AN ACT

Relating to short-term commercial fishing crewmember licenses; and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1
AN ACT

Relating to short-term commercial fishing crewmember licenses; and providing for an effective date.

* Section 1. AS 16.05.480(g) is amended to read:

(g) a resident engaged in commercial fishing who is 11 years of age or older and who does not hold an entry permit or an interim-use permit shall pay an annual fee of $60 for an annual crewmember fishing license. A resident engaged in commercial fishing who is less than 11 years of age and who does not hold an entry permit or an interim-use permit shall pay an annual fee of $5.

* Sec. 2. AS 16.05.480(h) is amended to read:

(h) a resident engaged in commercial fishing who is 11 years of age or older and who does not hold an entry permit or an interim-use permit shall pay an annual fee of $60 for an annual crewmember fishing license.
CALENDAR YEAR 2002 AND FOLLOWING YEARS, A nonresident engaged in commercial fishing who is 11 years of age or older and who does not hold an entry permit or an interim-use permit shall pay an annual base fee of $60 for an annual crewmember fishing license, plus an amount, established by the department by regulation, that is as close as is practicable to the maximum allowed by law. A nonresident engaged in commercial fishing who is less than 11 years of age and who does not hold an entry permit or an interim-use permit shall pay an annual base fee of $5 plus an amount, established by the department by regulation, that is as close as is practicable to the maximum allowed by law.

* Sec. 3. AS 16.05.480 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(j) Notwithstanding (g) and (h) of this section, a resident or nonresident engaged in commercial fishing who does not hold an entry permit or an interim-use permit may obtain a seven-day crewmember fishing license under this subsection. During the period for which the license is valid, a person who holds a seven-day crewmember fishing license may not engage in fishing with a rod and reel while present on a commercial fishing vessel. The fee for a seven-day crewmember fishing license is $30.

* Sec. 4. AS 16.10.310(a) is amended to read:

(a) The department may

(1) make loans

(A) to individual commercial fishermen who have been state residents for a continuous period of two years immediately preceding the date of application for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370, who have had an annual [A] crewmember or commercial fishing license under AS 16.05.480 or a permit under AS 16.43 for the year immediately preceding the date of application and any other two of the past five years, and who actively participated in the fishery during those periods

(i) for the purchase of entry permits; or

(ii) to upgrade existing vessels and gear for the purpose
of improving the quality of Alaska seafood products;

(B) to an individual for the repair, restoration, or upgrading of existing vessels and gear, for the purchase of entry permits and gear, and for the construction and purchase of vessels, if the individual has been a state resident for a continuous period of two years immediately preceding the date of application for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370, and either

(i) because of lack of training or lack of employment opportunities in the area of residence, does not have occupational opportunities available other than commercial fishing; or

(ii) is economically dependent on commercial fishing for a livelihood and for whom commercial fishing has been a traditional way of life in Alaska;

(C) for the purchase of quota shares for fisheries in or off the state by individual commercial fishermen who

(i) have been state residents for a continuous period of two years immediately preceding the date of application for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370;

(ii) for any two of the past five years, possessed an annual [A] crewmember or commercial fishing license under AS 16.05.480 or a permit under AS 16.43 and actively participated in a fishery for which the license or permit was issued;

(iii) qualify as transferees for quota shares under applicable law; and

(iv) are not eligible for financing from other recognized commercial lending institutions to purchase quota shares;

(D) to an individual commercial fisherman to satisfy past due federal tax obligations, if the fisherman has been a state resident for a continuous period of two years immediately preceding the date of application for the loan, has filed past and current federal tax returns with the federal government, has executed an agreement with the federal government for repayment of past due federal tax obligations, and either
(i) has had **an annual** [A] crewmember or commercial fishing license under AS 16.05.480 or a permit under AS 16.43 for the year immediately preceding the date of application and any other two of the past five years, and has actively participated in the fishery during those periods;

(ii) because of lack of training or lack of employment opportunities in the area of residence, does not have occupational opportunities available other than commercial fishing; or

(iii) is economically dependent on commercial fishing for a livelihood and for whom commercial fishing has been a traditional way of life in Alaska;

(E) for the purchase of fishing quota shares by a community quota entity eligible under federal statute or regulation to purchase the fishing quota shares if the community quota entity is not eligible or qualified for financing from other recognized commercial lending institutions to purchase the fishing quota shares;

(2) designate agents and delegate its powers to them as necessary;

(3) adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370, including regulations to establish reasonable fees for services provided;

(4) establish amortization plans for repayment of loans, which may include extensions for poor fishing seasons or for adverse market conditions for Alaska products;

(5) enter into agreements with private lending institutions, other state agencies, or agencies of the federal government to carry out the purposes of AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370;

(6) enter into agreements with other agencies or organizations to create an outreach program to make loans under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370 in rural areas of the state;

(7) allow an assumption of a loan if

(A) the applicant has been a state resident for a continuous
period of two years immediately preceding the date of the request for an assumption; and

(B) approval of the assumption would be consistent with the purposes of AS 16.10.300; an applicant for a loan assumption may not be disqualified because the applicant does not meet the loan eligibility requirements of (1) of this subsection;

(8) prequalify loan applicants for a limited entry permit loan or a quota shares loan and charge a fee not to exceed $200 for prequalification;

(9) charge and collect the fees established under this subsection;

(10) refinance a debt obligation incurred by a borrower or borrowers under this section if the borrower or borrowers otherwise qualify for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370;

(11) refinance debt obligations, not to exceed $300,000, incurred by a borrower or borrowers for the purchase of a commercial fishing vessel or gear if the borrower or borrowers otherwise qualify for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370; the department may collect a refinancing loan origination charge as provided by regulation.

* Sec. 5. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TEMPORARY SURCHARGE ON ISSUANCE OF SHORT-TERM COMMERCIAL FISHING CREWMEMBER LICENSES. The Department of Fish and Game may collect an additional administrative fee of $3 for each seven-day crewmember fishing license issued under AS 16.05.480(j), added by sec. 3 of this Act, through December 31, 2005.

* Sec. 6. This Act takes effect July 1, 2005.