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## Crabbers aim for recruits into Bering Sea fisheries

October 15, 2014 by Laine Welch

Fish Radio

Right of First Offer for crab quota

October 16, 2014

This is Fish Radio. I'm Laine Welch – Get the Right of First Offer for crab quota shares. I'll tell you more after this —



Bering Sea crab fisheries opened Oct. 15  
Credit:jacobimages.com

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Crabbers have devised a way to recruit young entrants into the Bering Sea fisheries. They want to get the word out, because the 'graying of the fleet' also applies to them.

*The long term future of the fishery is dependent on bringing young people in. that's not unique to crab, we are seeing all over Alaska and fisheries in the US. There just isn't that pipeline of young people coming up through the ranks, and this Right of First Offer program is one of the ways we hope to change that. 7*

Mark Gleason is director of Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers, a harvester group. It's long been a goal of managers to make sure that active participants, like captains and crews, have access to crab quota shares. In numerous workshops, the group got feedback from fishermen on road blocks to buying in. That resulted in the Right of First Offer program –

*Basically what that does is it carves out at a minimum ten percent of that transaction and that is then offered on a right of first offer basis to active captains and crew. So one, there is prior notification when quota becomes available, it takes large blocks and chops it up into smaller chunks, and it increases transparency. 5*

Brokers take over with all quota transactions. Gleason calls it a more affordable way to get ownership in the crab fisheries, without the need to buy or build a big boat.

*And now with quota based management, and the opportunity to buy smaller chunks of quota, a guy can get in with relatively little amounts of money. Buy quota, bring that to the boat, use that to build his assets over time – that's a new pathway into ownership in this fishery that never existed before. 10*

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers has launched a registration website at [www.crabqs.com](http://www.crabqs.com). See the full page ad in Pacific Fishing Magazine and find links at [www.alaskafishradio.com](http://www.alaskafishradio.com).

*Fish Radio is also brought to you by Ocean Beauty Seafoods, serving Alaska's fishing communities since 1910. On the web at [www.oceanbeauty.com](http://www.oceanbeauty.com) – In Kodiak, I'm Laine Welch.*

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### What We Do

Alaska Fish Radio aims to make all people aware of the economic and social importance of Alaska's seafood industry.

Alaska Fish Radio also aims to inspire more Alaskans to join the seafood industry as fishermen, processors, scientists and managers.

Alaska Fish Radio airs weekdays on 30 radio stations plus websites.

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## Alaska Fish Radio

We tell good fish stories!



### Who We Are

#### Laine Welch

Laine Welch has covered the Alaska fish beat for print and radio since 1988. She also has worked at retail & wholesale seafood companies in Kodiak and Cape Cod, MA. Laine's weekly Fish Factor column appears in 20 newspapers and websites, including in the UK. Laine launched Fish Radio as an independent production in 2003; the daily program now airs on 30 Alaska radio stations, plus websites.

#### Stephanie Mangini

Stephanie Mangini brings the artistic flair to Alaska Fish Radio and other outputs. She also brings the voices of Alaska's fishing communities to the airwaves. Stephanie has fished commercially in Alaska and her father, husband and four brothers are professional fishermen. Stephanie joined Fish Radio two years ago.

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