

*Alaska State Legislature*  
REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE STUTES



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

**House Bill 64 – Version I**

**Sponsor Statement**

“An Act relating to regional fisheries development associations; and related to developing fishery management assessments”

This legislation would encourage growth in commercial fisheries by allowing stakeholders in a developing fishery to form a regional fishery development association, establish a landing tax by a vote of the fishery’s participants, and utilize the revenue through the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to conduct surveys specific to that fishery; under current law, this mechanism is only available to dive fisheries.

As with other state agencies, declining state funding has lessened ADF&G’s ability to manage established fisheries, leaving little room to fund experimental fisheries, such as those authorized under a Commissioner’s permit.

Fisheries cannot be prosecuted or expand without adequate assessments of the resource; it is the basic tenant of sustainable management. This legislation will facilitate new fisheries that would otherwise not occur, allow those fisheries to grow, alleviate pressure on ADF&G’s budget, and generate revenue for the state.

Staff for this legislation is Fate Putman. Please feel free to contact him at 907-465-2487 or [Fate.Putman@akleg.gov](mailto:Fate.Putman@akleg.gov) with any questions.