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## SESSION

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## SECTIONAL ANALYSIS / HB 304 Ver. A (34-LS1375\I)

*"An Act relating to the duties of the commissioner of fish and game; establishing the sport fishing angler access account; establishing the sport fishing angler access surcharge; and providing for an effective date."*

**Section 1** adds uncodified legislative intent directing that the biennial report required under AS 16.05.050(c) be modeled after the Department of Fish and Game publication *Economic Impacts and Contributions of Sportfishing in Alaska, 2007*.

**Section 2** amends AS 16.05.050 by adding a new subsection (c) requiring the commissioner of fish and game to produce and disseminate a biennial public report on the economic impacts of sport fishing in Alaska.

**Section 3** amends AS 16.05.130 by creating the sport fishing angler access account within the fish and game fund. Revenue from the sport fishing angler access surcharge will be deposited into this account and function as program receipts, remaining subject to legislative appropriation to support production and dissemination of the biennial report.

**Section 4** amends AS 16.05.340(i) regarding Yukon reciprocity. If Alaska residents receive comparable resident privileges in Yukon, Yukon residents may purchase Alaska licenses and king salmon tags at resident rates and would pay the same total fee, including the \$1 surcharge while in effect.

**Section 5** makes a delayed conforming amendment to AS 16.05.340(i), effective January 1, 2032, to remove reference to the surcharge following its repeal.

**Section 6** amends AS 16.05.340 by adding a new subsection establishing a \$1 sport fishing angler access surcharge in addition to existing license fees. The surcharge applies to each sport fishing license issued, with exemptions for \$5 resident license holders and individuals eligible for a free license. The surcharge must be clearly disclosed, and the commissioner may establish the effective date by regulation.

**Section 7** repeals AS 16.05.050(c), AS 16.05.130(i), and AS 16.05.340(l) on January 1, 2032, sunseting the report requirement, account, and surcharge.

**Section 8** authorizes the commissioner to adopt regulations necessary to implement the Act.

**Section 9** provides an immediate effective date for Section 8.

**Section 10** provides that Sections 5 and 7 take effect January 1, 2032.

**Section 11** establishes a general effective date of January 1, 2027.