

**SENATE BILL NO. 13**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS HALFORD, Donley, Green

Introduced: 1/19/99

Referred: Resources, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to assessment of discrete salmon stocks and to discrete salmon  
2 stock assessment surcharges."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT.** (a) This Act requires the Department of Fish and  
5 Game and the Board of Fisheries to prepare and prioritize a list of discrete salmon stock  
6 assessment projects that are consistent with the sustained yield of wild salmon stocks. This  
7 Act also provides a means to offset the costs incurred by the state in conducting discrete  
8 salmon stock assessment projects by increasing the fees for commercial fishing licenses. The  
9 additional revenue generated and appropriated for discrete salmon stock assessment projects  
10 is supplemental to, and not intended to replace, funds appropriated for the operation of the  
11 division of commercial fisheries management and development or the division of sport fish.

12 (b) It is the intent of the legislature that the cost of conducting discrete salmon stock  
13 assessment projects be funded in part from revenue derived from the sale of sport fishing  
14 licenses in an amount that annually approximates \$1 for each license sold.

1 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to article 5 to read:

2 **Sec. 16.05.740. Discrete salmon stock assessment.** (a) The Board of  
3 Fisheries shall, in consultation with the department, identify those stocks of salmon for  
4 which discrete salmon stock assessments are needed. The board shall rank the discrete  
5 salmon stock assessment needs in accordance with the importance of the stock to  
6 fisheries in the state, the magnitude of conflicts among users of the stock, the  
7 biological health of the stock, and the need for information to ensure the sustained  
8 yield of the stock. The department shall assist the board in the identification of needed  
9 information and the ranking of the discrete salmon stock assessment needs.

10 (b) The department shall

11 (1) annually develop, with the assistance of the board, a list of, and  
12 priority ranking for, proposed research projects to collect information necessary for the  
13 assessment of discrete salmon stocks identified by the board under (a) of this section;  
14 the projects must include research on the stock composition of salmon taken in  
15 fisheries, development of escapement objectives for discrete salmon stocks, projection  
16 of escapements for discrete salmon stocks, and other projects intended to obtain  
17 information that the board determines necessary under this section;

18 (2) in conjunction with the board, solicit public comment on the list of  
19 proposed projects developed under (1) of this subsection and, as appropriate, revise the  
20 projects and the priority ranking assigned to the projects based on the information and  
21 comments received during the public comment period;

22 (3) submit the revised list of proposed projects together with a proposed  
23 budget for each project to the governor for inclusion in the proposed budget for the  
24 department for the following fiscal year.

25 (c) The governor shall include a request for an appropriation to the department  
26 to fund the discrete salmon stock assessment projects identified on the revised list  
27 prepared by the department under (b) of this section as part of the budget and annual  
28 appropriation bill submitted to the legislature. The individual projects contained on  
29 the list shall be included as allocations under the appropriation for discrete salmon  
30 stock assessment projects.

31 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 16.05.480 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

1 (e) In addition to the license fee set under (a) of this section for a crewmember  
2 fishing license, a stock assessment surcharge of \$10 shall be collected at the time of  
3 issuance of a crewmember fishing license. The amount of the surcharge collected  
4 under this subsection shall be deposited into the general fund. The legislature may  
5 appropriate money collected under this subsection to the Department of Fish and Game  
6 for the discrete salmon stock assessment program under AS 16.05.740.

7 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 16.43.160(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) The commission shall establish annual fees for the issuance and annual  
9 renewal of entry permits or interim-use permits. The amount **of the commercial**  
10 **fishing license fee** paid by a permit holder under the provisions of AS 16.05.480 shall  
11 be credited by the commission toward payment of the **permit renewal** fee charged  
12 under this section. No more than one credit may be obtained annually by a person.

13 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 16.43.160(d) is amended to read:

14 (d) The commission may charge interest at a rate not to exceed the legal rate  
15 of interest established in AS 45.45.010 on fees **and stock assessment surcharges**  
16 more than 60 days overdue.

17 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 16.43.160 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

18 (e) In addition to the amounts collected under (a) - (d) of this section, the  
19 commission shall collect, at the time of renewal of an entry permit or interim-use  
20 permit for a salmon fishery, a stock assessment surcharge that shall reasonably reflect  
21 the different rates of economic return for different fisheries. The amount of the  
22 surcharge imposed on the renewal of a permit by a person who is eligible for a  
23 reduced permit fee under (c) of this section shall be reduced in the same proportion  
24 that a renewal fee for a permit under (c) of this section bears to the renewal fee for  
25 the permit under (a) of this section. The commission shall impose an additional  
26 surcharge on the renewal of an entry permit or interim-use permit held by a  
27 nonresident to the extent permitted by law. The commission shall credit the amount  
28 of a stock assessment surcharge paid by a permit holder under AS 16.05.480(e) toward  
29 payment of the surcharge imposed under this subsection. A permit holder may receive  
30 only one credit toward the payment of a surcharge during each year. The total amount  
31 of revenue generated by the stock assessment surcharge must approximate \$500,000

1           annually. The amount of the surcharge collected under this subsection shall be  
2           deposited into the general fund. The legislature may appropriate money collected  
3           under this subsection to the Department of Fish and Game for the discrete salmon  
4           stock assessment program under AS 16.05.740.

5       \* **Sec. 7. APPLICABILITY.** (a) The Department of Fish and Game, with the assistance  
6       of the Board of Fisheries, shall develop the first annual list and priority ranking of proposed  
7       projects under AS 16.05.740(b), added by sec. 2 of this Act, for submission to the governor  
8       for inclusion in the proposed budget for the department for fiscal year 2001.

9           (b) AS 16.05.480(e), added by sec. 3 of this Act, and AS 16.43.160(e), added by sec.  
10       6 of this Act, are applicable to crewmember licenses, entry permits, and interim-use permits  
11       issued or renewed for 2000 or a subsequent year.