

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

May 15, 2025

10:35 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Louise Stutes, Chair
Representative Bryce Edgmon, Vice Chair
Representative Rebecca Himschoot
Representative Chuck Kopp
Representative Bill Elam

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Kevin McCabe
Representative Sarah Vance

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1
Establishing the Joint Legislative Task Force on Sport Fishing
Service Providers in Southeast Alaska.

- MOVED CSHCR 1(FSH) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HCR 1

SHORT TITLE: JOINT SPORT FISH SVC PROVIDERS TASK FORCE

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) HIMSCHOOT

01/31/25	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/31/25	(H)	FSH, FIN
03/13/25	(H)	FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
03/13/25	(H)	Heard & Held
03/13/25	(H)	MINUTE(FSH)
04/24/25	(H)	FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
04/24/25	(H)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
04/29/25	(H)	FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
04/29/25	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
05/13/25	(H)	FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
05/13/25	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
05/15/25	(H)	FSH AT 10:30 AM GRUENBERG 120

WITNESS REGISTER

THATCHER BROUWER, Staff
Representative Rebecca Himschoot
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: On behalf of the prime sponsor, Representative Himschoot, explained the changes associated with Amendment 1 to HCR 1.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[10:35:08 AM](#)

CHAIR LOUISE STUTES called the House Special Committee on Fisheries meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Representatives Kopp, Elam, Himschoot, Edgmon, and Stutes were present at the call to order.

HCR 1-JOINT SPORT FISH SVC PROVIDERS TASK FORCE

[10:36:11 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1, Establishing the Joint Legislative Task Force on Sport Fishing Service Providers in Southeast Alaska.

[10:36:53 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON noted that he was comfortable forgoing the reintroduction since the information was still "fresh."

[10:37:21 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HIMSCHOOT moved to adopt Amendment 1 to HCR 1, labeled 34-LS0208\G.2, Bullard, 5/12/25, which read as follows:

Page 2, line 11:
Delete "limit"
Insert "manage"

Page 3, line 13:
Delete "12"
Insert "nine"

Page 3, line 17, through page 4, line 1:
Delete all material and insert:

"(3) four members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives as follows:

(A) one member who is a tribal citizen or a leader of a Native corporation under 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) or other tribal organization and who lives in an area of Southeast Alaska in which sport fishing services occur;

(B) one member who is recommended by a regional Southeast Alaska organization that represents guides in the sport fishing service sector;

(C) one member who possesses relevant policy experience and is currently representing the interests of the sport fishing service industry on a Southeast Alaska advisory committee established under AS 16.05.260;

(D) one member who possesses relevant policy experience and is currently representing the interests of recreational sport fishermen on a Southeast Alaska advisory committee established under AS 16.05.260; and

(4) three members appointed by the president of the senate as follows:

(A) one member who is a self-guided fishing operator in Southeast Alaska with relevant policy experience;

(B) one member recommended by a regional Southeast Alaska organization that represents guides in the sport fishing service sector;

(C) one member who possesses relevant policy experience and is currently representing the interests of commercial fishermen on a Southeast Alaska advisory committee established under AS 16.05.260; and be it"

Page 4, line 14:

Delete "; and"

Insert ";

Page 4, lines 15 - 17:

Delete "but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180"

Insert "and are not entitled to per diem and travel expenses"

Page 4, line 17:

Delete "be it"

Page 4, following line 17:

Insert a new paragraph to read:

"(10) members of the task force may virtually attend meetings of the task force; and be it"

Page 4, line 21:

Delete "May 21, 2026"

Insert "February 1, 2027"

CHAIR STUTES objected for the purpose of discussion.

REPRESENTATIVE HIMSCHOOT responded that her staff could explain the changes associated with the amendment.

[10:37:58 AM](#)

THATCHER BROUWER, Staff, Representative Rebecca Himschoot, on behalf of the prime sponsor, Representative Himschoot, explained the changes associated with Amendment 1 to HCR 1.

[10:40:52 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES, removed her objection to Amendment 1. There being no further objection, Amendment 1 was adopted.

[10:41:19 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES said that she understood what the bill sponsor was trying to do but she was confused as to why legislation would be needed to bring stakeholders together to discuss an issue that involves them all when this is a regional issue.

[10:42:07 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HIMSCHOOT responded that there were several letters of support regarding HCR 1, from subsistence users, tribes, commercial fishermen, guide organizations, and guides who want to come together to talk. She said that the need was there and this is such a contentious issue that not one group has the power to bring people together. She said that stakeholders are looking to the legislature for leadership, to bring people together on neutral grounds, allow discussions, and find solutions. She said that she was in discussions with the

Southeast Conference to have a round table meeting in September to prepare for the work ahead.

CHAIR STUTES responded that she appreciated the response but was still at a loss as to why this would require legislation. She said that everyone is facing the same issue, and she imagines the common thread is to look for a solution.

[10:43:51 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KOPP shared that initially he had had similar thoughts as Chair Stutes and what evolved in his thinking over time was how vast the state is and how many different fisheries regions the state has. He said that if this issue could turn into a "good model" for other parts of the state, then he could get excited about that. He commented on how contentious Cook Inlet fishing was and Southeast "could break trail a little bit" and produce a positive outcome.

[10:44:52 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON moved to report HCR 1, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, CSHCR 1(FSH) was reported out of the House Special Committee on Fisheries.

[10:45:26 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES relayed her expectation to the committee that this would be the last committee meeting for the legislative session. She thanked the committee members and staff for the help and discussions throughout the session.

[10:46:09 AM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Fisheries meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.