

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 218(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/10/06

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS, Elkins, Wilson

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to cost recovery fisheries for private nonprofit hatchery facilities."**

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

3 *** Section 1.** AS 16.10 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 16.10.455. Cost recovery fisheries.** (a) A hatchery permit holder may
5 harvest salmon for a facility in

6 (1) a special harvest area through agents, or employees of or persons
7 under contract with the permit holder as provided under a permit from the department
8 or regulations of the Board of Fisheries; or

9 (2) a terminal harvest area through the common property fishery under
10 this section.

11 (b) A hatchery permit holder may annually elect to harvest surplus salmon
12 produced at a facility in a terminal harvest area established for that facility through the
13 common property fishery. At the request of the hatchery permit holder and if the
14 commissioner of fish and game determines that there are no allocative issues involved,
15 and after reasonable consultation with affected commercial fishermen and the

1 organizations of affected commercial fishermen, the commissioner may adopt
2 regulations governing the harvest of surplus salmon in a terminal harvest area when
3 the hatchery permit holder elects to harvest surplus salmon produced at a facility
4 through a common property fishery. The regulations must specify the terms,
5 conditions, and rules under which the common property fishery in the terminal harvest
6 area shall be conducted, including requirements for hold inspections and reporting of
7 harvests and sales of salmon taken in the terminal harvest area. The Board of Fisheries
8 may adopt regulations under AS 16.05.251 regarding a fisheries management plan
9 governing operations under this subsection in a terminal harvest area, including
10 allocation plans. Participation in the fishery must be open to all interim-use permit and
11 entry permit holders who hold permits to operate a type of gear that may be used in the
12 fishing district in which the terminal harvest area is located if that type of gear is
13 authorized by regulation to be used in the terminal harvest area. An interim-use permit
14 holder or an entry permit holder who takes salmon in a common property fishery in a
15 terminal harvest area may sell the salmon to any fish buyer or processor who is
16 licensed to do business in the state.

17 (c) As a condition of participation in a common property salmon fishery in a
18 terminal harvest area under this section, a fisherman who participates in the fishery is
19 subject to the payment of the assessment levied under (d) of this section. The
20 assessment is levied on the value of salmon that the fisherman takes in the terminal
21 harvest area and sells to a licensed buyer. The buyer of the salmon must be licensed
22 under AS 43.75, and the buyer shall collect the assessment on salmon taken in a
23 terminal harvest area at the time of purchase and remit the assessment to the
24 Department of Revenue in accordance with regulations adopted by the Department of
25 Revenue.

26 (d) The Department of Revenue may, by regulation, annually, by March 1 of
27 each year, set the rate of the assessment levied on salmon taken in a terminal harvest
28 area in consultation with the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
29 Development, the hatchery permit holder, and representatives of affected commercial
30 fishermen. The rate of the assessment shall provide sufficient revenue to cover debt
31 service to the state, reasonable operating expenses, reasonable maintenance expenses,

1 and development or maintenance of a reserve fund up to 100 percent of annual
2 operating costs of the hatchery permit holder. In setting the rate of the assessment, the
3 department shall consider the estimated return and harvest of salmon in the terminal
4 harvest area, the projected price to be paid for salmon in the region, the amount of the
5 existing reserve held by the hatchery permit holder, and the amount by which the
6 assessment collected in previous years exceeded or fell short of the amount anticipated
7 to be collected. The total rate of the assessment may not exceed 50 percent of the
8 value of the salmon.

9 (e) The Department of Revenue shall deposit the assessments collected under
10 this section in the general fund. The legislature may appropriate the funds collected
11 under this section to the hatchery permit holder who operates a facility in the terminal
12 harvest area in which the assessment was levied. A hatchery permit holder shall use
13 funds appropriated under this subsection for the purposes set out under
14 AS 16.10.450(a). The legislature may also appropriate funds collected under this
15 section to the Department of Revenue for costs incurred by the department under this
16 section.

17 (f) A person who violates a regulation adopted under (b) of this section is
18 guilty of a violation under AS 16.05.722 or a misdemeanor under AS 16.05.723. A
19 person who violates a regulation adopted by the Department of Revenue under (c) of
20 this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

21 (g) In this section,

22 (1) "facility" means a hatchery or salmon rehabilitation project for
23 which a permit is issued under AS 16.10.400 - 16.10.470;

24 (2) "special harvest area" means an area designated by the
25 commissioner or the Board of Fisheries where salmon returning to a hatchery may be
26 harvested by the hatchery operators, and, in some situations, by the common property
27 fishery;

28 (3) "terminal harvest area" means a harvest area, which may include a
29 hatchery release site, established by the commissioner or the Board of Fisheries where
30 salmon returning to a hatchery may be harvested by the common property fishery;

31 (4) "value" has the meaning given in AS 43.75.290.

1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 43.76.035 is amended to read:

2 **Sec. 43.76.035. Exemption.** Except as provided under (b) of this section,
3 AS 43.76.001 - 43.76.040 do not apply to salmon harvested under a special harvest
4 area entry permit issued under AS 16.43.400.

5 * **Sec. 3.** AS 43.76.035 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 (b) Salmon harvested in a common property fishery conducted in a terminal
7 harvest area under AS 16.10.455 are subject to a salmon enhancement tax levied under
8 AS 43.76.001 - 43.76.040.