

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate State Affairs Committee

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Resources Committee  
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Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Administration  
Department of Public Safety



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## Sponsor Statement

### Senate Bill 42

By Senator Bill Stoltze

## “The Alaskans-First Fishing Act”

*"An Act providing priority to personal use fisheries when fishing restrictions are implemented to achieve a management goal."*

Ensuring that residents have access to Alaska’s fisheries resources is vitally important as we continue to grow as a state. The number of Alaskans seeking to access our commonly owned fishery resources are continually increasing. However, one thing all Alaskans can agree on is that we should have a priority over people coming from elsewhere in the country and the world to utilize and harvest our fisheries resources. Fisheries that are restricted to residents only are meant to enable Alaskans to access their fisheries resources for their personal use and consumption.

Currently, there are several personal use fisheries throughout the state. Excluding the priority that is already contained within statute for subsistence, SB 42 directs the Board of Fisheries to place restrictions on sport and commercial fisheries before putting restrictions on personal use fisheries when the harvest of a stock or species is limited to achieve an escapement goal. Food security has been identified by Alaskans, and by Governor Walker as a critical issue.

I ask for your consideration and support of SB 42 so Alaskans can be assured that they will continue to have access to their fisheries resources to the benefit of themselves and their families.