

Sponsor Statement

HB-169

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

This legislation would allow individuals, Alaskan corporations, school districts or other organizations to apply for a fish rehabilitation permit through the Dept. Fish & Game. If the commissioner grants a permit, the individuals, Alaskan corporations, school districts or other organizations would be allowed to collect a limited number of fish, fertilize and hatch the eggs and then place the un-fed natural fish back into the water where they were taken. This will boost the survival rate of the fertilized eggs to emergent fry stage from around 5 percent to roughly 90 percent.

Similar types of fish rehabilitation permits are already allowed by the department for scientific research or other educational purposes, but these purposes are limited and thus the data collection, fish rehabilitation projects and fish population information is limited. This bill allows the private sector and the department to work together in a responsible collaborative effort to increase the natural salmon populations and scientific data collection throughout the state.

This legislation will be one more tool that can be used to ensure that we both today and, in the future, maximize our resources as stated in our state constitution. Thus, Alaskans will benefit from Alaska’s natural fish resources to help feed our families.