

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



House Fisheries Committee

HB 117 Sectional Analysis version I

Updated on 3.27.26

Section 1 on Page 1, line 3 through Page 2, line 1:

This section contains intent language specifying that when establishing the maximum number of permits that may fish as one cooperative in an administrative area, the Board of Fisheries should take those regulations up on cycle during each area's finfish meeting to maximize local participation and review, consider the traditional size of cooperative groups in that area, and preserve the status quo of that fishery.

Section 2 on Page 2, lines 2 through 17:

This section adds statutory authority for two or more set gillnet permit holders to fish their gear together, mirroring existing statutory requirements for being present at the beach or riparian site, as well as traveling to and from fishing gear or the sale of fish. It also specifies that fish harvested by a cooperative can be co-mingled between the permit holders and do not need to be stored or delivered separately.

Further, Section 2 directs the Board of Fisheries to adopt regulations to implement this section including, but not limited to:

- Requiring permit holders fishing cooperatively to register with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Specify how a permit holder must report fish harvested as part of a registered cooperative
- Establish the maximum number of set gillnet permits that may fish as one cooperative for each administrative area, except that no area may be allowed less than 3 permits per group.

Section 3 on Page 2, lines 18 through 28:

This section amends AS 16.05.253 (a) to clarify that a member of a cooperative may be absent from the beach or riparian area when selling fish on behalf of another member of the cooperative or travelling to the gear of another member of the cooperative. This conforming change mirrors existing statutory requirements for being present in single permit set gillnet operations.

Section 4 on Page 2, line 29 through Page 3, line 4:

This section adds statutory authority for a set gillnet permit holder or permit holders who are members of a cooperative registered under Section 2 of the bill to deliver fish on behalf of the group.

Section 5 on Page 3, line 5:

This section contains an immediate effective date for the bill.