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Press Release

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Commercial Fishing Prohibited for Minors Under 16

JUNEAU, Alaska—School is out, summer has arrived and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is reminding employers that child labor laws exist to protect young workers in the fishing industry. Under state and federal law, minors under the age of 16 are not allowed to work on a fishing boat, unless a minor is employed by a parent who also owns and operates the boat.

“We want to get young people out working, but their safety on the job comes first,” Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said.

According to Grey Mitchell, director of the Labor Standards and Safety Division, “the last Alaska workplace fatality involving a worker under 16 years old involved commercial fishing. This tragedy could have been avoided by simply following the law.”

Additional information is available at the Alaska Wage and Hour Administration website <http://labor.state.ak.us/lss/whhome.htm> or by contacting a regional Wage and Hour office.

Regional Wage and Hour Administration Offices

- Juneau 907-465-4842
- Anchorage 907-269-4900
- Fairbanks 907-451-2886

Additional Links

[Division of Labor Standards and Safety](#)

[Under 16 Commercial fishing = NO GO ZONE](#)

[Summary of Alaska Child Labor Law](#)

[U.S. Child Labor Laws in Net Fishing](#)

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