

# STATE OF ALASKA

## COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **CFEC Adopts Optimum Number for the Bristol Bay Drift Gillnet Fishery**

October 11, 2005

The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) met in a public meeting on October 5, 2005, and adopted an optimum number range of 900 to 1,400 limited entry permits for the Bristol Bay salmon drift gillnet fishery. There are currently 1,858 entry permits in the fishery.

In October 2004, CFEC originally proposed an optimum number of 800 to 1,200 based upon recommendations from a study of the fishery by the commission's research staff. The commission conducted six public hearings and invited written and oral comments on the proposal. The public comment period ended on June 22, 2005.

The commissioners emphasized the adoption of an optimum number does not automatically initiate a buyback or other fleet reduction programs. The optimum number range adopted represents potential fleet reduction targets CFEC believes it can defend against claims the fishery would be too exclusive. The optimum number does provide a basis for discussing remedies that might be used in the fishery. CFEC is available as a resource and to be part of any discussions regarding fleet reduction for the Bristol Bay drift gillnet fishery.

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