



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Environmental Conservation
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Food Safety & Sanitation Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

November 21, 2018

Dear Interested Person:

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 18, Chapter 34 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with seafood processing and inspection. Amendments include revisions to cite federal rules which will be adopted by reference, rather than using old language that was previously paraphrased based on federal rules.

Amendments will standardize the approach to make the standards clearer and avoid inconsistencies between the federal requirement and the written regulations. Additional changes relating to recall plans, sanitation plans, and product sampling are also proposed. Specific changes are outlined in the attached public notice document.

A copy of the proposed regulations can be accessed on the Alaska Online Public Notice System at <http://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/>, on the DEC website at <http://dec.alaska.gov/commish/regulations/index.htm>, or by contacting Lorinda Lhotka at lorinda.lhotka@alaska.gov or (907) 451-2119.

Your comments on the proposed regulation changes will be greatly appreciated. To be considered, your comments must be received by mail or e-mail at the mailing address or email address noted in the enclosed Public Notice no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2019**.

We will respond to questions that are relevant to the proposed changes if the questions are received in writing at least ten days before the end of the public comment period. If questions are submitted after that, we may, but we are not required to, respond to those questions. The questions and answers will be available on the Department of Environmental Conservation's website at <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss.aspx>. One consolidated answer may be provided for a group of questions that are similar, as appropriate.

We do not respond individually to comments on proposed regulations changes. After we have a chance to review the written comments received and then consider them in deciding what changes (if any) to make in our regulations, we will prepare a summary of the comments and our responses to them, which will be mailed to everyone who submits a timely written comment on the proposed changes and provides a return mailing address. Individual commenters will not be identified in the summary; however, the comments themselves are public records subject to public inspection.

Thank you in advance for taking time to review and comment on the proposed regulatory changes. Tips for commenting effectively on proposed regulations can be found on our website at <http://dec.alaska.gov/commish/regulations/how-to-comment-faq/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Stryker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kimberly Stryker
Program Manager

Enclosures:

- Public Notice, 18 AAC 34
- Additional Regulations Notice Information, 18 AAC 34