

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

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

Identifier: SB161-DFG-DCF-5-3-25
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)

	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	709.1						
Travel	31.0						
Services	1,370.0						
Commodities	240.0						
Capital Outlay	1,500.0						
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	3,850.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	3,850.1						
Total	3,850.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary	5.0						

Change in Revenues

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)			(7.5)	(7.5)	(7.5)	(7.5)	(7.5)
Total	0.0	0.0	(7.5)	(7.5)	(7.5)	(7.5)	(7.5)

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? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 01/01/28

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable; initial version.

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Agency: Department of Fish and Game

Phone: (907)465-6137
Date: 05/03/2025 08:00 AM
Date: 05/03/25

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB161

Analysis

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, 2028, 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. 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, 2027.

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 FY2026-FY2027. 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

Commodities Total: \$240.0

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

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STATE OF ALASKA
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Analysis

Capital Outlay Total: \$1,500.0

Camsled design and build - \$1,500.0

Changes in Revenue: (\$7.5)

Reduction of approximately 50 commercial crew licenses as a result of fisheries closures - (\$7.5)