



# Representative Harriet Drummond

---

## Sponsor Statement

### HB 291

In 2004 the Alaska Legislature approved reciprocal pricing for sport fishing licenses and King salmon stamps. Alaskans are able to buy Yukon sport fishing licenses at Yukon resident rates, and Yukoners can buy Alaska sports fish licenses and King Salmon stamps at the Alaska resident rate. By doing this, Alaska is foregoing tens of thousands of dollars in potential revenue. This may have made sense as a neighborly gesture when oil prices were high, but in our new financial reality it is a program that should be ended. HB 291 will eliminate the Alaska/ Yukon reciprocal pricing scheme.

Any revenue source however finite should be, and must be pursued in order to close the fiscal gap, and set our state on healthier fiscal footing. By eliminating the Alaska resident rate for Yukoners, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is likely to bring the state an additional \$50,000 each year.

Alaska has the greatest sports fishing in the world. People from all over the United States, and from around the world flock to Alaska to take advantage of our pristine, exceptional, and abundant resources. Our fisheries speak for themselves. Alaska is one of the only places in the world, where you are able to catch a trout, a halibut, a black cod, and a king salmon all in the same day. The State of Alaska does not need to provide additional incentives to attract visitors to take advantage of our sports fish bounty.

The benefit to Alaskans is clear, more money in state coffers for critical sports fish related research, habitat restoration, and administration, while still providing ample opportunities for our neighbors in the Yukon to take advantage of Alaska's shores, rivers and streams.