

Independent Fishermen of Quinhagak Cooperative Press release.
June 23, 2020

The Independent Fishermen of Quinhagak have organized into a cooperative under Alaska Law with the specific purpose of rebuilding the commercial fishery in our area. IFQC (Co-op) is pleased to be working with Wildfish Marketing and has also contracted with E&E foods to purchase fish on a limited capacity and trial basis for this year. Only Quinhagak fisherman that have completed the cooperative paperwork and have been approved by the IFQC Board will be allowed to fish in W-4 and sell to the E&E Foods tender. All other fishermen not approved will be turned away from the tender.

A processing vessel will be anchored in Goodnews Bay (W-5) and accepting fish from Goodnews, Platinum, and Eek fisherman (that have completed the cooperative paperwork and have been approved by the IFQC Board) will be delivering directly to the processing vessel.

Years of work and efforts have gone into restarting the Quinhagak fishery with the support of Qanittuuq Inc, the City of Quinhagak, Native Village of Kwinhagak, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildfish Marketing, E & E Foods, Coastal Village Seafoods (recently transferred equipment to the City of Quinhagak), and the fishermen of Quinhagak none of the endeavors would have been possible. Since this is a trial year, and we are focused on producing the highest quality of fish possible. We are building trusting relationships with markets and processors so that the Co-op can grow and expand in the future. We ask that the other fishermen in the region cheer our efforts and support the Co-op's small scale operation.

We are following the COVID 19 regulations established by the State of Alaska for the fishing fleet, and those established locally by the community of Quinhagak. Those individuals coming to Quinhagak need to be tested and be in a quarantined household for two weeks or until the negative test results are received.