

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 304(FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered: 2/27/26

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE

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 report required under AS 16.05.050(c), added by sec. 2 of this Act,
9 on the Department of Fish and Game's Professional Publication No. 08-01, titled "Economic
10 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) Every four years, the commissioner shall produce and disseminate to the
13 public a 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:

1 (i) Money accruing to the state from the sport fishing angler access surcharge
 2 imposed by AS 16.05.340(l) shall be deposited in a separate account known as the
 3 sport fishing angler access account within the fish and game fund. The department
 4 shall allocate money in the angler access account to production and dissemination of
 5 the report on the economic impacts of sport fishing in the state required under
 6 AS 16.05.050(c). The Department shall, after allocating funds for the production and
 7 dissemination of the report under this subsection, allocate funds in the account to
 8 programs intended to directly benefit license purchasers by developing, improving,
 9 and maintaining access opportunities, facilities and other infrastructure, and services
 10 for nonmotorized sport fishing.

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

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

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

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

22 * **Sec. 5.** AS 16.05.340 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

23 (l) In addition to the fees for a sport fishing license set out in (a) and
 24 (d) of this section, each person who purchases a sport fishing license shall pay a sport
 25 fishing angler access surcharge as set out in this subsection. A person who is eligible
 26 for a \$5 resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license under (a)(6) of this
 27 section or a free license under AS 16.05.341 is exempt from payment of the surcharge
 28 imposed under this subsection. The surcharge authorized by this subsection shall take
 29 effect on the date established by regulation by the commissioner. The amount of the
 30 surcharge must be clearly disclosed on each sport fishing license. The amount of the
 31 sport fishing angler access surcharge to be paid under this subsection for each sport

1 fishing license is as follows:

- 2 (1) resident sport fishing license\$1
- 3 (2) resident hunting and sport fishing license1
- 4 (3) resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license1
- 5 (4) nonresident 14-day sport fishing license3
- 6 (5) nonresident seven-day sport fishing license2
- 7 (6) nonresident three-day sport fishing license2
- 8 (7) nonresident one-day sport fishing license2
- 9 (8) nonresident annual sport fishing license5
- 10 (9) special nonresident military small game and sport fishing license ..1
- 11 (10) special nonresident military sport fishing license1.

12 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
13 read:

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

18 * **Sec. 7.** Section 6 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

19 * **Sec. 8.** Except as provided in sec. 7 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2027.