

HOUSE BILL NO. 304

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE

Introduced: 2/13/26

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the duties of the commissioner of fish and game; establishing the
2 sport fishing angler access account; establishing the sport fishing angler access
3 surcharge; and providing for an effective date."

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

5 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the commissioner of
8 fish and game model the biennial report required under AS 16.05.050(c), added by sec. 2 of
9 this Act, on the Department of Fish and Game's Professional Publication No. 08-01, titled
10 "Economic Impacts and Contributions of Sportfishing in Alaska, 2007."

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 (c) The commissioner shall produce and disseminate to the public a biennial
13 report on the economic impacts of sport fishing in the state.

14 * **Sec. 3.** AS 16.05.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(i) Money accruing to the state from the sport fishing angler access surcharge imposed by AS 16.05.340(l) shall be deposited in a separate account known as the sport fishing angler access account within the fish and game fund. The department shall allocate money in the angler access account to production and dissemination of the biennial report on the economic impacts of sport fishing in the state required under AS 16.05.050(c).

* **Sec. 4.** AS 16.05.340(i) is amended to read:

(i) If the commissioner determines that residents of the state are entitled to obtain licenses for sport fishing, including sport fishing for anadromous king salmon, in Yukon, Canada, for the same fees that are charged to residents of Yukon for comparable sport fishing licenses, the commissioner may adopt regulations authorizing residents of Yukon to receive

(1) nonresident annual sport fishing licenses for the fees charged to residents under (a) and (l) of this section for a resident sport fishing license; and

(2) nonresident anadromous king salmon annual tags for the fee charged to residents under (a) of this section for a resident anadromous king salmon tag.

* **Sec. 5.** AS 16.05.340(i), as amended by sec. 4 of this Act, is amended to read:

(i) If the commissioner determines that residents of the state are entitled to obtain licenses for sport fishing, including sport fishing for anadromous king salmon, in Yukon, Canada, for the same fees that are charged to residents of Yukon for comparable sport fishing licenses, the commissioner may adopt regulations authorizing residents of Yukon to receive

(1) nonresident annual sport fishing licenses for the fees charged to residents under (a) [AND (l)] of this section for a resident sport fishing license; and

(2) nonresident anadromous king salmon annual tags for the fee charged to residents under (a) of this section for a resident anadromous king salmon tag.

* **Sec. 6.** AS 16.05.340 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(l) In addition to the fees for a sport fishing license set out in (a) and (d) of this section, each person who purchases a sport fishing license shall pay a sport fishing

1 angler access surcharge of one dollar. A person who is eligible for a \$5 resident
2 hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license under (a)(6) of this section or a free license
3 under AS 16.05.341 is exempt from payment of the surcharge imposed under this
4 subsection. The surcharge authorized by this subsection shall take effect on the date
5 established by regulation by the commissioner. The amount of the surcharge must be
6 clearly disclosed on each sport fishing license.

7 * **Sec. 7.** AS 16.05.050(c), 16.05.130(i), and 16.05.340(l) are repealed.

8 * **Sec. 8.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
9 read:

10 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The commissioner of fish and game may adopt
11 regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The regulations take effect
12 under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the law
13 implemented by the regulation.

14 * **Sec. 9.** Section 8 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

15 * **Sec. 10.** Sections 5 and 7 take effect January 1, 2032.

16 * **Sec. 11.** Except as provided in secs. 9 and 10 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1,
17 2027.