




Representative Alan Austerman

House Majority Leader

Alaska State Legislature

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Steve Thompson, Chairman
House Fisheries Committee

From: Representative Alan Austerman 

Date: March 24, 2011

RE: Changes to House Bill 181 from Version B to Version E

The following changes have been implemented into House Bill Version E, based on feedback from industry, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC), and committee members. Except where noted, page and line numbers refer to the draft committee substitute, Version E.

- **Deletion of Section 1 from Version B**—Section 1 in Version B directed ADF&G to issue crew activity forms to crewmembers at the time when crew licenses are purchased. The department instead envisions mailing forms to crewmembers at the end of the season. Section 1 was deleted to allow the department the flexibility to design the best possible distribution system for crewmember activity forms.
- **Throughout the bill**—where the term “vessel” was previously used, it has been expanded to include vessels and set net sites. This is because fishing activity at set net sites does not necessarily occur on board a vessel.
- **Page 1, Line 14 to Page 2, Line 6**—The data that crewmembers will be mandated to report has been changed somewhat, following additional conversations with ADF&G and CFEC. An important goal of the data collection is to link the crew database with existing harvest and databases, in order to tie crew to fishing activity. We recognize that doing this successfully may require some amount of experimentation in program design. We have provided flexibility so the department can design a successful program without the need to return for legislation. Additionally, on Page 2, Line 14 and Page 3, Line 2, we have specified some information that the agencies feel will be critical.
- **Page 2, Line 9**—The reporting date has been changed to April 15, as it is envisioned that crewmembers may choose to complete their annual crew activity forms at the same time they prepare their federal income taxes.

- **Page 2, Lines 13 and 14**—We have provided the opportunity for vessel and set net site owners as well as operators to review the data. This is because hired skippers sometimes operate vessel or sites.
- **Page 2, Line 25**—The United States Department of Labor was added to the list of federal agencies with which ADF&G can share data. This is because the U.S. Department of Labor administers the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which has been applied to harvesters in Alaska several times in the last decade.
- **Page 3, Line 11**—The sunset date was advanced by one year. This ensures at least three years of complete data, but brings the program back before the legislature on a quicker timeline to ensure the program is effective.