

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2020 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SB 159
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(S) Publish Date:	1/22/2020

Identifier: LL2019-200192-2-DFG-DSF-1-14-20
Title: SALT WATER FISHING: OPERATORS/GUIDES
Sponsor: RLS BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR
Requester: GOVERNOR

Department: Department of Fish and Game
Appropriation: Sport Fisheries
Allocation: Sport Fisheries
OMB Component Number: 3177

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2021 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2021 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2021	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Personal Services	356.5		356.5	356.5	356.5	356.5	356.5
Travel	1.9		1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Services	38.1		38.1	38.1	38.1	38.1	38.1
Commodities	3.5		3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	400.0	0.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1024 Fish/Game (Other)	400.0		400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0
Total	400.0	0.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

1024 Fish/Game (Other)	400.0		400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0
Total	400.0	0.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2020) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2021) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? 0
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 01/01/21

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Rachel Hanke, Legislative Liaison
Division: Office of the Commissioner
Approved By: Dayna Mackey, Director of Administrative Services
Agency: Office of Management and Budget

Phone: (907)465-6137
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Date: 01/14/20

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**Analysis**

This legislation reinstates the licensing and logbook program for salt water sport fishing guides and salt water sport fishing services operators, which was in place until December 31, 2018 when the licensing provisions sunsetted. The primary reason the previous bill sunsetted centered on concerns with the fresh water guide licensing and logbook aspects of the program. This portion of the program was rescinded and is not part of this bill.

The Department of Fish and Game is federally required to issue logbooks for recording harvest and effort data to meet Pacific Salmon Treaty and International Halibut Act obligations as well as several regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. However, the mandate is unfunded. Guided salt water sport fisheries are critically important in terms of providing fishing opportunity as well economic return. This bill will provide funding for the issuance and reporting of salt water logbooks by restoring the licensing fees that sunsetted in 2018.

Once the division receives logbook information (in paper or electronic) it will assimilate all of the returned information and use it to manage fisheries inseason to meet state and federal management obligations. The data will also be incorporated into appropriate databases and reported on annually. Based on prior year information, the division estimates that there will be over 800 salt water sport fishing guides and approximately 600 salt water sport fishing businesses.

Under the program, the Division of Sport Fish will register all vessels used in guided sport fishing trips in salt waters at no cost to the applicant. The division will also issue identifying decals for those vessels at no cost to the applicant. Further, the division will license all salt water sport fishing operators and salt water sport fishing guides.

Operating Expenditures:

The total estimated cost of continuing to support the salt water vessel registration and logbook program is \$400,000. This does not include increasing costs in personnel or services, however, the division is attempting to mitigate these increases by encouraging guides to use a new electronic logbook system.

Personal services costs are related to staff time processing registrations and conducting data entry for existing staff. A small amount of travel is necessary for program staff to travel to guide meetings and explain annual modifications to logbooks and any changes in regulations. Services costs are necessary for the printing of vessel decals and logbooks. Commodities are for postage and mailing logbooks and decals as part of the program as necessary.

Revenue generated under the proposed fee structure:

The licensing fee structure portion of this legislation would begin January 1, 2021 at \$200 for salt water fishing guides, and \$400 for salt water fishing operators or combined salt water sport fishing operator and guide. The division projects fees to generate approximately \$400,000 annual revenue depending on activity.