

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2024 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	HB 294
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(H) Publish Date:	1/26/2024

Identifier: 0375-DFG-DCF-01-23-24
 Title: ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF FISHING
 VESSELS
 Sponsor: RLS BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR
 Requester: GOVERNOR

Department: Department of Fish and Game
 Appropriation: Commercial Fisheries
 Allocation: Statewide Fisheries Management
 OMB Component Number: 2171

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2025	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2025 Request	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2025	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2024) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2025) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 01/01/26

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable; initial version.

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Division:	Office of the Commissioner	Date:	01/23/2024 01:00 PM
Approved By:	Bonnie Jensen, Administrative Services Director	Date:	01/23/24
Agency:	Department of Fish and Game		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This legislation amends AS 16.05.050(a)(13) and AS 16.05.251(a)(13) by adding language that provides the Board of Fisheries (BOF) statutory authority to require electronic monitoring (EM) in a fishery and the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) the statutory authority to implement the program as authorized by the BOF. There are no direct costs associated with this legislation. This is a permissive statutory change that would allow an EM program to be established in Alaska's fisheries as determined by the BOF. Therefore, the department submits a zero fiscal note.

The BOF would need to hold a public meeting to establish by regulation the fisheries that will require EM, and ADF&G would be responsible for management of the program. The department already does this for the shellfish observer program. State costs associated with the shellfish observer program are primarily funded through test fish revenue, federal funds, and direct payments by vessels required to carry observers. EM could potentially be funded similarly along with the possibility of being industry-funded in part for equipment as operators currently bear the costs associated with an onboard observer.

While there are no direct costs associated with this legislation, future funding will likely be needed to stand up a new EM program. ADF&G may be able to absorb some costs; however, a new state EM program may require hiring and training new staff. The number of new staff would be contingent on the number and type of fisheries that are required by the BOF to use EM. The number of observers deployed in the statewide scallop and Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab fisheries is low because there are relatively few vessels participating in those fisheries. If the board adopted EM for larger fisheries across the state, the number of vessels requiring monitoring and the associated costs to the department would increase over the current program.

The BOF does not have fiscal, administrative, or budgeting authority and cannot adopt a regulation that requires ADF&G to obligate funds, meaning the board cannot compel the department to implement a program if there is a cost to the department unless there is agreement that a data gap exists. Assuming there is agreement, ADF&G would request additional funding through the budget process if needed to implement the program, providing for legislative review of the funding request.