

NOTICE OF ELECTION

For eligible Area T Bristol Bay Salmon Set Gillnet Permit Holders

TO VOTE ON: The Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association, a Regional Seafood Development Association, is conducting an election of Bristol Bay Salmon Set Gillnet Permit Holders (S04T), to approve a self-imposed 1% seafood development tax of all interim-use and limited entry Bristol Bay Set Gillnet Permit Holders within the geographic boundaries of Area T (Bristol Bay) under AS 43.76.360, for the purpose of marketing and other economic development efforts related to seafood harvested from the Bristol Bay region. The assessment would be effective June 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND: The Alaska State Legislature adopted House Bill 419 in 2004, which authorized the formation of Regional Seafood Development Associations and the assessment of a Seafood Development Tax on limited entry fishery sales.

The Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association was established with the mission of maximizing the value of the fishery for fishermen through marketing Bristol Bay seafood, investing in improvements to the fishing industry and infrastructure in the region, funding quality-improvement efforts, protecting salmon habitat, bolstering fishery management, supporting research, and a variety of other activities.

The Association held a successful election of the Bristol Bay salmon drift gillnet fleet in 2006. At least 30% of the permit holders must vote and a majority of those must vote yes for the assessment to be levied. The revenues, collected by the processors, are remitted to the State of Alaska, and then appropriated by the Legislature to the Regional Seafood Development Association.

VOTING: Ballots will be mailed on two occasions to all eligible Area T interim-use and entry Bristol Bay Salmon Set Gillnet Permit Holders. Each eligible voter may cast one (1) ballot in the election. All ballots must be mailed to the Division of Investments and postmarked by October 9, 2023. The election will close on October 19, 2023 (10 days after the post mark date) and all votes will be counted and certified by the Commissioner of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

BALLOTS: Each ballot packet will include: A) Official Ballot, B) Yellow Ballot Envelope, C) Blue Identification Certification Envelope, D) Green Postage-paid Return Envelope. To ensure that your vote is kept confidential, mark your ballot and seal it in the yellow envelope. Place the yellow envelope in the blue envelope, then seal it. On the outside of the blue envelope sign your name on the line under your printed name and CFEC permit number. Place the signed blue envelope in the green envelope and mail directly to the Division of Investments. **IMPORTANT:** follow the instructions closely, the ballot, the yellow envelope, and signed blue envelope must be included within the green return envelope to cast a valid ballot.

MULTIPLE BALLOTS: If multiple ballots are received from one permit holder, the Division of Investments will count the LAST ballot received from each permit holder. All other ballots received from the permit holder will be discarded.

BRISTOL BAY SALMON SET GILLNET FISHERMEN'S MEETING

Please join us for the public meeting via tele-conference to learn more about the election process and what the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association means for you and your catch.

DATE: Thursday, September 7, 2023
TIME: 4:30 PM AK Time
LOCATION: Teleconference
TO JOIN: 253-215-8782
Meeting ID: 845 0375 4007
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84503754007>

For more information: Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association
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