

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 4, 2025

1:03 p.m.

**DRAFT**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Robyn Niayuq Burke, Co-Chair  
Representative Maxine Dibert, Co-Chair  
Representative Carolyn Hall  
Representative Donna Mears  
Representative Dan Saddler  
Representative Julie Coulombe

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Zack Fields  
Representative George Rauscher  
Representative Bill Elam

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

HOUSE BILL NO. 117

"An Act relating to commercial set gillnet fishing; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSHB 117(RES) OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 117

SHORT TITLE: COMMERCIAL FISHING; SET GILLNET COOP

SPONSOR(S): FISHERIES

02/26/25	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/26/25	(H)	FSH, RES
03/01/25	(H)	FSH AT 11:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
03/01/25	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
03/04/25	(H)	FSH AT 10:30 AM GRUENBERG 120
03/04/25	(H)	Heard & Held
03/04/25	(H)	MINUTE(FSH)
03/06/25	(H)	FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
03/06/25	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
03/11/25	(H)	FSH RPT 6DP 1NR

03/11/25 (H) DP: VANCE, KOPP, HIMSCHOOT, ELAM,  
MCCABE, STUTES

03/11/25 (H) NR: EDGMON

03/11/25 (H) FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120

03/11/25 (H) Moved HB 117 Out of Committee

03/11/25 (H) MINUTE(FSH)

03/13/25 (H) FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120

03/13/25 (H) <Bill Hearing Canceled>

03/21/25 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

03/21/25 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --

03/24/25 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

03/24/25 (H) Heard & Held

03/24/25 (H) MINUTE(RES)

03/28/25 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

03/28/25 (H) Heard & Held

03/28/25 (H) MINUTE(RES)

04/04/25 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

**WITNESS REGISTER**

CALVIN ZUELOW, Staff  
Representative Robyn Niayuq Burke  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Described the purpose of Amendment 1 to HB 117.

REPRESENTATIVE STUTES  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** On behalf of the House Special Committee on Fisheries, prime sponsor of HB 117, expressed support for the amendment.

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

[1:03:19 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE called the House Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Representatives Saddler, Hall, Mears, Dibert, and Burke were present at the call to order. Representative Coulombe arrived as the meeting was in progress.

^#hb117

**HB 117-COMMERCIAL FISHING; SET GILLNET COOP**

[1:03:57 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 117, "An Act relating to commercial set gillnet fishing; and providing for an effective date."

[1:04:13 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE opened public testimony on HB 117. After ascertaining there was no one who wished to testify, she closed public testimony.

[1:04:56 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DIBERT moved to adopt Amendment 1 to HB 117.

[1:05:02 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE objected for the purpose of discussion.

[1:05:16 PM](#)

CALVIN ZUELOW, Staff, Representative Robyn Niayuq Burke, Alaska State Legislature, explained that Amendment 1 to HB 117 added intent language specifying that regulations establishing the maximum size of co-ops in each administrative area should be taken out by the Board of Fisheries in cycle with the affected areas fin fish meeting. This would allow the highest level of local participation and review from the residents and stakeholders of each affected area. The amendment also added intent language that directed the Board of Fisheries to consider the number of permits and the traditional size of cooperative operations in an area and to preserve the status quo of the size of cooperative set net operations. In the actual language of the bill, the amendment replaced the words "present at all times" with "physically present" to mirror language in Alaska statute AS 16.05.253(a) which specified circumstances where it would be allowable to be away from the net. The language would ensure that the bill doesn't restrict cooperative operations beyond what was required in statute. The amendment also removed language allowing ten permit-holders to work together in cooperatives state-wide and directed the Board of Fisheries to establish for each administrative area the maximum number allowed in a cooperative, specifying that the number cannot be lower than three. The amendment also amends AS 16.05.253(a) with conforming language to clarify that permit-holders may be absent while delivering fish or traveling to another net. The amendment additionally provides language suggested by former lt.

governor, Loren Leman, specifying that any permit-holder may deliver on behalf of a cooperative.

[1:07:39 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE STUTES, Alaska State Legislature, expressed support for the amendment on behalf of the House Special Committee on Fisheries, prime sponsor of HB 117. She thanked the committee for creating an amendment that strengthened the bill.

[1:08:21 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE removed her objection to the amendment.

[1:08:26 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE, seeing no objection, announced that Amendment 1 to HB 117 was adopted.

[1:08:49 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DIBERT moved to report HB 117, 34-LS0557\N as amended out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying zero fiscal note.

[1:09:15 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE seeing no objection announced that HB 117 was reported out of the House Resources Standing Committee.

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[1:09:46 PM](#)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Resources Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.