



REPRESENTATIVE CATHY TILTON  
REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUÑOZ

## SPONSOR STATEMENT HOUSE BILL 41

**"An Act relating to sport fishing services, sport fishing operators, and sport fishing guides;  
and providing for an effective date."**

The sport fishing guide and operator licenses were originally adopted by the legislature in 2004 and implemented by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for the 2005 fishing season. These licenses have proven useful and valuable both to sport fishing businesses and the recreational anglers they serve. The guide and operator licenses help mitigate unmanaged growth of the charter fishing sector while ensuring a basic level of professional certification for individuals who serve the guided recreational fishing public.

HB 41 re-establishes the sport fishing guide and operator licenses which sunsetted on December 31, 2014. In re-establishing this licensing program for recreational fishing guides, it also amends the previously existing fee structure to double licensing fees necessary to ensure the program is budget neutral.

The 2014 sunset was not an intentional policy decision by the 28<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature, but rather an unintentional oversight arising from a failure to act on a piece of legislation that contained the re-authorization language.

It is the intent of the sponsors to re-establish these licenses that have benefitted the guided sport fishing industry and the general public.

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