

# REPRESENTATIVE DAN ORTIZ

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**Sponsor Statement**

**House Bill 354**

**An Act Relating to Dive Fishery Management Assessment Procedures**

This bill streamlines the process in which the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) can amend an assessment. SARDFA is a nonprofit association that represents all dive fishery permit holders in the Southeast commercial fishing region. SARDFA is the only dive fishery association in the state regulated under AS 43.76.150-210. Current statutes require a majority of permit holders to participate in the election to modify an assessment. Due to the Southeast Alaska dive fishery becoming a limited entry fishery in the 1990's, many of the permits are nontransferable and are no longer actively being fished. The proposed legislation allows for a change in assessment to be initiated by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote from the dive fishery association Board of Directors and pass with a majority vote of permit holders participating in the election.