

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE**

February 17, 2025

1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Robyn Niayuq Burke, Co-Chair
Representative Carolyn Hall
Representative Donna Mears
Representative Zack Fields
Representative George Rauscher
Representative Julie Coulombe
Representative Bill Elam

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Maxine Dibert, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Saddler

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE SPECIAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1
Disapproving Executive Order No. 136.

- CONSIDERED

HOUSE BILL NO. 79

"An Act naming the Vic Fischer Shoup Bay State Marine Park."

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HSCR 1 SHORT TITLE: DISAPPROVE EO 136

SPONSOR(s): RULES

01/27/25	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/27/25	(H)	RES, FIN
02/12/25	(H)	RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
02/12/25	(H)	Failed to Move Out of Committee
02/12/25	(H)	MINUTE (RES)
02/17/25	(H)	RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 79

SHORT TITLE: NAMING VIC FISCHER SHOUP BAY MARINE PARK

SPONSOR(s): FIELDS

01/31/25 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/31/25 (H) RES
02/07/25 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
02/07/25 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --
02/17/25 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

BENNET PIERCE, Staff
Representative Zack Fields
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: On behalf of Representative Fields, prime sponsor, presented the sectional analysis for HB 79.

JANE ANGVIK, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of HB 79.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:00:05 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR ROBYN NIAYUQ BURKE called the House Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Representatives Coulombe, Fields, Rauscher, Hall, Mears, Elam, and Burke were present at the call to order.

HSCR 1-DISAPPROVE EO 136

[1:00:45 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE SPECIAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1, Disapproving Executive Order No. 136. [HSCR 1 was heard on 2/12/25 and failed to move from committee.]

[1:00:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MEARS moved to rescind the committee's action in failing to move HSCR 1 [labeled 34-LS0464\A] from committee on 2/12/25.

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER objected.

[1:01:06 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease at 1:01 p.m.

[1:02:35 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER maintained his objection

[1:02:06 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Fields, Hall, Mears, and Burke voted in favor of rescinding the committee's action in failing to move HSCR 1 from committee on 2/12/25. Representatives Coulombe, Rauscher, and Elam voted against it. Therefore, the motion to rescind the House Resources Standing Committee's action in failing to move HSCR 1 from committee was adopted by a vote of 4-3

[1:03:23 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MEARS moved to report HSCR 1 [labeled 34 LS0464\A] from the House Resources Standing Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER objected. He responded to Co-Chair Burke's request that he speak to his objection, explaining, that "We don't have a full committee."

CO-CHAIR BURKE clarified that the motion was to move HSCR 1 from the committee.

[1:04:00 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Fields, Hall, Mears, and Burke voted in favor of moving HSCR 1 from committee. Representatives Elam, Rauscher, and Coulombe voted against it. Therefore, HSCR 1 was reported from the House Resources Standing Committee by a vote of 4-3.

[1:04:32 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 1:04 p.m. to 1:08 p.m.

HB 79-NAMING VIC FISCHER SHOUP BAY MARINE PARK

[1:08:07 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 79, "An Act naming the Vic Fischer Shoup Bay State Marine Park."

1:08:26 PM

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS, as prime sponsor, paraphrased the sponsor statement for HB 79 [included in the committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

House Bill 79 recognizes the contributions of Vic Fischer to Alaska by naming Shoup Bay State Marine Park in Valdez after him.

In the 1960s, Vic Fischer was recruited from Alaska to serve as the Assistant Secretary of the Housing and Home Finance Agency in Washington, D.C, where he managed Regional Planning for Urban Centers across the nation. On March 27, 1964, Alaska was struck by the largest-ever recorded earthquake in North America, known as the Good Friday Earthquake. Situated in the epicenter of the earthquake, the town of Valdez was devastated by an underwater landslide and tsunami that deemed the townsite uninhabitable.

Upon hearing the news, Vic Fischer immediately secured a seat on Air Force One from Washington, D.C. to return to Alaska to survey the damage. Fischer witnessed overwhelming destruction to infrastructure, businesses, and schools, and noted that without significant intervention, the area would not survive economically. Through his position, Vic Fischer was instrumental in directing the federal finances of the reconstruction of Valdez, Kodiak, and Anchorage.

Shoup Bay State Marine Park is located five miles southeast of the Port of Valdez and is where the largest tsunami wave of the 1964 earthquake - measuring over 200 feet in height - was recorded. Today, Shoup Bay State Marine Park boasts alder forests, flower-filled meadows, stunning views of the Shoup Glacier, and is visited by roughly 100,000 visitors a year, contributing an estimated \$5 million to the local economy.

One of Vic's legacies was sponsoring legislation in 1983 to establish a new system of state marine parks

across Alaska. His legislation designated thirteen state marine parks, and more have been designated since. Because of Vic's dedication to the reconstruction of Valdez and preservation of Alaska's marine parks, visitors for generations to come can enjoy Shoup Bay State Marine Park and other wonders of Alaska.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS also presented a PowerPoint titled, "HB 79: Vic Fischer Shoup Bay State Marine Park," which summarized Mr. Fischer's career serving Alaska as well as his role in rebuilding Valdez following the 1964 earthquake. The presentation also highlighted Vic Fischer's role in passing legislation to establish 13 marine parks in Alaska including the marine park at Shoup Bay which would be renamed Vic Fischer Shoup Bay State Marine Park in his honor. A zero fiscal note was included with HB 79.

[1:12:48 PM](#)

BENNET PIERCE, Staff to Representative Fields, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Fields, prime sponsor, presented the sectional analysis for HB 79 [included in the committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Sectional Analysis: HB 79

Section 1: This section modifies AS 41.21.304 to name the marine park in Shoup Bay, Vic Fischer Shoup Bay Marine State Park.

[1:13:22 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE opened public testimony on HB 79.

[1:13:37 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease at 1:13 p.m.

[1:13:48 PM](#)

JANE ANGVIK, representing self, spoke in support of HB 79. She briefly described some of the many outdoor adventures she shared with her husband, Vic Fischer, and how he kayaked all over the world. She explained that Valdez was special and described how he and Valdez Mayor Kelsey walked all over the area after the

1964 earthquake in order to locate a new site for the city. She said he led the fight for marine parks in Alaska and would have recommended that all members of the Alaska State Legislature find water and play in the water.

[1:16:21 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE, after ascertaining there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony on HB 79.

[HB 79 was held over.]

[1:16:27 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Resources Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.