

# Senator Jesse Bjorkman

*Alaska State Legislature*

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## **SENATE BILL 158 - COOK INLET: NEW ADMIN AREA**

*"An Act relating to administrative areas for regulation of certain commercial set net entry permits; and providing for an effective date."*

### **Sponsor Statement – ver. \I**

The statutory mission of the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) is to promote the conservation and the sustained yield management of Alaska's fishery resource and the economic health and stability of commercial fishing in Alaska by regulating and controlling entry of participants into the commercial fisheries in the public interest and without unjust discrimination. (AS 16.43.010(a).

For decades the East Side Set Net fishery in Cook Inlet has been managed uniquely from the rest of the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet. However, because the East Side Set Net fishery is included in the same administrative area as the rest of the Central District, the CFEC is unable to appropriately manage the number of permits that are subject to the unique regulatory environment that governs the East side of Cook Inlet. A new administrative area is required to allow CFEC to execute its mission.

Senate Bill 158 directs the CFEC to create a new administrative area that consists of the six statistical areas which make up the uniquely regulated Cook Inlet East Side Set Net fishery. Within this new administrative area, CFEC will have the power to effectively designate the number of set-net permits that participate in that fishery.

Senate Bill 158 allows the permit holders who had traditionally fished the East Side of Cook Inlet to be managed and optimized according to the mission of CFEC and the Alaska Constitution.

I urge members support of this legislation.