

ALASKA STATE HOUSE

Session:

State Capitol Building,
Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-4922
Fax: (907) 465-2197



Interim:

1292 Sadler Way, Suite 308
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 451-2875
Fax: (907) 456-3346

REPRESENTATIVE DAVE TALERICO

Sponsor Statement for House Bill 220

“An Act relating to fish; and establishing a fisheries enhancement permit.”

Fish have been one of the most valuable natural resources for Alaskans to harvest for recreation, business, and as a source of food. Most Alaskans want to see sustainable fisheries in the State so that all major user groups receive the benefits. Subsistence, commercial, and sport fishers have worked hard through the current fish management system to keep our fisheries strong. This system however, focuses more on how to maintain current fish levels instead of finding ways to increase fish for all users.

House Bill 220 will create another tool that Alaskans can use to increase fish populations through a Fisheries Enhancement Permit. This permit will allow Alaskan residents and organizations to increase natural fish populations, introduce fish to new bodies of water, and improve fish habitat for natural populations. HB 220 lets individuals and organizations to give back to Alaska and help ensure that future generations can enjoy the bounteous blessing of healthy natural fisheries.

HB 220 also contains effective controls in order to ensure that projects approved under this bill do not harm Alaskan fisheries. These include a prohibition of projects using invasive species or nonindigenous fish food sources, projects will only be allowed in areas that have low or nonexistent fish populations, and a requirement for applicants to reasonably communicate with local stakeholders including native tribes, governmental organizations, and other affected people.

House Bill 220 will benefit Alaskans by increasing natural fish populations, increasing scientific knowledge of our State’s fisheries, and allowing residents and local organizations to invest their own time and money into sustaining our natural resources. HB 220 will be one more tool that we can use to ensure that all Alaskans, both today and in the future, can participate and benefit from Alaska’s natural fish resources.

Staff contact: Joshua Banks, (907) 465-2847