

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Louise Stutes Speaker of the House

House Bill 64 - Version B Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to regional fisheries development associations; and related to developing fishery management assessments”

This legislation would encourage growth in commercial fisheries by allowing stakeholders in a developing fishery to form a regional fishery development association, establish a landing tax by a vote of the fishery’s participants, and utilize the revenue through the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to conduct surveys specific to that fishery; under current law, this mechanism is only available to dive fisheries.

As with other state agencies, declining state funding has lessened ADF&G’s ability to manage established fisheries, leaving little room to fund experimental fisheries, such those authorized under a Commissioner’s permit.

Fisheries cannot be prosecuted or expand without adequate assessments on the resource; it is the basic tenant of sustainable management. This legislation would facilitate new fisheries that would otherwise not occur, allow those fisheries to grow, alleviate pressure on ADF&G’s budget, and generate revenue for the state.

Staff for this legislation is Sara Perman. Please feel free to contact her at 907-465-2487 or sara.perman@akleg.gov with any questions.

Distributed by the Office of
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3/24/2021