

SENATE BILL NO. 158 am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS BJORKMAN, Dunbar

Amended: 3/20/26

Introduced: 4/7/25

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to administrative areas for regulation of certain commercial set net**
2 **entry permits; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The Alaska State Legislature finds that it is in the public
7 interest to establish a new administrative area on the east side of Cook Inlet.

8 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.43.200 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

9 (c) Notwithstanding (a) and (b) of this section, for the purposes of issuing
10 entry permits and controlling entry into the commercial set net fishery on the east side
11 of Cook Inlet, the commission shall establish the area administered on December 31,
12 2024, identified by the Department of Fish and Game as of January 1, 2024, as
13 statistical areas 244-21, 244-22, 244-31, 244-32, 244-41, and 244-42 of the Upper
14 Subdistrict of the Cook Inlet Central District as a distinct administrative area separate

1 from the Cook Inlet administrative area.

2 (d) An entry permit that entitled a person to set net commercially in the area
3 that was administered on December 31, 2024, by the commission as the Cook Inlet
4 administrative area does not entitle that person to set net commercially in the
5 administrative area established under (c) of this section unless the commission
6 reassigns the permit to that administrative area.

7 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
8 read:

9 **TRANSITION: REASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN COOK INLET AREA SET NET**
10 **ENTRY PERMITS.** (a) On January 1, 2027, an individual holding an entry permit that entitles
11 the individual to commercially set net in the Cook Inlet administrative area may have the
12 individual's entry permit renewed as an entry permit for the Cook Inlet set net administrative
13 area under AS 16.43.150(c), consistent with the boundaries of that administrative area
14 established under AS 16.43.200, as amended by sec. 2 of this Act, unless the individual
15 provides proof satisfactory to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission of the
16 individual's participation or, if the individual acquired the individual's entry permit from an
17 immediate family member, of the immediate family member's participation in the fishery in
18 the areas identified by the Department of Fish and Game as of January 1, 2024, as statistical
19 areas 244-21, 244-22, 244-31, 244-32, 244-41, and 244-42 of the Upper Subdistrict of the
20 Cook Inlet Central District within the five years preceding December 31, 2024. Proof
21 satisfactory of participation under this subsection may include a shore fisheries lease, an area
22 registration, a buoy tag, or previous submission of fishing statistics for the area.

23 (b) An individual who provides proof satisfactory to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries
24 Entry Commission of the individual's participation in the fishery in the areas identified by the
25 Department of Fish and Game as of January 1, 2024, as statistical areas 244-21, 244-22, 244-
26 31, 244-32, 244-41, and 244-42 of the Upper Subdistrict of the Cook Inlet Central District
27 under (a) of this section shall be reassigned an entry permit on January 1, 2027, for the new
28 administrative area established under AS 16.43.200(c), enacted by sec. 2 of this Act.

29 (c) In this section, "immediate family member" means

30 (1) the spouse of an individual;

31 (2) another individual cohabiting with an individual in a conjugal relationship

1 that is not a legal marriage;

2 (3) a child, including a stepchild or an adopted child, of an individual;

3 (4) a parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, or uncle of an individual; and

4 (5) a parent or sibling of an individual's spouse.

5 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
6 read:

7 TRANSITION: APPEAL OF COMMISSION DECISION NOT TO ASSIGN AN
8 APPLICANT'S PERMIT TO NEW ADMINISTRATIVE AREA. (a) An individual may
9 appeal a decision by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission to renew the entry
10 permit held by the individual that allows the individual to commercially fish in the Cook Inlet
11 administrative area, as the area's boundaries are amended by AS 16.43.200(c), enacted by sec.
12 2 of this Act, instead of issuing the individual an entry permit for the administrative area
13 established by AS 16.43.200(c), enacted by sec. 2 of this Act. An appeal under this section
14 must be made to the superior court on or before March 1, 2027.

15 (b) The commission shall provide an individual who is appealing a decision of the
16 commission under this section a provisional entry permit for the administrative area
17 established by AS 16.43.200(c), enacted by sec. 2 of this Act.

18 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.