

Tide, Cathy. 2008. "A Unique Identifier for Commercial Crewmember License Data." CFEC Report 08-1N.

Abstract:

The licensing system utilized by Alaska Department of Fish and Game for issuing commercial crewmember licenses is practical; it enables participants in the commercial fisheries of Alaska to obtain licenses easily and across the state, including in remote locations. The licenses are issued annually, with no information linking a license holder from one year to licenses held in other years. Despite this, the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission is interested in tracking individual crew license holders through time and matching license holders to Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit information when possible. This report summarizes a process which attempts to identify license records in the commercial crewmember data that represents the same individual and which assigns a unique identification number to the individual. The advantages and disadvantages of the identification numbers developed through this process are examined. License data associated with each identification number are evaluated, which highlights some of the obstacles overcome in assigning identification numbers to commercial crewmember data.