

From: Sv Indefatigable <sv.indefatigable@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 5:12 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee <Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>

I strongly oppose SB 92.

As a lifetime boater, a commercial fisherman, and a resident of Craig, Alaska, I understand the potential problems with "derelict boats" and the need to address them. However, several aspects of this legislation have little to do with a remedy and much to do with added costs and inconveniences to thousands of Alaskan boaters.

Its purpose, according to proponents, is to help identify ownership of abandoned boats and to provide information on the number of boats operating on Alaskan waters. This would supposedly be accomplished through mandatory State registration of USCG federally documented boats and the issuance of titles to AK registered boats. But is it needed? And what are the consequences for boat owners?

In my opinion this bill does little to provide information on abandoned vessels. Federally documented boats already have a clear ownership history and title, obtainable via an Abstract of Title request. Additional State registration would be needless redundancy at the expense and inconvenience of thousands of Alaskan boaters.

As for providing information on the number of boats operating in Alaska - to what purpose? Is it to provide a statistic in some bureaucrat's annual report? Or could it be intended to collect information for future personal property tax? Who knows? One thing is certain - it will increase revenue for the state at the expense and inconvenience of thousands of boat owners.

The requirement for all owners of AK registered boats to obtain titles could be a benefit to some but an unwanted burden to others. Someone wanting a title from the State for their boat to make buying/selling it more straight forward might make sense. However, thousands of skiff owners will no doubt see it as nothing more than another expense and more bureaucratic red tape.

Therefore, I recommend that the bill be scrapped, or at the least altered to exclude the section requiring federally documented boats to obtain AK registration.

Additionally, the requirement for all AK registered boats to be titled should be changed to "Optional" at the request of individual boaters.

If there is public comment on SB 92, I would like to participate.

Thank You,
Sincerely,
Andy Deering - Craig, Alaska