

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 161  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: SB161-DFG-DCF-02-28-26  
Title: PROHIBIT BOTTOM TRAWLING  
Sponsor: CRONK  
Requester: (S)Resources

Department: Department of Fish and Game  
Appropriation: Commercial Fisheries  
Allocation: Statewide Fisheries Management  
OMB Component Number: 2171

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2027 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2027 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>	<b>FY 2030</b>	<b>FY 2031</b>	<b>FY 2032</b>
Personal Services	709.1						
Travel	31.0						
Services	1,370.0						
Commodities	240.0						
Capital Outlay	1,500.0						
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>3,850.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	3,850.1						
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,850.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary	5.0						

**Change in Revenues**

1005 GF/Prgm (DGF)				(7.5)	(7.5)	(7.5)	(7.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(7.5)</b>	<b>(7.5)</b>	<b>(7.5)</b>	<b>(7.5)</b>

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2026) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2027) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*

**Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account?** No  
*(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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 01/01/29

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:**

Updated from SLA2025 to SLA2026 template.

NOTE: This fiscal note assumes the effective date will be amended during the legislative process to January 1, 2029, with the date the report is due amended to January 1, 2028, delaying implementation by one year.

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Division: Division of Administrative Services	Date: 02/28/2026 11:00 AM
Approved By: Bonnie Jensen, Administrative Services Director	Date: 02/28/26
Agency: Department of Fish and Game	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB161

Analysis

NOTE: This fiscal note assumes the effective date will be amended during the legislative process to January 1, 2029, with the date the report is due amended to January 1, 2028, delaying implementation by one year.

This legislation prohibits use of trawl and dredge fishing gear that makes substantial bottom contact with the seafloor in state waters, meaning the gear would be prohibited in any state-managed fishery effective January 1, 2029, and would result in fisheries closures. The bill does not define “substantial contact” and directs the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to make that determination. Fisheries closures would be implemented administratively in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, requiring adoption of regulation changes. The bill also requires ADF&G to conduct a comprehensive study on the health of seafloor ecosystems and fish habitat in state waters and submit a report on the results of the study to the Legislature by January 1, 2028.

One method for this type of research is to use a Camsled, which is an aluminum superstructure with cameras that is towed across the seafloor. A Camsled would need to be designed and built from scratch for this study. Additional staff would be needed to operate the Camsled and process and analyze video data that is collected. ADF&G cost estimates include four 20-day surveys (one in Southeast, one in Central, and two in Westward) to approximate sufficient spatial coverage for state-managed fisheries that use trawl or dredge gear. Additionally, there will be costs in staff time for designing the survey, participating in the surveys, analyzing data, and writing a report. This includes three temporary full-time Fishery Biologists, one temporary part-time Analyst/Programmer, and one temporary part-time Biometrician. Current staff are fully allocated with other duties and are not be able to take on the increased workload.

There are aspects of designing the study that would be challenging to provide some information required under the bill, and the study could not be completed within the timeframe provided. For purposes of this fiscal note, research work is anticipated to cross at least one and a half fiscal years, and the funding would be needed as a two-year appropriation FY2027-FY2028. The costs to ADF&G related to this study and potential loss of commercial crewmember license fee revenue are outlined below.

**Personal Services Total: \$709.1**

- One temporary full-time (12 months) Fisheries Biologist 3, Kodiak - \$200.0
- One temporary full-time (12 months) Fisheries Biologist 2, Kodiak - \$175.1
- One temporary full-time (12 months) Fisheries Biologist 1, Kodiak - \$133.7
- One temporary part-time (6 months) Analyst/Programmer, Kodiak - \$101.5
- One Temporary part-time (6 months) Biometrician 2, Kodiak - \$98.8

**Travel Total: \$31.0**

- Southeast surveys - \$7.5
- Central surveys - \$14.8
- Westward surveys - \$8.7

**Services Total: \$1,370.0**

- Vessel Contracts: Westward Region - \$640.0
- Vessel Contracts: Southeast Region - \$320.0
- Vessel Contracts: Central Region - \$320.0
- Mobilization/Demobilization for all vessels - \$90.0

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**Commodities Total: \$240.0**

Field supplies - \$14.0  
Camsled maintenance - \$10.0  
Fuel for vessels - \$216.0

**Capital Outlay Total: \$1,500.0**

Camsled design and build - \$1,500.0

**Changes in Revenue: (\$7.5)**

Starting in FY2029, reduction of approximately 50 commercial crew licenses as a result of fisheries closures - (\$7.5)