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Bill Summary

East Side of Cook Inlet Set Net Fleet Reduction Act

This is a summary only. Note that this summary should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1: Amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding a new section which establishes that this legislation may be known as the East Side of Cook Inlet Set Net Fleet Reduction Act.

Section 2: Amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding new Legislative findings and intent relating to the bill.

Section 3: Amends AS 16.43.200(b), giving the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (commission) specific authority to divide an existing commercial fishing administrative area into two or more separate areas.

Section 4: Amends AS 16.43.200 by adding 2 new subsections:

- (c) Establishes an area of the Upper Subdistrict of the Cook Inlet Central District as a distinct administrative area separate from the Cook Inlet Central District on December 31, 2019. This area is made up of the statistical areas identified on January 1, 2019 as 244-21, 244-22, 244-31, 244-32, 244-41 and 244-42.
- (d) Provides that an individual who has a set net permit for the Cook Inlet Central District on December 31, 2019 is not entitled to set net in the administrative area created under this section as of January 1, 2020 unless the permit has been reassigned to that new administrative area.

Section 5: Amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding a new section which provides how the commission will determine whether an individual who holds a set net entry permit in the Cook Inlet Central District on January 1, 2020 is reassigned an entry permit for the administrative area established under AS 16.43.200(c) (added by sec. 4 of the bill) or the portion of the Cook Inlet Central District that was not assigned into the administrative area established under AS 16.43.200(c).

Section 6: Amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding a new section which defines the appeals process in the new administrative area. This section provides that

a provisional license will be issued pending resolution of an appeal and the provisional permit holder may cast a provisional ballot in the election established under section 7.

Section 7: Amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding a new section which requires on April 1, 2020 an election be conducted by the commission among persons holding permits in the new administrative area, to affirm support or opposition to a buy-back program. Requires the commission provide public notice of the election, hold public meetings concerning the election, and clarify the details of the buy-back program to those participating in the election.

Section 8: Amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding a new section which establishes the set net entry permit buy-back program for certain permits fished in the administrative area established under AS 16.43.200(c) (added by sec. 4 of the bill). This section will only take effect if approved in an election by the set net entry permit holders in the administrative area established under AS 16.43.200(c). If it is approved, the buy-back program will become law 30 days following notification of the Lt. Governor (*see* secs. 10 and 12). Sets qualifications for participation in the program, provides the buy-back price for permits, requires that the purchased permits be cancelled and not re-issued, provides that certain waters that were fished with permits purchased under the program will be closed to future commercial salmon fishing, and specifies other details of the buy-back program.

Section 9: Amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding a new section which requires the commission to provide a written report to the Legislature on the status of the program not later than January 15, 2026.

Section 10: Amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding a new section which requires the chair of the commission to notify the Lieutenant Governor and the Revisor of Statutes of the outcome of the election held under section 7.

Section 11: Repeals sections 1, 2, 8 and 9 on June 30, 2026.

Section 12: Amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska by adding a new section which provides that secs. 1, 2, 8, and 9 take effect only if notice is provided under section 10 that the buy-back program established under section 8 was approved.

Section 13: Effective Date Clause. Section 4 of the bill takes effect January 1, 2020.

Section 14: Effective Date Clause. Provides if sections 1, 2, 8 and, 9, take effect under section 12, they take effect 30 days following the date of the notice provided in section 10 that the buy-back program was approved.

Section 15: Effective Date Clause. Except as provided in sections 13 and 14, the bill takes effect July 1, 2019.