required to manage this function is much reduced. CFEC continues to receive requests to limit fisheries and conducts internal reviews, and communicates with interested permit holders.

CFEC has statutory direction to conduct optimum number studies on its limited fisheries. The Commission has done just three such studies to date. In conducting an optimum number study, the commission would determine if the number of permits in a fishery is appropriate, too few, or too many. If it was determined too few existed, CFEC would issue additional permits. If there were too many permits, the Commission would implement a buyback program to buyout the appropriate number of permits. The requirement to do optimum number studies is an important legal construct, however in practice they will be done only when a fishery is distressed, there is support among permit holders, and there may be additional benefits from the work.

CFEC may also conduct buyback programs, but none have been done to date. There are obvious challenges in implementing such a program including identifying a fishery with too many permits, determining the appropriate mechanisms for conducting the buyback (this would likely require additional statutory direction), and obtaining the resources necessary to conduct the buyback.

As required by [AS 16.43.980 \(a\)\(1\)](#)



# Appendix G: Proposed Legislation

## Business Transition Transfers

When Governor William Egan signed the Limited Entry Act in April 1973 he wrote, *“The success of limited entry will be measured in terms of a more stable and improved livelihood for fishermen and more effective management of Alaska’s fisheries.”* Since that time, limiting fisheries created stability for individual operators, and made harvesting capacity predictable for fisheries management.

Permit transferability is a key feature of limited entry, particularly as it creates wealth in the permit itself. While transferability serves as a measured and predictable way to bring new generations to the fisheries, cost of entry can be high and take years to achieve to the detriment of exiting and entering operators alike. Moreover, for some areas of the state, permits (i.e. economic activity) previously held by residents are migrating out of those areas either through sale or physical relocation. While this permit migration will always occur, there are many regions working to support in-region ownership, and the Commission has no legal mechanisms to assist in these efforts.

Governance of our fishing system is based on individuals; therefore, change to the system will be easier to adapt if it remains directed at individuals. Learning how to prosecute various fisheries notwithstanding, the cost for a young person to buy into these vital businesses can be steep and takes time. The Commission could help if it could give a buyer and seller more time to consummate a transaction. Again, many organizations are addressing the issues of skills and financing, but the Commission lacks the authority to assist in any meaningful way.

The sale of all permits must be conducted through the Commission. Currently it is a singular, one-time transaction where the Commission’s main objective is to assure that the buyer intends to actively fish. Permits can also transfer on an emergency basis, but this is only for instances of temporary hardship and these requests are heavily scrutinized. For the Commission to help individuals enter and exit Alaska’s fisheries, it needs authority to allow consecutive annual permit transfers between parties engaged in a buyer-seller relationship.

There have been recent bills, perhaps most notably SB211 in 2018, that looked to create this authority. SB211 sought to create a master-apprenticeship program that would allow for annual transfers between two parties. Another potential relationship could involve a buyer and seller contractually engaged through a transition plan. Regardless of the mechanism, it needs to be formal, contain specific elements, and have a set duration. The Commission does not have specific legislation, believing it should be developed by a broad cross section of industry and community leaders. If the Legislature wishes to entertain this concept and serve as a venue for discussion and debate, the Commission offers its resources and energy to help create this mechanism.

As Alaska’s gatekeeper to the commercial fishing industry, right now the Commission just opens and shuts the door, checking only to see if the person entering has a boat that floats. If it could develop the capacity to build a space for the exiting and entering generations to work together for a period of time, we believe it would help to normalize this transitioning process and in turn have a very positive impact on Alaska’s economy.



# Appendix H: Initiatives and Intangibles

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A number of systems within CFEC are in need of modernization and evolution.. Current staff manage existing systems with current demands, but are turning attention to resolve long-standing processes that need change.

## **External Software Platforms**

As highlighted in Appendix E: Data Processing, the Commission employes several external-facing applications that are highly valued/used. These applications are LEON, the Bristol Bay District Registration system, and the Public/Private Database Lookup. All of these utilize dated technology that while still functional are not effective with current technology like mobile devices. CFEC is seeking a budget increment to contract an external programmer to provide the core programming that can be used on all of these applications to make them more efficient.

## **Licensing and Permit Production System**

The Licensing Section produces all the permit cards and vessel licensing materials. The permit cards are effectively credit cards and are produced to be suitable for old-style credit card swipe machines because those are still in use in some fisheries. The equipment used to create these “embossed” cards is growing more antiquated and expensive to maintain. In order for the Commission to move to new technology, Alaska’s fisheries must increase its use of eLandings a system employed by federal and state managers. CFEC will continue to support this data reporting maturation while reforming its internal processes.

## **Record Management**

CFEC is the repository for all Alaska state managed fisheries catch records. There are extensive physical documents, many which date back to the early years of CFEC, that persist and create cost. CFEC is doubling its efforts in conjunction with partner agencies to move through these documents and archive those that are of importance.

## **Resource to Many**

With its nexus to holding state commercial fishing information, CFEC has evolved to become a source of comprehensive economic information for the fishing industry. This includes not only state, but federal fisheries. In partnership with fisheries management agencies, CFEC had developed platforms that assist those agencies, industry, researchers and policy makers. However, other agencies that perform vital governance functions including enforcement, child support, and taxation are in close communication with the Commission who helps them to accomplish their core missions.