

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

February 11, 2025
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Louise Stutes, Chair
Representative Bryce Edgmon, Vice Chair
Representative Rebecca Himschoot
Representative Chuck Kopp
Representative Kevin McCabe
Representative Sarah Vance
Representative Bill Elam

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 60

"An Act relating to municipal and state procurement preferences for agricultural products harvested in the state and fisheries products harvested or processed in the state; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED HB 60 OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 31

"An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and relating to the derelict vessel prevention program fund."

- MOVED HB 31 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 60

SHORT TITLE: PROCURE PREF: AGRIC. & FISH PRODUCTS

SPONSOR(S): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

01/22/25	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/25	(H)	FSH, L&C
02/06/25	(H)	FSH AT 11:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
02/06/25	(H)	Heard & Held
02/06/25	(H)	MINUTE(FSH)

02/11/25 (H) FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120

BILL: HB 31

SHORT TITLE: VESSELS: REGISTRATION/DERELICT FUND

SPONSOR(S): STUTES

01/22/25 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/10/25
01/22/25 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/25 (H) FSH, FIN
02/06/25 (H) FSH AT 11:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
02/06/25 (H) Heard & Held
02/06/25 (H) MINUTE(FSH)
02/11/25 (H) FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120

WITNESS REGISTER

ANNA LATHAM, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided a recap of HB 60 and its details.

MATT GRUENING, Staff
Representative Louise Stutes
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: On behalf of Representative Stutes, prime sponsor, gave a recap of HB 31.

RACHAEL LORD, representing self
Homer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 31.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[10:00:25 AM](#)

CHAIR LOUISE STUTES called the House Special Committee on Fisheries meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Representatives McCabe, Vance, Kopp, Himschoot, Edgmon were present at the call to order. Representative Elam arrived as the meeting was in progress.

HB 60-PROCURE PREF: AGRIC. & FISH PRODUCTS

[10:01:58 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 60, "An Act relating to municipal and state procurement preferences for agricultural products harvested in the state and fisheries products harvested or processed in the state; and providing for an effective date."

[10:02:40 AM](#)

ANNA LATHAM, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development, provided a recap of HB 60 and its details. She explained that HB 60 increases pre-existing procurement statutes for Alaska grown agricultural and fishery products. It would raise the procurement mandatory requirement for school districts, municipalities and state agencies that receive state funding from 7 to 10 percent.

[10:03:59 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON thanked the department for responding to questions that were raised during the previous House Special Committee on Fisheries meeting.

[10:04:14 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES, there being no further questions or comments, requested a motion on HB 60.

[10:04:20 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON moved to report HB 60 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes.

[10:04:32 AM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 10:04 a.m. to 10:07 a.m.

HB 31-VESSELS: REGISTRATION/DERELICT FUND

[10:07:44 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 31, "An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and relating to the derelict vessel prevention program fund."

[10:08:15 AM](#)

MATT GRUENING, Staff, Representative Louise Stutes, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Stutes, prime sponsor, gave a recap of HB 31. He explained that HB 31 would exempt active commercial fishing vessels from duplicative registration requirements created by the passage of Senate Bill 92 during the Thirtieth Alaska State Legislature in 2018. He noted that it would specifically remove the requirement for U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) vessels with a current Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) registration to register every three years with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Prior to the passage of Senate Bill 92, these documented vessels were already exempt. He remarked that because of a bill that was repealed, overlooked was the CFEC database which already provides ownership information. The intent of the bill is not having commercial fisherman register with the DMV when pre-existing registration processes are already in place. Also in its current form, HB 31 would repeal the derelict vessel program fund and moves it into the general fund (GF) instead.

[10:09:40 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KOPP remarked that HB 31 was good common-sense legislation, and he was happy to see it brought forward.

[10:10:05 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES opened public testimony on HB 31.

[10:10:33 AM](#)

RACHAEL LORD, representing self, testified in support of HB 31. She said that she helped facilitate the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Taskforce that worked with stakeholders to pass the original bill in which this provision was included. She fully supported the CFEC exemption, and it has support from other stakeholders. She remarked that the federal documented database is still a barrier to track and hold vessel owners responsible and that CFEC is a great database. She said that she was disappointed in the repeal of the derelict vessel program fund and that every state that deals with derelict vessels understands that the best method to address them is with prevention measures. She stated that she understood that there is not much money in that fund or opportunities to recapture costs. She said that the state continues to be flat-footed to address the prevention of derelict vessels.

[10:13:21 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES, after ascertaining there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony on HB 31.

CHAIR STUTES, there being no comments of concern from committee members, entertained a motion on HB 31.

[10:13:40 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON moved to report HB 31 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 31 was reported out of the House Special Committee on Fisheries.

[10:14:02 AM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 10:14 a.m. to 10:16 a.m.

[10:16:30 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES called the House Special Committee on Fisheries back to order. She concluded the meeting by discussing the upcoming schedule and objectives for the committee.

[10:18:10 AM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Fisheries meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.