FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: CSHB 90(FIN)
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Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Title: Tax credit for salmon development
Sponsor: Representatives Stevens and Wolf
Requester: House Finance Committee

Dept. Affected: Revenue
BRU: Revenue Operations
Component: Tax Division
Component No. 2476

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services	42.2	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	84.5
Travel		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Contractual	1.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Supplies	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Equipment	5.0					
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**49.3**	**92.1**	**92.1**	**92.1**	**92.1**	**92.1**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )	**	**	**	**	**	**

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	49.3	92.1	92.1	92.1	92.1	92.1
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**49.3**	**92.1**	**92.1**	**92.1**	**92.1**	**92.1**

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	1	1	1	1	1	1
Part-time	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This legislation would establish two new tax credit programs:

1) Allow taxpayers to take a tax credit against their Fisheries Business Tax liability for 50% of qualified investment in new value-added salmon processing equipment.

2) Allow taxpayers to take a tax credit against their Fisheries Business Tax liability for 50% of the cost of operations or investment in new equipment for the full utilization of salmon.

We believe these credits, combined with state and federal bonus depreciation allowances, will generate a high level of interest in this program.

***** See attached pages for further discussion.***

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Date/Time: 3/25/03 9:38 AM

Approved by: Larry Persily, Deputy Commissioner
Agency: Department of Revenue
Date: 3/25/2003

(Revised 9/2002 OMB)

Operating Expenditures

For purposes of adequately monitoring these new tax credits, and enforcing the intent of the legislation, the Department of Revenue Tax Division is requesting operating funds to cover the costs of:

- One-half of a Tax Technician II position. The Division will require additional Tax Technician resources to coordinate credits and limitations between returns of taxpayers with multiple facilities.
- A Revenue Auditor III position to enforce the credits. The department anticipates some taxpayers may take overly aggressive positions, due to the attractiveness of the 50% tax credit and the flexible qualifying criteria for the credit for new equipment and operations for full utilization of salmon. Credits for expenditures outside the intent of this legislation, if left unchecked, could inappropriately reduce state revenue and unfairly compete with investment that truly fulfills the legislative intent. The Division therefore requests funding for a Revenue Auditor III position to cover the expenses associated with enforcement of the credits.

Effect on State Revenue

We cannot predict the revenue loss from the new credits. The actual revenue loss to the state would depend on the amount of qualified investment and the value of the salmon catch for the year.

The extent of the two credits, especially the full-utilization credit, could be sufficient to allow many large processors to generate enough credit to offset half their Fisheries Business Tax liability for salmon through Fiscal 2009. The legislation ends the tax credit provision on December 31, 2005, but allows taxpayers to carry forward any unused credits for three years, meaning the state may not see the last of the credits applied against tax liabilities until Fiscal 2009.

The state in Fiscal 2001 retained $5.6 million in Fisheries Business Taxes on salmon (net of municipal shared revenue). In Fiscal 2002, the state retained $4.25 million. The Fiscal 2003 estimate is $2.8 million in state revenue, net of municipal sharing (half of the Fisheries Business Tax is shared with municipalities). This legislation requires that the tax credit come entirely from the state's share of the Fisheries Business Tax revenue. Therefore, a 50% credit, depending on how many taxpayers claim the credit and to what extent they use the credit, could eliminate anywhere from one dollar to all of the state revenues in a year of low catches or low salmon prices — or anywhere in between.

The legislation's intent is that the cost to the state of the credit would be repaid in future years with increased Fisheries Business Tax revenues on a higher value and full utilization of salmon.

Section 1

AS 43.75.035(b) limits the credit to 50% of the taxpayer's tax on salmon and includes a sunset provision of December 31, 2005.

AS 43.75.035(c) provides a mechanism to provide partial credit for qualified property used on a vessel both inside and outside of Alaska.

AS 43.75.035(d) allows credits in excess of the annual limitation to be applied against taxes in the three subsequent tax years.

AS 43.75.035(e) specifies that the limitation on credit application of 50% of salmon tax liability is on the combined application of the Salmon Product Development Tax Credit and the Salmon Utilization Tax Credit.

AS 43.75.035(f) prohibits the use of the credit if the taxpayer is delinquent on its unemployment insurance contribution or state taxes under AS 43.

AS 43.75.035(g) defines key terms that effectively spell out the requirements for the credit.

AS 43.75.035(g)(2) restricts the credit to investment in new property.

AS 43.75.035(g)(3) provides the core definition for the credit – qualified investment.

AS 43.75.036(a) provides a tax credit for 50% of qualified expenditure for full utilization of salmon.

AS 43.75.036(b) through AS 43.075.036(g)(2) mirror, for the salmon utilization credit, the provisions set out in AS 43.75.035(b) – (g)(2).

AS 43.75.036(g)(3) defines qualified expenditure for the salmon utilization credit as costs associated with the "development, manufacture, purchase or operation of new equipment or a manufacturing process to produce marketable products using the bones, skin, viscera and carcasses of salmon."

Section 2 – Municipalities Held Harmless

The credit does not affect revenue sharing to municipal governments. The tax credit, therefore, would come entirely from the state's share of Fisheries Business Tax revenues.

Section 4 – Retroactivity

The credit is retroactive for investments and property placed in service after January 1, 2003.