

RSDA Pre-application

Submitted by BBEDC on behalf of

The Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association

Proposed Mission Statement

The Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association (BB-RSDA) working on behalf of its member fishers will apply every means within its authority and abilities to improve conditions for commercial salmon fishers in the Bristol Bay region.

Proposed Management Structure

The proposed BB-RSDA will be guided by a board of directors consisting of permit holders of each permit group represented. An Executive Director may be hired by the Board to implement Board policy.

Board duties include establishing policy, defining priority activities, monitoring performance, maintaining fiscal integrity, budget approval and the hiring/firing of the Executive Director.

A 5 member interim board will guide activities through the election and the creation of a permanent board. A permanent board will be elected by all S03t permit holders following the election to tax themselves and form the RSDA. Volunteers to serve on an interim Board will be solicited from drift gill net permit holders and their fisher associations.

As new permit groups (E.G. S04t, etc) elect to join the RSDA, they will be represented on the BB-RSDA in proportion to that fishery's relative tax contribution to the organization.

The permanent board may hire and supervise an Executive Director to manage the day-to-day functions of the Association.

Proposed Economic Development Goals and Strategies

The interim Board will develop and approve a temporary set of goals. These goals, and related statements, will serve as the basis for permit holders to vote for or against approving the tax needed to fund the new Association.

Although the interim Board is not yet fully formed, the list of goals and strategies drafted for their consideration will include the following:

- Improve the reputation and value of seafood from the Region
- Address a wide range of strategies for improving fisher income
 - Research ways and means for increasing fisher revenues by improving quality and the market reputation for Bristol Bay seafood.
 - Research ways and means for reducing fisher costs
- Assist permit holders in learning about restructuring issues, participating in public discussions and in making informed choices when the time comes for making decisions.
- Review the current status of fishing infrastructure in the region and work to address the most serious needs.

Plan to maximize participation by eligible permit holders

Every effort will be made to assure that all S03T permit holders are fully represented on the BB-RSDA Board. Policies will be developed that eliminate any possibility of discrimination based on residence, success, ethnicity, product, customer etc. The Association must fairly represent all permit holders.

Achieving balance starts with the board. The permanent 11 member board will consist of individuals nominated and elected by permit holders. Permit holders fall into 3 different residence categories

- Watershed (32 communities)
- Alaska
- Outside

All three residence categories will be represented on the permanent board. The board must have at least 2 but no more than 4 members from each residence category. The board will make it a priority to encourage active participation by all RSDA tax payers. Mechanisms for soliciting permit holder input will include:

- Periodic newsletters presenting upcoming issues and actions of the RSDA and requesting input.
- An annual meeting
- Formation of permit holder committees and ad hoc groups to focus on specific issues

The Association Charter will expressly prohibit the adoption of any policy that unreasonably favors or discriminates against a sub-group of permit holders.

Mechanisms to Fairly Administer State Financial Assistance

Financial assistance from any source will be administered under the general policy of not favoring one interest group over another. The Association will carefully monitor the use and results of all funds (tax receipts, grants and State financial assistance) and stand fully accountable for their equitable use.

Attempts to gather support from Permit Holders

The interim board will make every effort to inform and encourage S03T permit holders to support establishing the BB-RSDA. Outreach efforts will include the following:

- Direct mailings to every permit holder explaining HB419, the regulations and describing the opportunities possible with a well-managed RSDA.
- Create a website for continuous updates and for two-way communications between the interim board and permit holders
- Participate in regional radio talk shows on the subject
- Accept the offer by MAP to assist the interim board in spreading information about the RSDA to permit holders.
- Create a power-point presentation on CD. Alert permit holders to its availability and send it to permit holders that request it.

- The interim Board will conduct 2-4 public meetings; in the Bristol Bay region, in Anchorage and possibly outside.
- Work with all fisherman groups to inform them about the potential benefits of establishing a fisher-led regional seafood development association. Ask them to support creating a RSDA and to pass the word out to their members.
- Inform all SO3T permit holders about voting procedures
- Election notices will be posted prominently within the region and printed in all appropriate trade journals (eg; AFJ, Pacific Fishing etc).

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