

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

May 6, 2025

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 161 - Bottom Trawling Ban

Dear Senator Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

My name is Jason Chandler, I am a lifelong resident of Kodiak and my family has been operating our trawl vessel, the F/V Topaz, in Alaska for more than 40 years. I have grown up fishing around Kodiak, and am now raising my family here. Our business, and family, depends on access to the groundfish resource in the Gulf of Alaska. Over the years we have seen many areas closed, most of which have failed to achieve the desired result. We cannot afford to lose some of our most productive and sheltered, near shore fishing areas. The trawl fishery has become extremely focused on avoiding bycatch, and has made progress in reducing it, closing more areas limits our options in this effort. The fishing industry in Alaska has been struggling in recent years, SB 161 would only make things more difficult for local businesses and coastal communities.

I am strongly opposed to SB 161, and ask that you do not move it forward for consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Sincerely,
Jason Chandler
F/V Topaz
Kodiak, Alaska

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

May 6, 2025

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 161 - Bottom Trawling Ban

Dear Senator Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

Introduction Paragraph

- State who you are, underscore the human aspect of your fishery
- Describe the time you spend in Kodiak, whether you are an Alaskan or Kodiak resident
- Whether the vessel is a family-owned business
- The characteristics of the employees for your business – Alaskan crew members, who provides support for your vessel (wives/children/local Kodiak services), how many jobs your vessel provides.
- Characterize your vessel – small pollock trawler of X size, catcher vessel that supports the coastal communities / community of Kodiak
- Close your introduction by stating that this is a complex issue that the Legislature is not designed to address and that falls under the authority of the Board of Fish.

How would you be affected by SB 161?

- Which of the fisheries do you participate in? Use the talking points as a reference.
- If you fish PWS pollock, you may want to use the talking points regarding last December's BOF meeting and the outcome.
- Refer to the stress that continues to impact the seafood industry.

How would your community be affected by SB 161?

- Alaskans should hit the community aspect hard. Make it clear that this just doesn't impact you and your business, but your entire community.

How Trawl Fisheries Function (Existing Management Measures, How Gear Operates, etc)

- Use talking points on existing management measures and how heavily regulated trawl is.
- Harvesters who are comfortable talking about gear should consider discussing how trawl gear functions, what GOA habitat is like, and risk/cost of losing gear if fishing on the bottom with pelagic gear.
- State that ADF&G should be asked to report and provide data on existing management measures before any discussion continues.

Conclusion

- Summarize your key points.
- State clearly that you oppose SB 161 moving forward now or in the future.

- Thank the committee for the opportunity to provide written public comment.

Sincerely,

Dan James
Kodiak Fishmeal Company

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

May 6, 2025

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 161 – Bottom Trawling Ban

Dear Senator Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

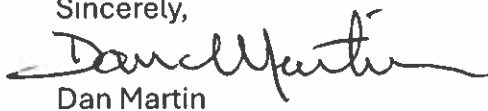
My name is Dan Martin and I am the General Manager of Alaska Boat Company, (ABC). ABC manages seven vessels, two crabbers and five trawlers that operate primarily in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. I am also a personal stakeholder of rockfish quota in the Gulf of Alaska, and cod in the Bering Sea.

If Senate Bill 161 were to pass it will be devastating to many communities in Alaska, Kodiak, False Pass and Sand Point just to name a few. Trawl fisheries are what sustain the processors, allowing them to operate and buy fish from other fisheries such as salmon, halibut and crab. Without the economic benefit that trawl fisheries provide throughout the year, many processors would not be able to remain solvent. The pulse fisheries of salmon, halibut and crab are not enough to make it economically feasible to continue to remain in business.

Fisheries management is extremely complex and there are existing processes in place that weigh the myriad nuanced variables in creating regulatory frameworks. ADF&G, in conjunction with the Board of Fish, are the venues for management NOT the State legislature. ADF&G, should, at the very least, be asked to report and provide data on existing management measures before any further discussion continues.

I oppose Senate Bill 161 moving forward now or anytime in the future. Thank you for your consideration of my letter.

Sincerely,



Dan Martin

my name is Walter Stuart
I live in Wrangell Alaska I own
A 45 foot fishing vessel ^{the} Kelly-
Rose I currently fish Beam trawl
and troll salmon. I run A
50 foot Beam trawl for shrimp in
Southeast Alaska I employ one
Deck Hand and sell my product
fresh not frozen.

I oppose senate Bill 161 Becas
I feel I have been caught up in
A fisherie that's not anything like
Beam trawling in Southeast
my very small footprint does
not come close to what goes
on on a factory trawler.

I do not have massive bycatch
they do not have factory trawling
in Southeast for that reason,

to shut down my mom & Pop
fisherie over factory trawling
is ludicrous we have very few
permits in Southeast as it is.

SEAMARK

11471 Business Blvd Unit 206
Anchorage, Alaska 99577

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

May 7, 2025

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 161

Dear Chair Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee:

We respectfully ask Committee members to oppose Senate Bill 161.

If enacted, SB 161 would close multiple state-managed fisheries and directly harm working families, small businesses, and coastal communities across Alaska. By our estimates, more than 200 families in Kodiak, Sand Point, King Cove, Cordova, Wrangell, and other communities would suffer negative economic and social impacts due to this bill. These are families that continue to support local businesses, pay taxes, and bolster food security in the face of falling fish prices, rising costs, and changing regulations.

Additionally, SB 161 is arbitrary and unbalanced. Nearly all fishing gear interacts with the seafloor to some extent. Yet this bill selectively targets trawl and dredge gear without conducting a comparative analysis or evaluating actual impacts on the marine environment. It subverts the precautionary principle by committing harm rather than preventing it.

For decades, Alaska's fisheries have served as the "gold standard" of responsible, science-based management. While there are opportunities to reform the Alaska Board of Fisheries (as noted in the *Final Report of the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Alaska Seafood Industry* earlier this year), it already possesses the statutory authorities and management tools to balance access, conservation, and community well-being. By sidestepping the established process in favor of social media activists, SB 161 sets a dangerous precedent that politicizes fishery closures and undermines trust in the state's management system.

For these reasons, we urge Committee members to oppose the bill. Thank you for your attention and for the opportunity to provide input on this critical issue.



Garrett Evridge
Partner



Taylor Holshouser
Partner

May 6, 2025

Re: Oppose Senate Bill 161

Dear Chairwoman Giessel and Committee Members,

Alaska Groundfish Data Bank (AGDB) is a member organization that includes all shorebased processors located in Kodiak and trawl catcher vessels homeported in Kodiak. Since 1986, we have fulfilled our mission of ensuring sustainable Gulf of Alaska (GOA) fisheries now and into the future to support Kodiak's vibrant fishing community. Many of our members participate in trawl fisheries that occur in both state and federal waters, harvesting groundfish with both pelagic and non-pelagic gear. The Kodiak processors, our vessel members and the community of Kodiak have a long dependency on groundfish fisheries in the North Pacific. **Our members oppose Senate Bill 161, as it will directly harm Alaskans and the community of Kodiak.**

Background

The Kodiak trawl fleet are primarily family-owned businesses, with some third and fourth generation families that now operate the vessels. Data available from the National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Fisheries Science Center, show that more than 50% of the revenue generated in the GOA pollock fishery is harvested by vessels that are Alaskan owned¹. The majority of the crew on these vessels are also Alaskan residents. The GOA pollock fishery is a catcher vessel-only fishery, meaning they catch the fish and deliver to shorebased processors in Kodiak; vessel sizes range from 58 feet to 124 feet in length, with most of the fleet between 80 to 90 feet.

Kodiak has more shorebased processors than any other community in Alaska. The trawl sector delivers groundfish 10 to 11 months a year which allows for year-round processing within our community. The ability to operate year-round means that Kodiak's processing sector supports the highest percentage of local resident seafood processing workers of any community in Alaska. It also means that processors can sustain year-round infrastructure to process important, smaller-volume pulse fisheries for other sectors (pot cod, IFQ halibut & fishery, etc.).

According to an economic report commissioned by the Kodiak Island Borough (KIB), "the seafood industry is the most significant sector in terms of earnings and employment in the Borough. The analysis of fisheries and other data indicates the seafood industry generated 3,200 jobs and \$200 million in labor income in 2019. Nonetheless, Kodiak is experiencing a long-term decline in fisheries participation and income, including both wage jobs (most notably seafood processing jobs) and self-employment (fishermen)."² The KIB levies a severance tax, the city levies a sales tax, and both governments benefit from the State of Alaska Fishery Business Tax. Tax revenue data for 2023 shows fish severance tax revenue for all fish landings in the KIB generated \$1.5 million and State Fishery Business Tax generated \$1.35 million³. These revenues directly benefit Borough services. Similar tax amounts from the State Fishery Business Tax and sales tax are available to support city services. Alaska's seafood industry continues to be in crisis statewide and Kodiak's fisheries are no exception; we must act in a manner that ensures the survival of our seafood sector and the larger Kodiak community.

Our members strongly oppose Senate Bill 161.

- *Alaska legislature regulating fisheries:* In entertaining this bill, the Alaska legislature would be contemplating regulating fishery policy, with disregard for the existing fishery regulatory process established by the legislature. State fisheries management should be determined by the appropriate regulatory body such as the Alaska Board of Fisheries, not the legislature.

¹ Alaska Fisheries Science Economic Staff (Nov 2024), Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the Groundfish Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Area: Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries off Alaska, 2023, page 45.

² McDowell Group (2021). Kodiak Economic Profile and Pandemic Impact Analysis. Prepared for Kodiak Island Borough.

³ Kodiak Island Borough 2023 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

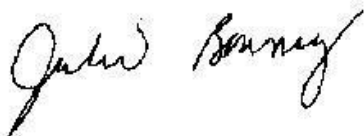
- *Circumventing BOF decisions by going to the legislature:* In December 2024, the Board of Fish (BOF) reviewed four proposals that would have eliminated the state waters Prince William Sound (PWS) trawl pollock fishery, or modified how the fishery was managed. After extensive public testimony, the BOF made responsible changes to the management of the fishery, which we advocated for and support. However, the BOF did not choose to eliminate the fishery altogether after learning about the gear used and how it is not fished on the bottom in PWS due to the rocky habitat, among other factors. The BOF is designed to handle these types of issues, and they made their decision. It is not only inappropriate, but sets a dangerous precedent, to attempt to override a BOF decision one does not agree with by circumventing the state's fisheries regulatory process and going directly to the Alaska legislature.
- *Codifies a closure without determining a problem:* The bill would create the closure before the study and report can be funded, implemented and completed to determine if action is even warranted. The metric in this bill that would determine either 'substantial bottom contact' or impact is not clear. The bill would ban certain fisheries if the gear makes bottom contact, even if that contact has no or negligible impact on the seafloor or does not negatively impact any species. Most fishing gear has some bottom contact, not just those that are called out in the legislation.
- *Bill conflicts with prior legislative action:* Members of the Alaska legislature have recognized the unprecedented challenges currently being faced by Alaska's seafood industry and taken action to help bolster the sector with funding for marketing and a task force aimed at identifying and improving conditions. This bill not only circumvents decisions at the BOF, as described above, but is also in direct conflict with actions the legislature has taken to help the Alaskan seafood industry.

What fisheries will be impacted if this legislation becomes law?

- *Scallop fisheries* across the State of Alaska (dredge gear).
- *Shrimp fisheries* in southeast Alaska and PWS (beam trawl gear).
- *Western Gulf pollock fisheries* (Sand Point, King Cove, Kodiak): Over 70% of the federal Western Gulf pollock is harvested with pelagic gear inside three miles because of the parallel fishery.
- *Central Gulf/Kodiak pollock:* Between 20 - 25% of the federal Central Gulf pollock catch limit is harvested with pelagic gear inside three miles.
- *PWS State Pollock Fishery:* This fishery is conducted entirely in State waters with pelagic trawl gear.
- *Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod fisheries:* The Aleutians state cod fishery was created specifically to benefit the community of Adak (bottom trawl gear) while the few state areas open in the WGOA benefit the small trawlers in communities like Sand Point and King Cove.

AGDB respectfully requests that the Senate Resource Committee not advance the bill for further consideration now, or in the future. We depend on a stable and public fishery regulatory process supported by fisheries managers and scientists.

Sincerely,



Julie Bonney
Executive Director
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

Senator Cathy Giessel – SRES Chair
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Bill Wielechowski –SRES Vice Chair
State Capitol Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801

May 6, 2025

RE: SB161

Dear Members of Senate State Affairs,

Tanana Chiefs Conference is an Alaska Native non-profit corporation, charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional Native unity. We are the traditional Tribal consortium of 37 federally recognized Tribes within 42 Interior Alaskan communities. TCC serves approximately 18,000 Alaska Natives in Fairbanks, where our headquarters is located, and in the rural villages located along the 1,400 miles of the Yukon River and its tributaries. Our villages are remote, often without road access, and largely inaccessible by car.

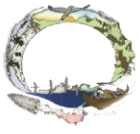
Alaska Native residents must overcome many challenges to sustain healthy communities, educate our children, ensure our safety, and care for our elders. Given the complicated land status in Alaska, Tribes often lack designated territory to provide services or the ability to adequately protect the lands they have for future generations. Compounding these challenges, we now have a Yukon River without fish, whether caused by climate change, years of mismanagement, commercial overfishing, or any other reason, means our people face severe food insecurity.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) continue to remain largely unconcerned about the dwindling Yukon River salmon returns. For example, despite 23 years of ineffective state management in improving returns of the Yukon River Chinook salmon as a Yield Concern established in 2000, no higher level of Stock of Concern designation has been made to be consistent with their own Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Management Policy (5 AAC 39.222). Yukon River Chinook salmon should minimally be considered a Stock of Management Concern, if not the most severe Conservation Concern.

Tanana Chiefs Conference and our Tribal advocates raise these issues year after year.

Proposed management activities that have been rejected by Federal and State management entities:

1. In December 2021, TCC, along with other regional Tribal organizations, submitted an emergency petition to the Secretary of Commerce asking her help to address the severe and unforeseen ecological, economic, social, and public health concerns affecting Western and Interior Alaska communities due to the salmon crisis. Specifically, the petition asked the Secretary to take
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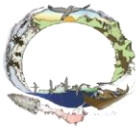
emergency action to eliminate Chinook salmon bycatch and set a cap on chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock **trawl** fishery in the 2022 season. It also asked the Secretary to engage in meaningful consultation with Western and Interior Alaska Tribes to develop long-term measures to reduce salmon bycatch, ensure the long-term health of salmon stocks in Western and Interior Alaska, and meet the subsistence needs of communities in the regions. The Secretary denied our request for emergency action on January 25, 2022. The petition and the denial letter are posted on TCC's website here: <https://www.tananachiefs.org/emergency-petition-to-reduce-salmon-bycatch-denied/>.

2. In October 2022, TCC and member Tribes participated in a Tribal consultation meeting with the Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on fisheries protection and restoration issues. During the consultation, Tribal leaders and subsistence users throughout the region stepped forward to demand action from the federal and state governments for the devastating salmon decline that has been impacting Tribes on the Yukon River. No significant action has happened.
3. In February 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries failed to adopt Proposal 140 that aimed to reduce the allowed commercial **trawl** fishing times and catch area in Area M during the month of June to protect Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim chum salmon from severe commercial interception, and Alaska Native peoples from throughout the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim walked out of the meeting after a failed vote of 3-4 for their proposal.
4. In October 2023, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting was held where the Council reviewed a preliminary analysis on the Bering Sea Chum Bycatch Management. TCC and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission asked the Council to take immediate regulatory action and define the set of alternatives to analyze to reduce Western Alaska Chum and Chinook prohibited species catch, specifically requesting the Council to include a zero Chum and Chinook cap in its analysis despite industry perspectives saying that such an alternative is unrealistic. The Council approved analyzing a set of alternatives that change current Chum bycatch management measures but failed to include a zero Chum and Chinook cap as requested by Tribes.
5. In February 2025, TCC again asks that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council reevaluate the "total allowable catch" available to the pollock industry which allows for **trawlers** to fish for more than the market can support – indicated by the yearly federal bailout.

Despite all these and other requests by TCC and the Interior Alaska Tribes calling on the federal and state governments for action on the salmon decline, no significant action has taken place.

We are facing a salmon crisis. Senate Bill 161 is attempting to acknowledge the cumulative impacts from decades of commercial trawl fishing. The billion-dollar trawl companies profit from our waters while Indigenous families along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers are being stripped of their cultural lifeways, food security, and economic stability.

Senate Bill 161 is an important first step to ensure our salmon can recover and reach its spawning grounds. Every salmon counts, and there is an urgent need to err on the side of conservation during



severely depressed escapements. If left unaddressed, our people are facing a health and wellness emergency that threatens our way of life and salmon will be an endangered species. Please pass SB161.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BR".

Brian Ridley
Chief/Chairman
Tanana Chiefs Conference



**Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida
Indian Tribes of Alaska**

907.586.1432 • 800.344.1432

PO Box 25500 • Juneau, Alaska

99802 www.TlingitandHaida.gov

May 5, 2025

Alaska Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Tlingit & Haida Support for Senate Bill 161, “An Act relating to the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state water; and providing for an effective date.”

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) and the 38,000 Tribal Citizens we represent, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 161, which addresses the use of certain trawl and dredge fishing gear in Alaska State Waters.

According to Alaska State Waters (5 AAC 39.105(10)(C)) “a pelagic trawl is a trawl where the net, or the trawl doors or other trawl-spreading device, do not operate in contact with the seabed, and which does not have attached to it any protective device, such as chafing gear, rollers, or bobbins, that would make it suitable for fishing in contact with the seabed. Although most of Alaska’s state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, analysis by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) shows that pelagic (midwater) trawl gear contacts the ocean floor between 40% and 100% of the time it is deployed—varying between vessel type and season. This contact undermines the intention of “midwater” regulations and leads to habitat destruction and increased bycatch.

The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is designated as a midwater trawl fishery. However, data indicates that they are fishing near the bottom, as shown by frequent bycatch of non-pelagic species. Compounding the issue, this fishery lacks observer coverage and bycatch remains high. Alaska can—and must—do better to manage our fisheries. We are at a critical juncture where sound science and stewardship must guide our fisheries management, not political pressures.

While we support this bill and the attention it brings to the impacts of trawling, we respectfully offer the following recommendations:

- 1) **Clarify the Definition of “Substantial Bottom Contact”** (Section 1, lines 6-7)
Clear regulatory language is essential to ensure enforceability and consistency. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) must have a precise and actionable definition to uphold the law effectively.
- 2) **Avoid Delays in Closing Harmful Trawl Fisheries:** We support continued research into the ecological impacts of bottom trawling. However, the requirement

for additional studies or reporting must not delay immediate action. Existing state and federal data are sufficient to justify immediate closure. Further research should continue in parallel with strong, protective conservation measures. We encourage ADFG to work closely with fisheries analysts and NPFMC staff tasked with analyzing “the definition of pelagic trawl gear within 50 CFR 679.2 has remained unchanged since 1993. Clarifying the definition of pelagic trawl gear will also facilitate the process to incentivize trawl gear innovation or other measures to minimize the impacts of pelagic trawl gear on bycatch, sensitive habitat, and unobserved mortality.” The initial results are to be shared at the next NPFMC meeting in June 2025 and can inform further state-based research, monitoring, and gear type innovations and applications.

Alaskans are calling for an end to wasteful and destructive trawl bycatch. We commend Senator Cronk for sponsoring Senate Bill 161 and we thank the Committee for its consideration. Tlingit & Haida stands ready to collaborate with lawmakers and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to protect our marine ecosystems and ensure a sustainable future for our statewide fisheries.

Gunalchéesh / Háw'aa for your service to Alaska.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Peterson,
President

Sent via email: Senator Cathy Giessel, Senator Bill Wielechowski, Senator Matt Claman, Senator Forest Dunbar, Senator Scott Kawasaki, Senator Shelley Hughes, Senator Robert Myers, cc: Senator Mike Cronk, Senator Jesse Kiehl, Senator Bert Stedman

IntiMayo Harbison

From: dkaercher@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Dale Kaercher
<dkaercher@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 4:27 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
Dale Kaercher
Anchorage, AK 99515-2303
dkaercher@gci.net

IntiMayo Harbison

From: inama.geriann@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Geri Inama
<inama.geriann@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 4:25 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
Geri Inama
Anchorage, AK 99502-5546
inama.geriann@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: pkaercher@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia Kaercher
<pkaercher@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 4:16 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
Patricia Kaercher
Anchorage, AK 99515-2303
pkaercher@gci.net

IntiMayo Harbison

From: akwachka@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alexis Kwachka
<akwachka@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 3:25 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

The State of Alaska prohibits bottom contact inside of three miles, yet there are no ways to enforce this. Until we can identify on a per trip basis, I respectfully ask you to implement prohibition of trawling inside of three miles. Alaskans are losing access to subsistence, sport fishing and food security while the trawl industry is basically unaffected.

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, proufish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
Alexis Kwachka
Kodiak, AK 99615-6011
akwachka@icloud.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: Arthur Holmberg <artholmberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 3:17 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB161

Trying to pass this bill would be detrimental to the 60&under fleet out of sand point,king cove would literally put the local trawl fisheries .Alaska residents from this area out of business.

Art Holmberg F/V Tern.

IntiMayo Harbison

From: bonbee.dupree@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Bonnie Dupree
<bonbee.dupree@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 2:06 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Bonnie Dupree Ms
Homer, AK 99603-9264
bonbee.dupree@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: dlburwen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Deborah Burwen
<dlburwen@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 1:36 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am a retired SOA fisheries biologist writing to encourage you to support SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and rougheye rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and rougheye rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and rougheye rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Deborah Burwen
Anchorage, AK 99501-4268
dlburwen@yahoo.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: ctc.teresahunter@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Teresa Simeon-Hunter
<ctc.teresahunter@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 1:10 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
Teresa Simeon-Hunter
Chuathbaluk, AK 99557
ctc.teresahunter@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: matt obermiller <mattobermiller@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 12:54 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: YES on 161, End Bottom Trawling And Limit Bycatch

Matt Obermiller, 30+ year fishing industry adjacent Alaskan, I strongly support bill 161 and ending bottom trawling and the current ineffective bycatch regs. If you have a consciences skipper, midwater trawling can be done reasonably cleanly but bottom trawling significantly damages the very habitat needed to keep our fish stocks healthy and productive so really needs to be stopped.

Penalizing bad skippers for excessive bycatch and rewarding good skippers for fishing clean and minimizing their bycatch as much as possible (we now have extremely good underwater imaging and information, captains have the information to fish really clean, they just have to want to) needs to be addressed. The amount of fish that are killed and dumped overboard as bycatch by a segment of the big boat fishing industry is equal to the entire catch of some of the smaller, higher quality fishing fleets and that's just wrong and short sighted. Plus, it's almost entirely preventable, the captains doing the bulk of the bycatch just have to be incentivized to fish clean.

YES on 161, thank you.

Matt Obermiller

Mile 55 Richardson Hwy.

IntiMayo Harbison

From: bias@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Susan Vogt <bias@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 11:52 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Susan Vogt
Fairbanks, AK 99712-2530
bias@alaska.net

IntiMayo Harbison

From: bwsantana@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Barry Santana
<bwsantana@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 11:25 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

We have lost historically strong runs of King and Chum salmon in the Yukon River and Susitna Basin. Silvers are also diminishing. Only Sockeye runs appear to be surviving, but fish average smaller in size. We are protecting spawning habit as never before; we are dealing with warming water in the blue water regime, probably changing food sources for salmon during that part of their life cycle; we have warming freshwater in many spawning streams preventing normal fish movement. These natural issues we can do nothing about. WE NEED TO PREVENT ANY AND ALL SALMON LOSS TO BOTTOM TRAWLING. WE NEED TO DO IT NOW.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Barry Santana
Wasilla, AK 99623-9348
bwsantana@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: banklady65@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mark Jacobson <banklady65@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 10:45 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
Mark Jacobson
Soldotna, AK 99669-0297
banklady65@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: joanbf Franz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joan Franz
<joanbf Franz@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:28 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling and support passing this bill. As a long time Alaskan who greatly values our marine life and considers our fisheries an essential renewable resource that must be protected. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species. This data will be a much needed protection of our marine life.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62cca323b85faf15e3ca3ce8/t/67f69720b1bcad44ac069101/1744213793767/Letter+from+the+Board+of+Fisheries+to+the+Alaska+State+Legislature+3.15.25.pdf>

Sincerely,
Joan Franz
Fairbanks, AK 99709-6014
joanbf Franz@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: crfbc <crfbc@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:11 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Oppose SB 161

I oppose senate bill 161.

I believe it is just an opposition to a fisheries that others do not understand.

Any changes now need to be studied completely before any changes.

Bill Connor
Po box 1124
Petersburg alaska 99833

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22+ 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

IntiMayo Harbison

From: tanner smith <tannersmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:39 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 161 - Ban on Trawling

Dear Chair Geissel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee

My name is Tanner Smith, I live in Wrangell Alaska and I am a commercial fisherman. The fisheries i participate in are Southeast Beam trawl, southeast pot shrimp, southeast gillnet, and 2C halibut quota. I own and operate the FV Netted Dreams. We have a family run business, employing myself, my wife, sometimes my kids, and 1 to 2 full time deckhands. This is a first generation buisness.

I am currently beam trawling for sidestripe shrimp while I'm writing this. The trawl is in the water. I have about 30 minutes before i need to pull this drag up. They say I have till close of business day today to write something down so it can be emailed in time. Let me just express a few thoughts that are going through my mind this morning.

It takes all of my fisheries to make my business viable. Diversity is a common thing among fisherman in Southeast Alaska due to so much market volatility. The last few years I have made over half of my income from beam trawling. This is a fishery that's open 10 months out of the year. To explain this more, pot shrimp was a 9 day season last year, halibut is a couple trips out of the year, salmon is 3- 4 months. It's hard to make a living fishing when you are 1rst generation, unless you can put in the time. Beam trawling for shrimp in-between my other fisheries has brought finacial stability to my business. Not because it's a "get rich fishery", but because you can put in the time.

Would my business survive without beam trawling? I honestly don't know. I don't give up easy, anyone who knows me will tell you that. But it would be a huge struggle to try to hang on to the business i've been working in for 22 seasons.

A few points about beam trawling for shrimp to highlight.

I target sidestripe shrimp, which cannot be caught in pots because they are basically vegetarians, and won't come to bait. This is a very unique fishery in that regard. We catch shrimp in the hundres of lbs a day, not thousands. This is a "small fishery and should not be placed in the same class as factory trawlers. I do freeze my shrimp catch on board, and focus on quality more than quantity. We fish on sand or mud mostly found at the mouth of rivers. We fish the same drags that have been fished for something like a hundred years. I don't know exactly how long this fishery has been around, but it's been long enough to go through many cycles of halibut, salmon, and other harvested species that this trawl ban is trying to protect. In other words, people were beam trawling in southeast Alaska during mutiple high and low cycles of other fisheries. Which most likely points to beam trawling having little to no impact on these other fisheries. Is not a 100 year old fishery proof in itself that it is sustainable?

We trawl at extremely slow speeds of about 1.5 mph. This slow speed reduces the majority of by-catch. Each shrimp trawl has a fish excluder, commonly called a weed catcher, that limits the size of by-catch that can enter the mouth of the trawl. I have personally experimented with mine, changing the height and mesh size with successfull results in reducing by-catch. I just point this out that no shrimp trawler wants by-catch and we are constantly trying to avoid it. Lastly, every trawl catch is sorted immediately after every set, and what little by-catch we have is returned to the water... ALIVE. Yes I said that! Alive, because the beam trawl doesn't squish the catch all up like you see in the pictures of the big factory trawlers. We want our shrimp to be in pristine shape. So when I say the word by-catch, I mean small flounders, sculpins, and tiny fish that can fit through the mesh of the fish excluder. If there are any questions you have on how the beam trawl operates, I am happy to answer them.

If you take one thought from this letter, I want it to be the word "stability". The best economic support you can have in a community is stable people. People that want to live there full time, who constantly support the community. These people are the true building blocks of society. If you were in the restaurant business, you would call these people the "regulars". They are your BEST customers because you can count on their business, and they are free advertisement (and the best advertisement).

Understand that the fishing business is very similar. By banning trawling, you will not only destabilize my business (and the other shrimp trawlers as well), but also cause a ripple effect in several Southeast Alaska communities, including Wrangell, Petersburg, and Juneau. If by the stroke of a pen you can obliterate a hundred year old fishery, where does it stop? Will you come after other fisheries as well? Fisheries we've invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into, now become suddenly worthless? A business in fear is not a stable business. People will not stay or move to communities that are unstable. If somehow I survive the economic hardship this will cause, do you think this will encourage my children to be 2nd generation fishermen?

Please think beyond the politics of bill 161 and understand the impacts, both to communities and economies.

Thank you for your time the opportunity to share with you my thoughts. I better go haul this trawl on board. Please let me keep catching shrimp!

Tanner Smith
FV Netted Dreams
Wrangell Alaska
(907) 305 1037

If anyone wants to call me for questions, please do!

IntiMayo Harbison

From: taylor lundgren <tjlundgren@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:56 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161 public comment letter

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

Re: Oppose Senate Bill 161

Dear Chairwoman Giessel and Committee Members,

My name is Taylor Lundgren, I am writing this letter to oppose SB 161. As the Captain of the F/v Temptation a 58' trawler from Sand Point, I find myself to be very frustrated with another "witch-hunt" by Salmon State. The Temptation is an Alaskan family owned boat that provides for multiple local families including my own. We find ourselves constantly making adjustments to our gear & fishing practices at extremely high cost to us as small local business. With the current economy, our operating cost: fuel, materials, groceries and shipping to rural alaska, this Bill will put us out of business.

With over 70% the under 60' WGOA pollock being harvested inside state waters I'm confident we would loose our processors in the fall & winter- this would potentially force Trident to be a seasonal (salmon only) plant. In these communities it isn't uncommon for smaller cod & salmon boat captains & crew to depend on trawling and can not survive off of a summer season (with low fish prices),and support their families in Sand Point and King Cove. In short, this would not just affect one gear type... it would be the whole community. Gulf of Alaska communities need trawling to ensure stability & local processing.

Sincerely,
Taylor Lundgren
F/v Temptation
Sand Point, Al

IntiMayo Harbison

From: mike helligso <mikehelligso@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:54 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
[Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Resources@akleg.gov)

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 161 - Bottom Trawling Ban

Dear Senator Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

Hello my name is Michael Helligso and I strongly oppose SB 161. I am a life long Kodiak resident that has participated in numerous state and federal fisheries throughout Alaska, and the west coast. I am a father of three and I would like to see the Alaska I grew up in, prosper and provide the same opportunities I had for future generations. I am part owner in a vessel that relies on ground fish, crab and salmon to get by. Since I was young I have seen numerous laws put into place based on emotion and not science. At the time I figured the older generation knew what they were talking about and was cautiously optimistic that things would get better. Now there are more restrictions in place than ever and people seem to be even more unhappy. This bill is aimed at hindering commerce and coastal communities when there isn't problem. Prudence would have been discerning if there even is a definable problem before reaching for an unfounded solution. I don't believe the legislator was formed to override the authority of the Board of Fish and lay waste to the countless/thankless hours those folks have spent examining state fisheries issues, just to enshrine laws into apparent perpetuity for an unsubstantiated benefit. Actions like that could be seen as bordering between reckless and careless. There are quite a few coastal communities that rely on the many small boat fisheries this bill could impact. Have the communities that this bill would impact been consulted? The answer is no. Have the fishery managers at ADF&G been consulted to provide data and existing management measures before this bill was brought forth? The answer is still no. This bill introduces the broad language of "substantial bottom contact" but but lacks the parameters to define what this metric is. Last December the BOF was faced with a proposal to shut down the Prince William Sound pollock fishery. This proposal was based on a belief, from a few people that lack an acute unawareness of fish behavior, that a certain species of fish caught constituted bottom contact. It came to light that fish do in fact have tails and migrate throughout the water column. The state fisheries I have and do participate in have been proven to keep Kodiak going. They generate revenue for local Alaskans, coastal communities and the state....which is a good thing. Many

of us Alaskans feel the legislator already has enough on their plate without getting into circumventing due process as it pertains to fisheries. Thank you for your time and all the hours you put into leading our state.

Sincerely,

Michael Helligso

IntiMayo Harbison

From: franke brown <frankelbrown@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:20 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Bill 161 testimony

Senate Resource Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Ak 99801

May 6, 2025

Testimony - Oppose Senate Bill 161

Dear Chairman Girssel and Committee Members

My name is Franke Brown, and I am a resident of Kodiak and a fisherman for 37 years. I want to express my deep concerns regarding Senate Bill 161, the proposed anti-TRAWL bill.

It is alarming to see a bill like this being considered without a solid foundation of facts or an understanding of its potential ramifications for the state of Alaska and its small communities. Trawling supports thousands of jobs and plays a vital role in our local economy, providing food for millions and contributing significantly to the livelihoods of many families.

The trawl industry is not just an economic sector; it is a lifeline for communities like mine. The negative impacts of this bill could be devastating, threatening the livelihoods of those who rely on fishing for their income and sustenance. It raises the question: who benefits from this legislation, and at what cost?

It seems that this bill is rooted in belief systems and assumptions rather than empirical evidence. History has shown that decisions made without a thorough understanding of the facts can lead to harm, not only to individuals but to entire communities. It is crucial to ask what the true motivations behind this bill are and to consider the well-being of those who will be affected.

I urge you to carefully reconsider the implications of Senate Bill 161. The potential consequences extend far beyond the fishing industry; they touch the very fabric of our communities and the lives of those who call Alaska home. Let us not make decisions based on unverified beliefs but instead focus on what is best for our people and our economy.

Thank you for your time

Great Alaska Fisheries
Franke Brown
(206) 698-9706

IntiMayo Harbison

From: John Hockema <jhockema104@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:42 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 161- Bottom Trawl Ban

Senate Resources Committee

Alaska State Capital

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

May 6, 2025

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 161 - Bottom Trawling Ban

Dear Senator Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

My name is John Cole Hockema, and I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill 161.

I operate the 100-foot, Kodiak-based trawl catcher vessel F/V Pacific Storm, which is owned by my father. My wife and I have proudly called Kodiak home since 2012, and we are raising our two daughters here. She teaches at the local elementary school, and my crew—most of whom are also local residents—support their families through our shared livelihood in Alaska’s fisheries.

Senate Bill 161 threatens the survival of my family’s business, the livelihood of my crew, and the economic foundation of coastal communities like Kodiak. This bill proposes sweeping closures to trawl and dredge fisheries before the very research it calls for is conducted. That’s not responsible policy—it’s a premature decision that disregards science, undercuts the authority of the Board of Fisheries, and jeopardizes the future of Alaska’s working waterfronts.

Our vessel participates in several critical state fisheries, including the Gulf of Alaska pollock and cod trawl fisheries and the Prince William Sound pollock fishery. These fisheries are already highly regulated and heavily scrutinized. Like many others, we’ve invested in gear modifications such as midwater trawl doors and raised sweeps to minimize bottom contact. Pelagic gear is expensive and ill-suited for dragging on rough terrain. When contact does occur, science shows the impact is minimal and temporary, as demonstrated in the federal Essential Fish Habitat review.

This bill would eliminate fisheries that the Board of Fisheries has already reviewed and decided to keep open based on evidence and stakeholder input. For example, during the December 2024 BOF meeting in Cordova, Proposal 14—which would have closed the PWS pollock fishery—was rejected after the Board reviewed gear usage and habitat interactions. SB 161 ignores that public process.

If passed, this bill would shutter entire fisheries and disproportionately harm small catcher vessels and communities like Kodiak, Sand Point, King Cove, False Pass, and Adak—places where fishing is not just an industry, but a way of life. The local businesses that rely on us—grocers, welders, supply shops, shipyards—would suffer, too.

Fishing families across Alaska are already under immense pressure from collapsing seafood prices, increased operational costs, and a flood of regulatory uncertainty. SB 161 would add to that burden, removing viable fishing opportunities without scientific justification or regard for economic consequences.

It's clear this legislation is being driven by organizations like Salmon State, backed by outside funding and misinformed narratives. What they portray as an effort to rein in "factory trawlers" in reality targets the small-vessel fleet—those of us who live here, raise families here, and fish responsibly.

I urge you to reject Senate Bill 161. Let's allow the Board of Fisheries to do its job. Let's make decisions based on science, not politics. And let's protect Alaska's fishing communities, not dismantle them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
John Cole Hockema
Kodiak, Alaska
F/V Pacific Storm

IntiMayo Harbison

From: timpenny@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Penny Johnson
<timpenny@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 7:34 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
Penny Johnson
Anchorage, AK 99515-2544
timpenny@gci.net

IntiMayo Harbison

From: kalei.lw@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lynn Wilbur
<kalei.lw@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:32 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
Lynn Wilbur
Juneau, AK 99801-9092
kalei.lw@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: samontalbo@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of sylve Montalbo
<samontalbo@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:10 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
sylve Montalbo
Anchorage, AK 99515-3613
samontalbo@hotmail.com

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

May 6, 2025

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 161 - Bottom Trawling Ban

Dear Senator Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I am a Wasilla resident and have lived in Alaska since I was 18. I am a former commercial trawl fisherman, and I actively participate in both sport and personal use fisheries here in Alaska. I also have an extensive education (Master of Science) in Environmental Science, specifically focused in Fishery Science and Conservation Engineering. Given my experience in fishing and gear conservation engineering, it's clear that this bill is mis-informed and harmful to **Alaskan fishermen, Alaskan fishing families, and Alaskan coastal communities. I respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bill 161** as this is a complex issue that this legislature is not designed to address but rather falls under the jurisdiction of the ADF&G Board of Fish.

The **ALASKAN** fishermen that trawl in the state water and parallel fisheries are the local, small trawl, community dependent fishermen. They make a living and rely on the health of their resource whether it be pollock, cod, or shrimp, and therefore they are the biggest stewards of the resource, waters, and habitat they rely on. These are often the small boat fisheries, and some referred to as the Under 60 fisheries. The participants in these fisheries often own their own boats, and fish in multiple Alaskan fisheries to make a living, support their families (many multi-generational), and be a successful member of their Alaskan community.

Trawling and dredging are only used in certain areas and for certain species where fishing can occur sustainably and efficiently. For example, you wouldn't fish for scallops with hook

and line in an area where scallops don't inhabit, you wouldn't be successful. Rather you choose the area and gear type that can *efficiently* result in a *sustainable* harvest and minimal expended time, so you can be successful and still be respectful of the waters you fish. Examples of trawling can similarly be used. Trawl nets are an expensive piece of gear and are designed specifically for the target species. The fishermen that use this gear are not going to trawl in areas that can potentially damage their gear. Trawling is so misunderstood by the public, when in reality trawl fishermen are innovative and have been creating more and more efficient gear over the last few decades. They too strive for sustainability of the resource, health of the ocean, and well-being of their communities. They are the true stewards here. I highly encourage you to talk to some state water trawlers, go see their vessels, their gear, and listen to them to learn so that you can make knowledgeable choices.

The significant benefit to Alaska by trawl fisheries is also not well understood by the public. There are so many examples I could use, but the two that come to mind are economic. First, many state water fishermen are residents of Alaska and coastal communities. This means their income and landing taxes are going back into the Alaskan economy, especially those coastal communities that can have pulses in economic health. Kodiak, False Pass, and Sand Point are just a few that especially need every bit of an economic boost they can get. Likely a trawl fisherman will be successful, he or she will then buy a house, start a family, send their kids to the local Alaskan schools, and maybe even dabble in some other small boat fisheries. As a representative for Alaska, that's what you all should be thinking of, the health of the communities and Alaskan residents all over the state. That's why residents are voting for you, for you to support hard working Alaskans!

Secondly, harvesters need processors, vendors, fuel, goods and materials, etc. Trawl fisheries can efficiently and sustainably catch and deliver large amounts of fish (pollock, cod, shrimp). While these are not the trophy fish of Alaska, they should be. These core species keep processing plants open so smaller artisan fisheries can have a plant to

deliver to. They keep vendors and laborers in business so other fisheries have access to support services. They require fuel, goods, and material, all of which the small boat and artisanal fisheries need too. But very few, if any of these services could stay alive in the current economic state with only the artisanal fisheries active.

This initiative is downright harmful to Alaskans! Both directly and indirectly through trickle-down economics. Please oppose SB 161 so you the committee don't shut down small coastal Alaskan fisheries and Alaskan communities!

I encourage you to reach out to those that participate in the waters and fisheries this bill would directly and significantly impact. Please don't base your knowledge on slander and misinformed social media posts or single objective environmental groups that are driven by wealthy **non**-Alaskans. Go to the communities affected by this bill and talk to the fishermen, listen to learn and understand how important they and their fishery are to Alaska.

Alaska is a resource state, please stand up for the trawl and dredge fishermen who are stewards of our ocean resources. **For the sake of Alaskans please oppose SB 161!**

Thanks,



Susie Zagorski

Wasilla, AK

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

Re: Oppose Senate Bill 161

May 6th 2025

Dear Chairwomen Giessel and Committee Members,

My name is Carmel Carty McCarthy; I live in Kodiak and am a mom to 7 kids ranging in age from 15 to 34. I inherited a commercial fishing business, which my husband Peter and I started in 2003. Unfortunately, due to brain cancer in 2016, he was forced to step out and I stepped in. Having found myself a widow and single parent of young kids, skipping our vessel wasn't an option. I lacked the skill, knowledge and confidence to walk into a wheelhouse and do what needed to be done. I've been blessed to have an exceptional fisherman step up to not only skipper my Trawler, but to be an advisor, confidant and in so many ways a partner in my business.

Peter, my late husband, fished and tendered Alaska waters from Prince William Sound to Kodiak, Kodiak to Akutan to Port Moller, from his arrival to Kodiak in 1989 until his death in 2016. In 2008 we bought the F/V Stella, a 58-foot vessel and converted her to a trawler. In 2013 we sponsored her from 24ft to 32ft wide, making her one of the first of her kind in Alaska and one of the infamous Super 8's. Due to her new size and our new found confidence in her safety and abilities we have been able to participate in various trawl fisheries around the State that in years prior we were unable to do.

My vessel crew are all Kodiak family fishermen, some born and raised and others that have come to call this beautiful place home, same as myself. My business generates income to other local business, their employees and families by way of processors, welding, diving, marine supplies, net repairs, hydraulics, electrical, refrigeration and countless others that in one way or another have a mutual benefit in our fishing business.

We harvest a third of our annual fish revenue inside of 3 miles with pelagic gear in the Western Gulf Pollock fishery. In Kodiak and the central gulf, we harvest a large portion of our fish with pelagic gear inside of 3 miles and weather permitting (we are still a 58ft vessel) in PWS – state waters we harvest pollock with pelagic trawl gear. If this bill was to become law, it would put my business along with countless others throughout the State of Alaska out of business. The trickle-down effect would be catastrophic.

I would respectfully request that the Senate Resource Committee not advance this bill and respectfully suggest that you implore the help and guidance of the appropriate body that lends itself to fisheries regulatory process, supported by science and which we as fishermen and women have come to depend upon.

Sincerely

Carmel Carty McCarthy



Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

1008 Fish Creek Rd

Juneau, AK 99801

Email: kathy@seafa.org

Cell Phone: 907-465-7666

Fax: 907-917-5470

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>

May 7, 2025

Chair Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 205
Juneau AK, 99801

Sent via email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

RE: Opposing SB 161: Prohibit Bottom Trawling

Dear Chair Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) opposes SB 161 Prohibiting Bottom Trawling. It appears that this legislation is a reaction to a Board of Fish proposal that did not go the way some wanted but SB 161 as written has unintended consequences.

We are extremely concerned about the precedent this would set by having legislature step in and provide solutions for a segment of the public dissatisfied with the Board of Fish decision. While the Board of Fish process may be imperfect and you often feel like you weren't heard, the Board members consider an incredible amount of written and oral testimony from ADF&G and the public on all sides of the issue and come to compromise solutions leaving most of the public feeling dissatisfied with the final solutions. Generally, when everyone is dissatisfied, a reasonable compromise has been reached. It is difficult to look back after a meeting is over at a specific proposal number on the Board's summary of actions and totally understand what the Board did or did not do. The Board often has many proposals dealing with the same regulation where they may develop compromises on the issue using one proposal or several proposals. **If the Legislature passes SB 161, they will be bombarded by constituents to have their issue considered and dealt with by the legislature instead of the Board of Fish and Game.** The legislature does not have the time to take on Board of Fish and Game issues. The Board's process is a world-renowned public process for the development of management decisions and this type of issue should be looked at on an individual, regional basis at the Board of Fish not a statewide ban by the legislature with unintentional effects.

While trawling is mostly prohibited in Southeast Alaska there is a small Beam-trawl fishery with 28 permits and 82% Alaskan residency. Most of the permits are latent but this fishery has so few active participants, the data is confidential, yet for one of our members who is an Alaskan resident from a SE rural community, it is the main source of his income. This fishery which has existed for decades, is prosecuted in the same areas of sandy/muddy bottom year after year, so if the fishery was having an effect on other species, it would have been recognized by ADF&G already.

The Statewide scallop fishery is another fishery that would be severely affected by this legislation. We refer to the comments submitted by the Alaska Scallop Association for information about their fishery.

SEAFA is a multi-gear/multi species small boat commercial fisheries non-profit association representing our 300+ members involved in salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries primarily in Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Hansen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

IntiMayo Harbison

From: Banklady65@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Claudia Jacobson <Banklady65@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 10:45 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
Claudia Jacobson
Soldotna, AK 99669-1710
Banklady65@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: maureen.knutsen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Maureen Knutsen
<maureen.knutsen@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 10:31 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, but pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season.

This is unacceptable!

The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Maureen Knutsen
Naknek, AK 99633-0669
maureen.knutsen@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: cobaltmcneil@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Margaret McNeil
<cobaltmcneil@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 10:14 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Margaret McNeil
Anchorage, AK 99518-2839
cobaltmcneil@yahoo.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: marysoltis@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mary Soltis
<marysoltis@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 10:12 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
Mary Soltis
Sitka, AK 99835-7222
marysoltis@gci.net

IntiMayo Harbison

From: theoconnors@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mike OConnor
<theoconnors@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
Mike OConnor
Fairbanks, AK 99712-1636
theoconnors@gci.net

IntiMayo Harbison

From: ferrariangela@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Angela Ferrari
<ferrariangela@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:46 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
Angela Ferrari
Anchorage, AK 99517-1549
ferrariangela@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: hidatsachick@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Margaret Tarrant
<hidatsachick@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:45 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
Margaret Tarrant
Anchorage, AK 99508-1926
hidatsachick@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: hidatsachick@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Margaret Tarrant
<hidatsachick@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:45 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Margaret Tarrant
Anchorage, AK 99508-1926
hidatsachick@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: 3AKharts@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lisa Sadleir-Hart
<3AKharts@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Lisa Sadleir-Hart
Sitka, AK 99835-7235
3AKharts@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: Ellenleea@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ellen Americus
<Ellenleea@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Ellen Americus
Cordova, AK 99574-0068
Ellenleea@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: shuyakland@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of K. Murphy
<shuyakland@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:39 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
K. Murphy
Juneau, AK 99801
shuyakland@yahoo.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: skylinep@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marc Dumas
<skylinep@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:28 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Marc Dumas
Fairbanks, AK 99712-1309
skylinep@alaskan.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: bev@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Beverly Hoffman
<bev@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:23 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I live in Bethel Alaska and have counted on returning salmon species for all of my 73 years. Our salmon have been in decline for over two decades. I sat on the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group, Federal RAC groups, and on the Pacific Marine Fisheries Advisory Council addressing all this years ago. I have files of testimony stating the damage Bottom trawling is doing to the eco system of our oceans and in Alaska rivers causing the decline of salmon. The history of bottom trawling and why it's been banned in other regions is there for you to read. It is happening to Alaska. WE did our part on the Kuskokwim ending commercial fishing to protect our subsistence fish. It was very hard to do but we could see it was not sustainable. Neither is this industry.

I know it's big money and lobbyists influencing decisions right now and it needs to stop before it's too late. Be that decision maker that does just that. Support this bill! SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably. Quyanana from the people of the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers

Sincerely,
Beverly Hoffman Mrs
Bethel, AK 99559
bev@kuskofish.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: bljinalaska@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Brenda Johnson
<bljinalaska@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:14 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Brenda Johnson
Juneau, AK 99801-7219
bljinalaska@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: cummingst44@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Terry Cummings <cummingst44@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:13 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and rougheye rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and rougheye rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and rougheye rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Terry Cummings Ms
Anchorage, AK 99504-1814
cummingst44@yahoo.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: bruce328@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Bruce Service <bruce328@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:08 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

With respect to SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling I consider this is a vital and necessary step in addressing the issues trawling creates. This bill supports small boat fishing and addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, for good reason! Pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season.

The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and rougheye rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and rougheye rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and rougheye rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively. In short, they are not midwater fish!

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

The letter is referenced in the link below:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62cca323b85faf15e3ca3ce8/t/67f69720b1bcad44ac069101/1744213793767/Letter*from*the*Board*of*Fisheries*to*the*Alaska*State*Legislature*3.15.25.pdf__;KysrKysrKysrKysr!!LdQKC6s!Pcu1wg1BkYMYztAeko5j-G224jJ71z4jEO1Cbsahn3ivO6Lyfx3hM8qZeUDYYivDk-SdJjkDRhfCvaMBa68UhQLQzSBnFNAtfg\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62cca323b85faf15e3ca3ce8/t/67f69720b1bcad44ac069101/1744213793767/Letter*from*the*Board*of*Fisheries*to*the*Alaska*State*Legislature*3.15.25.pdf__;KysrKysrKysrKysr!!LdQKC6s!Pcu1wg1BkYMYztAeko5j-G224jJ71z4jEO1Cbsahn3ivO6Lyfx3hM8qZeUDYYivDk-SdJjkDRhfCvaMBa68UhQLQzSBnFNAtfg$)

As a former commercial fisherman I certainly appreciate the value in continuing to harvest and market our unique Alaskan seafood. However, we must do so responsibly if we wish to continue doing it.

Sincerely,
Bruce Service
Anchorage, AK 99507-6107
bruce328@earthlink.net

IntiMayo Harbison

From: fishhoundexp@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Adam Cuthriell
<fishhoundexp@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:07 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
Adam Cuthriell
Willow, AK 99688-0827
fishhoundexp@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: wilsonterry523@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Terry Wilson <wilsonterry523@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:06 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
Terry Wilson
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3485
wilsonterry523@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: courtneymoore907@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Courtney Moore
<courtneymoore907@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:06 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues that trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial/factory/out-of-state boat trawling methods, but does not impact Alaskan fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

It is also worth noting that the blatant and egregious examples of "conflict of interest" with the people appointed by the governor or the bycatch advisory council need to be addressed next. Our senators and governor have sold us out to line their pockets with Trident's bribe money.

We the people are sick of these factory trawl boats raping our waters for profit while our people suffer. Please pass SB 161 and HB 203.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Courtney Moore
Anchorage, AK 99501-1408
courtneymoore907@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: Lori Murray <lorijmurray@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:54 AM
To: Senate Resources; Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Sarah Vance
Subject: SB161

I'm writing in support of SB161. Unfortunately I won't be available Wednesday afternoon when you are taking public testimony phone calls.

Bottom Trawling is destroying the seas ecosystem and food web. I realize climate change it also a big factor, but we don't have control over climate change right now. At least this bill makes a start. I believe Alaska needs to take a stand and say 'this is NOT RIGHT'. We can't keep destroying the food web and ecosystem. No amount of money makes this worthwhile.

I really wish the bill started January 2026 instead of 2028.

Lori Murray
PO Box 1910
Homer, AK 99603

IntiMayo Harbison

From: ms.april.woods@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of April Woods
<ms.april.woods@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:52 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

Resources are not finite, they have to be protected and not overly fished. I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
April Woods
Anchorage, AK 99504-3724
ms.april.woods@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: katepersons@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kate Persons
<katepersons@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:44 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and rougheye rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and rougheye rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and rougheye rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.
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Sincerely,
Kate Persons
Nome, AK 99762
katepersons@yahoo.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: bobscabinak@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of ROBERT STANDISH
<bobscabinak@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:42 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and rougheye rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and rougheye rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and rougheye rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.
[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62cca323b85faf15e3ca3ce8/t/67f69720b1bcad44ac069101/1744213793767/Letter*from*the*Board*of*Fisheries*to*the*Alaska*State*Legislature*3.15.25.pdf__;KysrKysrKysrKysr!!LdQKC6s!PMsEZzZiH7_H0U05pLIVvIVN70BkhNZRCGWnCFGiPASPwWF-IBfmnE9fFsmQNmxcx4dwmf-Od0PsqF_TgjOzoCQEbFK_nwObgrjHQ\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62cca323b85faf15e3ca3ce8/t/67f69720b1bcad44ac069101/1744213793767/Letter*from*the*Board*of*Fisheries*to*the*Alaska*State*Legislature*3.15.25.pdf__;KysrKysrKysrKysr!!LdQKC6s!PMsEZzZiH7_H0U05pLIVvIVN70BkhNZRCGWnCFGiPASPwWF-IBfmnE9fFsmQNmxcx4dwmf-Od0PsqF_TgjOzoCQEbFK_nwObgrjHQ$)

Sincerely,
ROBERT STANDISH
Kenai, AK 99611
bobscabinak@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: bawgofish@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Bruce White
<bawgofish@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:37 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

Sincerely,
Bruce White
Sitka, AK 99835-9552
bawgofish@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: 1norcoast@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of James Steffen
<1norcoast@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:37 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

Please stop destructive trawl fishing! I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowlfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.
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Sincerely,
James Steffen
Sitka, AK 99835-0936
1norcoast@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: thea.whitehead@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Thea Whitehead
<thea.whitehead@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:35 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

It is also worth noting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries sent a letter to the legislature requesting the authority to require electronic monitoring of trawl vessels in the PWS fishery. If EM were required on trawl vessels, it would allow an accurate recording of bycatch species, including bottom indicator species.

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Sincerely,
Thea Whitehead
Wasilla, AK 99654-5602
thea.whitehead@icloud.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: lilaleelittle@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lila Johnson
<lilaleelittle@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 6:12 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Lila Johnson
Homer, AK 99603
lilaleelittle@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: tchulick42@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 7:14 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Public Testimony: I support SB 161 Prohibit Bottom Trawling

Senator Gary Stevens,

My name is Tammy Chulick. I am a retired veteran from Kasilof, Kenai Peninsula Area, Alaska. I am a sports fisherman, and I support the SB 161 Prohibit Bottom Trawling..

The Kenai and Kasilof Rivers sport fishing for Chinook salmon has been closed for several years and Coho fishing has been poor. Closures of river salmon fishing have been going on throughout the state. Science has already shown the direct correlation between Big Trawl and decreasing numbers of Chinook salmon and other fishes. Science has also shown the direct correlation between Big Trawl and destruction of ocean habitat and the scale of taking fish and other ocean species is not sustainable. This all comes down to limiting fishing opportunities for individual Alaskans and small businesses, while billion-dollar trawl industry continues business as usual wasting bycatch on a huge scale and destroying the ocean habitat. The scale of Big Trawl bycatch is unacceptable and not sustainable.

My recommendations with the “goal of improving the health and sustainability of Alaska’s fisheries”:

1. Ban bottom trawling (SB 161) that eliminates bycatch and protects Alaskans' access to fishing and provides sustainability.
2. Provide a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for Big Trawl to remove their vessels from ocean production and give the salmon, halibut, crabs, herring, Chum, other fishes, Orcas, and ocean habitat a chance to improve in health. Also, farmers have crop insurance and funds available when extreme weather devastates harvests and federal relief when markets are closed. “Sea farmers” could benefit from these Federal/State Government programs.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Tammy Chulick
Tchulick42@gmail.com
CP# 907-201-4330

IntiMayo Harbison

From: inletcafe@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Karen Stepanenko
<inletcafe@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 5:46 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Karen Stepanenko
Pelican, AK 99832
inletcafe@hughes.net

IntiMayo Harbison

From: akpsweaver@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Pamela Weaver
<akpsweaver@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

If ocean floor habitat is destroyed, our fisheries are sunk. Industrial trawling is a major contributor to the problems our fisheries are facing. Yes, there are warming ocean waters which makes it all the more important to lessen the impacts by trawling.

Most state waters are already closed to bottom trawling, pelagic or midwater trawls are found to be dragging the bottom between 40 and 100% of the time, depending on vessel type and season. The state of Alaska must take swift action to address the issues of trawl bycatch and its negative impact on the ocean floor habitat. The only state-managed pollock trawl fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is regulated to be a midwater trawl fishery. However, bycatch reporting from the pollock trawl boats indicates that they are fishing at or near the bottom because they bycatch non-pelagic species. The regular bycatch of shortracker and roughey rockfish as well as smaller amounts of halibut, black cod, lumpsuckers, skates, sole, flounder, octopus, prowfish, and other rockfish species, provides ample evidence that the trawl nets deployed by the fleet are making bottom contact and dragging the seabed. These species of rockfish can be considered indicator organisms for bottom trawling due to their role and habitat association in the ecosystem. Shortracker and roughey rockfish are both nonpelagic or demersal species. Shortracker and roughey rockfish both inhabit the benthic and shelf zones at depths of 300-500 meters and 150-450 meters, respectively.

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Sincerely,
Pamela Weaver
Fairbanks, AK 99709-6835
akpsweaver@yahoo.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: colonialhomes@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sharron laplante MD
<colonialhomes@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 6:17 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
Sharron laplante MD
Tolland, CT 06084
colonialhomes@sbcglobal.net

IntiMayo Harbison

From: jlck@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of John Keiser <jlck@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 12:00 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
John Keiser
New York, NY 10009-6418
jlck@nyc.rr.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: vicaryalaska@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Clyde Vicary
<vicaryalaska@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 3:55 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
Clyde Vicary
Anchorage, AK 99508-3256
vicaryalaska@gmail.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: victoriachall2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of victoria Hall <victoriachall2@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
victoria Hall
Burien, WA 98166-2019
victoriachall2@yahoo.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: cummingst44@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Terry Cummings <cummingst44@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 10:38 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
Terry Cummings Ms
Anchorage, AK 99504-1814
cummingst44@yahoo.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: cobaltmcneil@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Margaret McNeil
<cobaltmcneil@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 9:42 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
Margaret McNeil
Anchorage, AK 99518-2839
cobaltmcneil@yahoo.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: stephandonovan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Stephan Donovan
<stephandonovan@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 9:33 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

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Sincerely,
Stephan Donovan
Oro Valley, AZ 85737-3451
stephandonovan@aol.com

IntiMayo Harbison

From: daveworl@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of David Worley
<daveworl@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 8:41 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding SB 161/ HB 203: Prohibit Bottom Trawling. I believe this is a great step in addressing the issues trawling causes. As you consider this bill, please support small boat fishing and ensure that the bill addresses industrial trawling methods but does not impact fisheries with low bycatch that are managed sustainably.

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Sincerely,
David Worley
Reno, NV 89512-4527
daveworl@sbcglobal.net

IntiMayo Harbison

From: georgia.shankel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Georgia Shankel
<georgia.shankel@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 8:33 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 161/ HB 203 prohibit bottom trawling

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

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Sincerely,
Georgia Shankel
Chicago, IL 60624-2953
georgia.shankel@gmail.com



Office of the Mayor and City Council

710 Mill Bay Road, Room 111, Kodiak, Alaska 99615

May 6, 2025

Senate Resources Committee
Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

Re: Senate Bill 161

Dear Chairwoman Gessel and Committee Members,

The City of Kodiak opposes Senate Bill 161 which would ban use of specific trawl or dredge fishing gear in State waters. If the legislature enacts Senate Bill 161 it would have a substantial negative impact on Kodiak's fishing industry, its residents, vessel owners and crews, processing companies and seafood workers, and a wide range of support businesses and marine repair industry. The City of Kodiak's revenues are derived from taxes on fish landings and sales tax generated by fuel sales, groceries, and support services. While the footprint of these gear types is small in state waters, this bill would prohibit multiple fisheries from operating in state waters, including scallop, shrimp, pollock, and Pacific cod.

The community of Kodiak benefits year-round from fisheries landings from all gear types and vessel classes. Kodiak's diverse fisheries are the community's largest economic driver, and the seafood sector is Kodiak's largest employer. Both the landed catch and processed catch occur within the City of Kodiak. The KIB levies a severance tax of .00925 applied to the ex-vessel fish price, the City levies a sales tax of 7% for all purchases within city limits, and both governments benefit from the State of Alaska Fishery Business Tax. These revenues directly support city and borough services without which we would be more dependent on State revenues.

In addition to the City's concerns over potential revenue losses, we are also concerned that this bill sets a new precedent where the Alaska legislature engages in regulating fisheries policy which circumvents the normal fisheries regulatory processes established by the legislature. State fisheries management should be determined by the appropriate regulatory body such as the Alaska Board of Fish, not the legislature. These established processes allow affected stakeholders to interact with the decision makers, and bring fishery policy discussions to the appropriate regional areas, where local fishery managers with expertise relative to all of the affected fisheries can provide the best available science to inform a fishery management action.

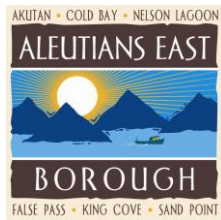
With due respect, The City of Kodiak recommends that the Senate Resource Committee not advance the bill for further consideration. Our community like other Alaskan coastal communities continues to recover from consecutive years of low fish prices and reduced demand. We depend

on all gear types and all fisheries to maintain our seafood economy that supports the largest permanent resident seafood workforce in Alaska. Senate Bill 161 would potentially change fisheries management irrevocably, making it a political, unpredictable process that would impact future investments in the seafood industry. Kodiak's seafood economy depends entirely on a stable and open public fishery regulatory process, driven by input from regional fisheries managers and scientists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Branson".

Mayor Pat Branson
City of Kodiak



May 6, 2025

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 161

Dear Chairwoman Giessel and Senate Resources Committee,

The Aleutians East Borough (AEB), City of King Cove, and City of Sand Point oppose Senate Bill 161 which seeks to prohibit the use of certain trawl or dredge gear in state waters. The AEB is the municipal government that encompasses the communities of King Cove, Sand Point, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Akutan and Cold Bay – with the first three communities having resident fishermen who would be directly impacted by this bill. Our coastal communities in the AEB have a rich cultural history of fishing and it is the cornerstone of the economy. The AEB and our communities are all heavily reliant on fisheries tax revenue that is generated by raw fish tax and the State of Alaska Shared Fisheries Business Tax.

If passed, this bill could have devastating unintended consequences for the Borough, our communities and constituents. Local small-vessel fishermen rely on having year-round fisheries to sustain their livelihoods, and the loss of any one market has the potential to destabilize processing. Trickle-down effects can be seen all the way from the individual to community-level impacts such as loss of students and subsequent closure of schools, and municipalities that are unable to afford bond debt or major infrastructure improvements.

While this bill does not discriminate between areas or types of trawl vessels, it will disproportionately impact the local under 60' trawl fleet homeported in Sand Point, King Cove and False Pass. These vessels rely on state parallel fisheries, especially during A Season where most of the fishing grounds occur within or close to the 3-mile boundary. State waters are also important for reducing bycatch, giving vessels more flexibility to move away from areas encountering bycatch species.

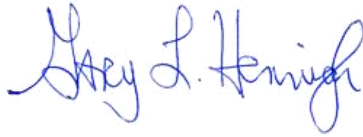
Lastly, this bill attempts to use the legislature to circumvent the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries process established to manage fisheries and handle concerns exactly like the one proposed in this bill. The Board of Fisheries process is bolstered by the best available science

and the expertise of the Board Members and Alaska Department of Fish & Game, which is absolutely critical for making sound regulatory decisions about highly complex and nuanced fisheries. The Board of Fisheries recently addressed a similar issue related to the Prince William Sound pollock fishery at the November 2024 Board of Fisheries meeting, and to now challenge that decision would be a discredit to the public process and the Board members and many stakeholders who contributed to that process. The AEB, and the cities of King Cove and Sand Point respectfully request that the Senate Resources Committee not advance this bill for further consideration and instead defer to the Board of Fisheries to take up this issue if warranted.

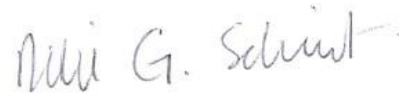
Sincerely,



Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor
Aleutians East Borough



Gary Hennigh, City Manager
City of King Cove



Debi Schmidt, City Administrator
City of Sand Point

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

May 6, 2025

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 161 - Bottom Trawling Ban

Dear Senator Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

My name is Alex Jackson. I am an owner/operator of the F/V Karen Evich , a 58' combination fishing boat based out of Sand Point, AK. This is a family owned business. We trawl for pollock and cod in the Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Gulf of Alaska supporting the communities of Adak, Atka, Dutch Harbor, Akutan, False Pass, King Cove, Sand Point, and Kodiak. My wife and daughter are both Alaska Natives and we own a house in Sand Point. My daughter's family has been trawling in Alaska state waters for over 50 years. We are strongly opposed to Senate Bill 161. This Bill is a complex issue that the Legislature is not designed to address and it falls under the authority of the Board of Fish.

Senate Bill 161 would have devastating effects to our fishing operation, as well as our local community of Sand Point. We trawl for pollock during the fall and winter months around Sand Point, in statistical area 610. At least 70% of pollock trawl fishing occurs in the parallel fishery (inside 3 miles). This bill would be the end to the local trawl fleet of Sand Point and King Cove. We would not be able to survive financially losing this fishing area. All of the trawlers based out of these towns are 58' trawlers and the majority are operated and crewed by Alaska residents. The community of Sand Point relies on these fisheries to survive. The people behind this bill think that they are putting the hurt to larger factory trawlers, but really they are just hurting the small, family-owned operations.

Our pollock fishery is already heavily regulated. We are 100% observed with a camera system. There are many area closures for Stellar Sea Lion protections and currently almost all of Alaska's state waters is closed to non-pelagic gear. The small remaining area for non-pelagic gear is essential for our local fleets to be able to harvest Pacific cod. Over the last 30 years we have already lost many historical fishing grounds. This bill would be the nail in the coffin for us to continue harvesting pollock in our area.

This decision to ban the use of trawls that make "substantial bottom contact with the seafloor" in Alaska's state waters should be left to the ADF&G. There needs to be more research and data showing the effects this Bill would have. This Bill takes away the Board of Fisheries ability to provide fishing opportunity to the coastal communities. Our business and family is opposed to Senate Bill 161 now and in the future. This would be the end to a fishery I have participated in my whole adult life. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide written public comment.

Sincerely,
Alex Jackson
Owner/Operator
FV Karen Evich

CANFISCO GROUP USA

A Division of the Jim Pattison Group

May 6th, 2025

Senate Resources Committee

Senator Giessel

Email: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

RE: SB161

Dear Chair Giessel and Committee Members,

Canfisco Group USA is comprised of the following shoreside processing companies in Alaska: Alaska General Seafoods, Leader Creek Fisheries, E&E Foods, and North Pacific Seafoods. These processing plants are located in Togiak, Egegik (two plants), Naknek (four plants), Kodiak, Kenai, Yakutat, Sitka, and Ketchikan. These operations employ 900 full-time staff and 3,500 workers at our peak each summer. Our processing facilities support 1,750 independent fishermen annually.

Canfisco opposes SB161, which would prohibit trawl gear within state waters beginning in 2028, regardless if the study on bottom contact mandated by the bill occurs or is not finished. This is an unnecessary and harmful action on Alaskan fishermen, many of which deliver to and are supported by our processing plant in Kodiak.

The Alaska legislature has delegated management of fisheries in state waters to the Board of Fisheries. This regulatory body provides a public platform for creating fishery regulations that the legislature does not have the capacity to duplicate. They are informed by scientific presentations made by ADF&G staff, advised by committees comprised of stakeholders and interested public, and receive written and in-person testimony on every action.

Overriding the authority of a Board that is appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the legislature and informed by science is poor policy.

In December, the Board of Fisheries took up several proposals that would have had a similar impact as SB161 on the Prince William Sound pollock fishery. Through their public process, after being educated on the gear and management practices in the fishery, they voted not to close the fishery and amended it to improve the ability for vessels to move to areas of known low bycatch.

SB161 will harm our North Pacific Seafoods plant in Kodiak, our fishermen, and the community through its impacts on the Pacific cod and pollock fisheries. This plant processes salmon, crab, halibut, sablefish, Pacific cod, and pollock. While not all trawl caught deliveries to this plant come from state waters, any disruptions would be impactful. Trawl fisheries allow our Kodiak plant to remain open year-round, resulting in 90% of our workers being local Kodiak residents. Due to the efficiencies and economies of scale provided by the volume of trawl caught species, this plant is also able to participate in other fisheries including salmon, crab, halibut, and sablefish.

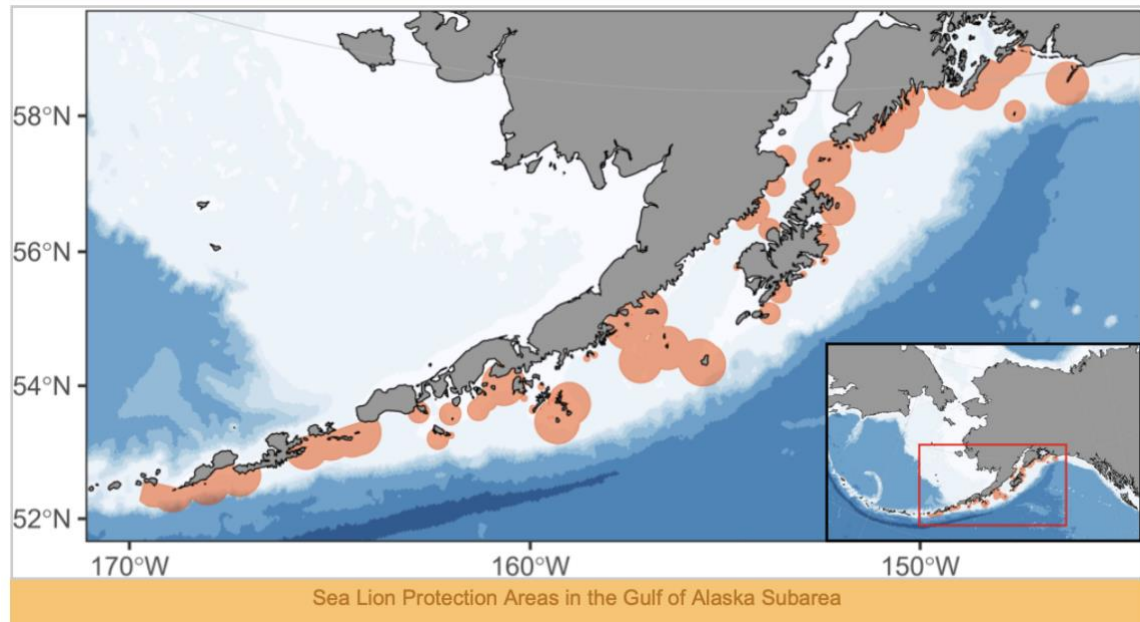
The legislature should also understand that the majority of state (and federal) waters already significantly limits where bottom trawl gear can be used. All trawl gear is already banned in large areas of state waters. And roughly 200 conservation areas have been created in Alaska's federal waters (Exclusive Economic Zone) to conserve marine resources and biodiversity, protect vulnerable habitats, and support healthy coastal communities. The following maps show two trawl gear closures that overlap with state waters. In the case of Southeast, this is a large area of waters closed to trawl gear *adjacent to and outside of state waters*.



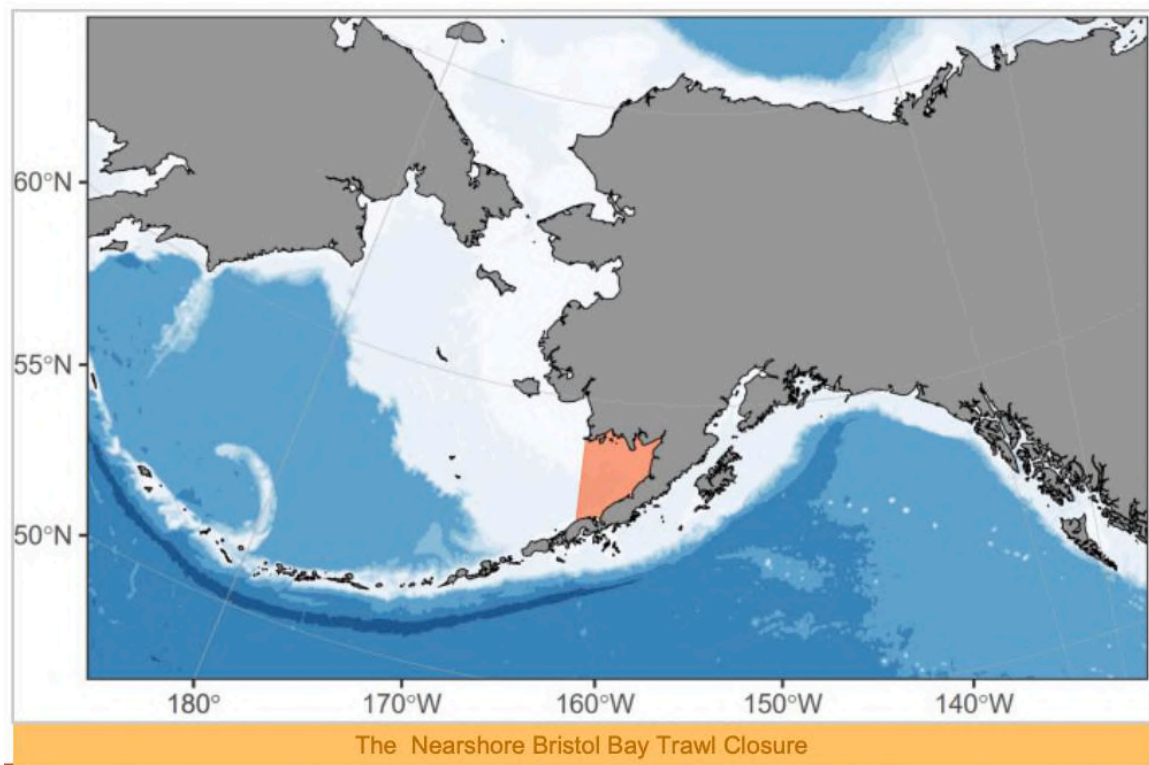
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- In the sea lion protection areas, prohibitions vary by site, creating closures for trawl and other gear groups 3-20 nm from the rookery or haulout pictured.



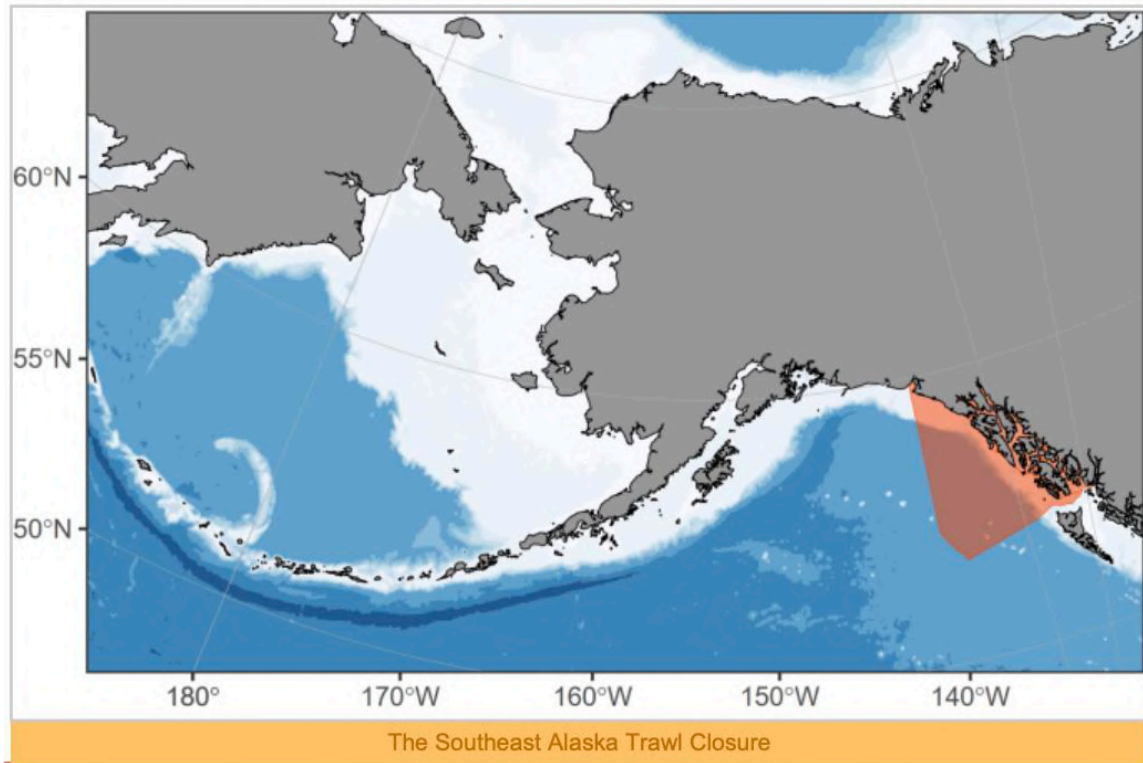
- The nearshore Bristol Bay trawl closure prohibits all trawl gear.



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- The Southeast Alaska trawl closure prohibits all trawl gear in federal waters that begin three miles offshore.¹



The Joint Legislative Task Force Evaluating Alaska’s Seafood Industry held 10 meetings, and heard testimony from 74 participants who contributed 38 presentations on how the state can support the seafood industry. They repeatedly heard Alaska’s commercial fishermen, processors, and fishing dependent coastal communities need stability. This is not that action. Undermining the Board of Fisheries by establishing an alternative legislative pathway for fisheries management sets a concerning precedent and undermines long-term stability.

Respectfully,

Megan O’Neil
Director of Government Affairs

¹ North Pacific Conservation and Spatial Management Area’s in Alaska’s Exclusive Economic Zone, NPFMC, March 2023

https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/Publications/Conservation_Area_Summaries.pdf



May 6, 2025

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SENATE BILL 161 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Giessel, Vice-Chair Wielechowski, and Members of the Senate Resources Committee:

Oceana supports Senate Bill 161, which would prohibit bottom trawling in Alaska's state-managed marine waters and provide critical protections for seafloor habitats and associated marine life. This bill is an essential step toward conserving fish habitats, minimizing bycatch, and preserving the resilience of Alaska's ocean ecosystems.

Oceana is an international organization committed to protecting and restoring the world's oceans with over two decades of experience working in Alaska to advance responsible fishery management, protect ocean habitats, and reduce bycatch.

Bottom trawling is widely recognized as one of the most destructive and unselective forms of commercial fishing gear. These large, weighted trawl nets are dragged along the seafloor to target species like Pacific cod, sole or Atka mackerel, but they also crush and uproot structures like cold-water corals and sponges that serve as nursery grounds and shelter for other Alaska fish species such as halibut and crab. The nets catch many untargeted fish that are then discarded overboard, often dead or dying, as "bycatch".¹ In fact, the federally managed trawl fleet operating off Alaska's coast discarded roughly 141 million pounds of bycatch each year between 2011 and 2021.² The long-term damage to seafloor habitats and fish communities threatens the biodiversity, productivity, and sustainability of Alaska's fisheries.³

Due to longstanding concerns about habitat damage and bycatch, much of Alaska's state waters, extending from shore to three nautical miles, are already closed to bottom trawling. Yet loopholes in current regulations allow trawl activity on the seafloor to persist in certain areas of the state, and with certain trawl gear configurations. In particular, pelagic or "midwater" trawl gear, which is

¹ E.g. Krieger, K. J. 2001. Coral (Primnoa) impacted by fishing gear in the Gulf of Alaska. Pages 106–117 in J. Willison, J. Hall, S. Gass, E. Kenchington, M. Butler, and P. Doherty, eds. Proc. First Int. Symp. on Deep-sea Corals. Ecology Action Centre and Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, Nova Scotia.; Thrush, S. and P. K. Dayton. 2002. Disturbance to marine benthic habitats by trawling and dredging: Implications for marine biodiversity. *Annu. Rev. Ecol. Syst.* 33: 449–473.

² Witherell, D. 2021. Bycatch in the North Pacific: Management and trends. Presentation to the Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force, November 2021. North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Available at: https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/bycatchtaskforce/bycatch_in_npacific_witherell.pdf.

³ E.g. Engel, J. and R. Kvitek. 1998. Effects of Otter Trawling on a Benthic Community in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. *Conserv. Biol.* 12: 1204–1214.; National Research Council (NRC). 2002. Effects of Trawling and Dredging on Seafloor Habitat. National Academy of Sciences. Washington, D.C. 126 p.; Chuenpagdee, R., L. E. Morgan, S. Maxwell, E. A. Norse, and D. Pauly. 2003. Shifting gears: Assessing collateral impacts of fishing methods in the U.S. waters. *Front. Ecol. Env.* 1: 517–524.

permitted in some groundfish fisheries, frequently makes contact with the seafloor in areas currently closed to bottom trawling.

Independent analyses by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) confirmed that pelagic trawl gear often operates in close contact with the ocean floor. NMFS estimated that the proportion of the fished area in contact with the seabed is 20% to 60% for Bering Sea pollock trawl catcher vessels and 70% to 100% for Bering Sea pollock trawl catcher processors, depending on the vessel size and area fished.⁴ NMFS further estimates that up to 40% of the area fished by Gulf of Alaska pelagic trawls for both pollock and slope rockfish is in contact with the seafloor and that for smaller Sand Point pelagic trawl catcher vessels, 100% of the area swept is in contact with the seabed.⁵ These patterns directly contradict the assumption that “midwater” gear avoids sensitive benthic habitats and highlight the need for clear, enforceable protections within our state waters.

Senate Bill 161 can address this gap by:

1. prohibiting all groundfish trawling in Alaska’s state-managed marine waters;
2. requiring the Department of Fish and Game to conduct a comprehensive study of the health of seafloor ecosystems, fish habitats, and trawl bycatch in state waters; and
3. closing the regulatory loophole for “pelagic” trawl gear, which can be functionally indistinguishable from bottom trawling in practice.

By advancing SB 161, Alaska can lead by example, ensuring that state waters are protected from harmful trawling practices and that conservation measures are applied consistently across all groundfish bottom-contact trawl gear. This legislation follows Alaska’s tradition of responsible fisheries management and supports the many Alaska communities that depend on healthy ocean ecosystems for food, culture, and livelihoods.

We strongly recommend the Senate Resource Committee pass Senate Bill 161 and protect Alaska’s marine environment from the continued impacts of trawling.

Sincerely,



Lauren Hynes
Campaign Manager & Marine Scientist

⁴ Zaleski, M, TS Smeltz, and S Rheinsmith et al. (February 2023). 2022 Evaluation of Fishing Effects on Essential Fish Habitat. January 2023. NPFMC C4 EFH Component 2 Fishing Effects Evaluation at Table A2.1

⁵ *Id.*

Pacific Seafood®

May 6th, 2025

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK

Re: Opposition to SB 161

Dear Chair Giessel and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 161. On behalf of Pacific Seafood, we respectfully submit this letter in opposition to the proposed legislation, which would prohibit the use of certain trawl and dredge gear types in state waters beginning in 2028.

Pacific Seafood is proud to be deeply invested in Alaska's working waterfronts. Through our fleet operations in Kodiak and beyond, we support year-round jobs, provide high-quality American seafood to dinner plates across the country, and depend on continued access to responsibly managed fisheries to do so.

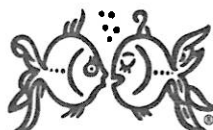
SB 161 would directly impact several key fisheries that are central to the economic foundation of coastal communities like Kodiak. Our fleet participates in responsibly managed fisheries such as Prince William Sound pollock and Gulf of Alaska cod. These fisheries operate under stringent regulatory frameworks, including seasonal restrictions, gear limitations, and close oversight. They are among the most well-regulated and sustainable fisheries in the United States.

Importantly, this legislation bypasses Alaska's established and science-based fishery management process. The Alaska Board of Fisheries, which includes gubernatorial appointees confirmed by the legislature, reviewed this issue as recently as December. After thorough consideration of scientific data and input from stakeholders, the Board chose not to implement a gear ban, citing the low bottom contact and minimal biological impacts associated with these gear types. Replacing that thoughtful process with legislation sets a concerning precedent that undermines the integrity of Alaska's fishery management system.

SB 161 also risks closing access to fishing grounds where the physical footprint is small, but the economic value is significant. The impacts would reverberate beyond the harvesters themselves, affecting processing workers, support industries, and the local governments that rely on fisheries revenue to fund essential services like education, infrastructure, and public safety.

In Kodiak, fishing isn't just a job—it's what keeps the lights on and forms the backbone of the community.

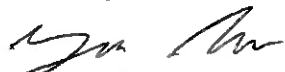
Pacific Seafood fully supports science-driven management, gear innovation, and ongoing research—much of which is already industry-led and funded. However, preemptively banning fisheries without conclusive evidence of harm puts livelihoods at risk for uncertain gains.



We urge the Committee not to advance SB 161 and to uphold Alaska's strong tradition of science-based, stakeholder-driven fisheries management.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ryan Balice

Fleet Manager

rbalice@pacificseafood.com



May 6, 2025

Alaska Senate
Senator Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

RE: Oppose SB 161

Dear Chair Giessel and Committee members:

The Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) opposes SB 161, which would prohibit certain gear types that harvest scallops, shrimp, pollock, and Pacific cod in state waters. The bill would prohibit certain fisheries in 2028 regardless of whether the referenced study of seafloor impacts is completed or supports the outcome.

PSPA is comprised of major seafood processing companies that purchase fish from harvesters and process fish and crab in 23 coastal AK communities, from Ketchikan to Cordova to Kodiak to Unalaska, and in two floating processors which serve remote locations. The health of commercial fisheries and the seafood industry is critical to Alaska, as it generates \$5 - \$6 billion in economic activity in Alaska annually and creates 48,000 direct jobs – more than any other private industry in the state. Alaska and its coastal communities need all fisheries to be viable.

The fishing industry has and will continue to devote resources toward research of gear impacts to reduce habitat impacts and bycatch, improve the efficiency of gear, and/or to respond to management objectives of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Additional research initiatives funded by the State, such as those referenced in Section 2 of SB 161, should be coordinated with ongoing research to ensure that it is filling an existing gap and provides the most useful and beneficial information to the State's management programs.

Below we briefly summarize specific concerns with this bill:

- **SB 161 will directly harm Alaska fishermen, processors, and communities without beneficial impacts to Alaska and Alaskans.** The primary fisheries affected include statewide scallop, shrimp in Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound, Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod, the Prince William Sound (PWS) pollock fishery, and some areas of pollock fishing in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska.
- **The bill would ban fisheries with a relatively small footprint in Alaska waters but that are very important to these fishermen and communities.** Even in the areas where bottom contact is allowed, having contact does not convey a level of impact, e.g., whether that impact is more than minimal or temporary. Please request information from ADFG to show the amount of

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state waters already closed to trawl or dredge gear, and the level of participation in and timing of the affected fisheries. The Alaska Board of Fisheries process brings comprehensive input and management expertise to the issues, allowing for an understanding of the full consequences of potential actions on fisheries.

- **The state fisheries harmed are critical to Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, and the Aleutian Islands.** The coastal economy of these communities/regions is dependent on commercial fisheries, in both the resident jobs, support businesses, transportation services, and fish tax revenue they provide. This is a resource-driven state, and fisheries are managed responsibly and with more regulation than possibly any other region of the U.S. The Alaska Legislature should be looking for opportunities to promote and bolster commercial fisheries.
- **Over-riding the authority of a state board, expressly provided with such authority by the Alaska Legislature, is poor public policy.** It is harmful precedent for the Alaska Legislature to substitute its own judgement for that of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, who has authority over state fisheries management. The Board is appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Legislature, and is informed by ADFG expertise, scientific data, and a very public process. For example, the Alaska Board of Fisheries made changes to the PWS pollock fishery as recently as December 2024, and did not act to prohibit the fishery after learning how the specific gear works, understanding its minimal contact with the bottom given the rocky benthic habitat of the fishing grounds, and learning of the impact to juvenile salmon from pollock predation.

Alaska's fishery resources are managed through a transparent public process based on best available science and fishery management expertise. Please do not further consider this bill.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julie Decker".

Julie Decker
President, PSPA
Wrangell, Alaska

IntiMayo Harbison

From: Elaine Lawrence <emlawrence907@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 11:09 AM
To: Senate Resources
Cc: Van Lawrence; Elaine Lawrence
Subject: SB161 Bottom Trawling

Honorable Senate Resources Committee members,

I am writing in strong favor of SB 161, An Act banning the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state waters. Alaska fish are essential to the life and livelihood of many Alaskans. To keep our fish stocks strong, trawling should be put to an end. This bill moves Alaska forward in protecting essential fish habitat.

Thank you for passing this bill out of committee and on to the next level.

Best Regards,

Elaine Lawrence
503 Lignite Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701