

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR PETER A. MICCICHE

Sponsor Statement

DISTRICTS

Anchor Point

Clam Gulch

Cohoe

Diamond Ridge

Fox River

Fritz Creek

Funny River

Halibut Cove

Happy Valley

Homer

Kachemak City

Kachemak Selo

Kalifornsky

Kasilof

Kenai

Nikolaevsk

Ninilchik

Razdolna

Ridgeway

Seldovia

Soldotna

Voznesenka

CS SB 71(FIN) "An Act relating to the fishery resource landing tax."

SB 71 is a bill important to commercial fishing families throughout Alaska. It has been introduced to repair glitches in the landing resource tax statutes and regulations that require the payment of unfair penalties and interest by well-intentioned commercial fishermen.

Currently the resource landing tax is due before April 1st, however, the statewide average fish price report, which is calculated by the Department of Fish and Game, is not always out by then. This bill aligns the due date of the tax with the date that the report is released eliminating confusion, frustration and wasted time that could best be spent increasing revenue by harvesting and processing fish... what fishermen do best.

The current statute also includes provisions for equal quarterly payments. Many Alaska fishermen and fisheries only operate in one of the four quarters. With the seasonal nature of many fisheries and the variability in harvest, it is virtually impossible for resource landing taxpayers to accurately predict their full year's harvest for equal payments. With the passage of this legislation, fishermen can choose from three different methods that more accurately align with their fishery to make their estimated payments.

I urge your support of this legislation, designed to bring efficiencies that will better serve Alaska's fishing families, as well as the Department of Revenue.