

Representative Nellie Unangiq Jimmie

Alaska State Legislature - House District 38

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HB 125

"An Act relating to membership of the Board of Fisheries"

The Board of Fisheries decides where, when, and how we fish. For too long, management has struggled to navigate the warning signs:

- declining runs,
- ecosystem shifts,
- more frequent closures.

These point to a system out of balance.

True sustainable management comes from balance:

- between science and lived experience,
- between industry and tradition,
- between use and conservation.

The Board of Fisheries already includes diverse voices, but House Bill 125, restores balance by ensuring equal representation—**two seats for subsistence fishing, two for commercial, two for sport, and one for a fisheries scientist** to the Board of Fisheries.

By formalizing this structure, we reinforce a decision-making process that protects our waters for the generations who will fish them after us.

Balance is not a concession—it is a necessity.

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HB 125

"An Act relating to membership of the Board of Fisheries"

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Section 1: Amends AS 16.05.221(a)

- To add a structured appointment process specifying that the governor appoints:
 1. Two members representing commercial fishing.
 2. Two members representing sport fishing.
 3. Two members representing subsistence fishing
 4. One member of the scientific community who has knowledge and experience in fisheries management

Section 2: Adds a Transition Provision in uncodified law to

- **Add:** A clause stating that current members of the Board of Fisheries will continue to serve until their terms expire. Any appointments made after the bill's effective date must adhere to the new appointment structure established in Section 1.

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HB 125

"An Act relating to membership of the Board of Fisheries"

Summary of Changes Ver. A to Ver. B

Section 1: Amends AS 16.05.221(a)

- To reinstate: current language in statute that dictates the governor's appointments should be selected on the "basis of interest in public affairs, good judgement, knowledge, and the ability in the field of action of the board, with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership".
- To remove: the subsistence seat should be determined from a list provided by the Alaska Federation of Natives
- To remove: the science seat should be determined from a list provided by the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration

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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 125(FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered: 4/9/25

Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES JIMMIE, Foster, Kopp, Burke

A BILL**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**1 **"An Act relating to membership of the Board of Fisheries."**2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**3 *** Section 1.** AS 16.05.221(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) For purposes of the conservation and development of the fishery resources
5 of the state, there is created the Board of Fisheries composed of seven members
6 appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of
7 the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis
8 of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of
9 action of the board, and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of
10 view in the membership. The appointed members shall be residents of the state and
11 shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or geographical location of
12 residence. The commissioner is not a member of the Board of Fisheries, but shall be
13 ex officio secretary. **The governor shall appoint the members as follows:**

14 **(1) two members who represent commercial fishing and have**
15 **knowledge of and experience in the commercial fishing industry;**

1 **(2) two members who represent sport fishing and have knowledge**
2 **of and experience in sport fishing;**

3 **(3) two members who represent subsistence fishing and have**
4 **knowledge of and experience in subsistence fishing;**

5 **(4) one member of the scientific community who has knowledge of**
6 **and experience in fisheries management.**

7 * **Sec. 2.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
8 read:

9 TRANSITION. A person who is a member of the Board of Fisheries on the day before
10 the effective date of this Act continues to serve until the expiration of the member's term. An
11 appointment for a vacancy that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act shall be in
12 accordance with AS 16.05.221(a), as amended by sec. 1 of this Act.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSHB 125(FSH)
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(H) Publish Date:	4/9/2025

Identifier: HB125-DFG-BFG-3-15-25
Title: BOARD OF FISHERIES MEMBERSHIP
Sponsor: JIMMIE
Requester: (H)Fisheries

Department: Department of Fish and Game
Appropriation: Statewide Support Services
Allocation: Boards of Fisheries and Game
OMB Component Number: 2048

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2026 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2026 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2026	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2025) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2026) 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? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable; initial version.

Prepared By: Joseph Felkl, Legislative Liaison
Division: Office of the Commissioner
Approved By: Bonnie Jensen, Administrative Services Director
Agency: Department of Fish and Game

Phone: (907)465-6137
Date: 03/15/2025 08:00 AM
Date: 03/15/25

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS**STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION****Analysis**

This legislation changes the membership of the Board of Fisheries to create designated seats.

This legislation does not impact any department function or program and maintains the existing number of board members. Therefore, the department submits a zero fiscal note.