



**HB 356 Sectional Analysis ver I, 3.26.26**

**HB 356** *"An Act relating to health and sanitary requirements and certain permits for commercial fishing vessels; and providing for an effective date."*

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

**SHORT TITLE.** This Act may be known as the Alaska Coastal Micro-Fisheries Act.

**Sec. 2.** AS 44.46.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

- Creates exemptions from extra DEC health/sanitary rules (and allows onboard packaging/freezing of up to 5,000 lbs per trip) for qualifying small-vessel fishers who meet federal safety standards and harvest low-risk species.

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**Sec. 3.** AS 44.46.025 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

- Caps annual DEC fees at \$100 for very small operators (<10,000 lbs/year harvest, vessel <50 ft, with a direct-marketing license).

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**Sec. 4.** AS 44.46 is amended by adding a new section to read:

- Directs DEC (with Fish & Game input) to simplify/streamline rules for small vessels (<10k lbs or <65 ft); requires 30-day permit decisions; gives priority to fishers in rural coastal communities to address their economic challenges.

**Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2026.