

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. RADER AND MR. GIERSDORF

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 73

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act providing for loans to fishermen;
7 providing for the administration of the
8 loan program by the Director of Fish and
9 Game; prescribing the powers of the Direc-
10 tor of Fish and Game with reference to the
11 making of loans to fishermen; creating a
12 revolving fund; prescribing eligibility
13 for loans; and providing for an effective
14 date."

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

16 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known as the
17 Alaska Fishermen's Small Loan Act.

18 Sec. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is declared to be the
19 policy of this Act to remove fishermen from the financial control
20 of non-resident cannery and fish brokerage firms, and to generally
21 relieve financial distress among Alaskan fishermen by means of
22 short term loans.

23 Sec. 3. ADMINISTRATION: LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES. This
24 Act shall be administered by the Director of Fish and Game. As
25 Administrator of the Fishermen's Loan Act, he shall cooperate with
26 agencies of the Federal government and with other state agencies
27 and political subdivisions within the state of Alaska.

28 He shall establish such local advisory committees as may be
29 necessary or deemed expedient to assist in carrying out any duties

1 assigned to him. He shall determine the number of members to
2 serve thereon and their respective terms of office. Such local
3 advisory committees shall not be entitled to travel or per diem
4 allowances.

5 Sec. 4. POWERS: The Director of Fish and Game shall have
6 all the following powers:

7 (1) To make loans to individual resident Alaska fisher-
8 men or partnerships of fishermen, with the exception of members
9 or employees of the Department of Fish and Game, or members of
10 any local advisory boards established hereunder, to finance and
11 refinance operations, maintenance, replacement, repairs and equip-
12 ment of fishing vessels and gear. Loans shall not exceed a total
13 of two thousand (\$2,000.00) dollars to any one person at any one
14 time. Such loans shall not be for a term longer than ten months
15 and shall be secured by such collateral as the Director may re-
16 quire including, but not limited to, assignment in future of wages
17 or income derived from fishing. Loans shall bear interest at the
18 rate of not less than four (4%) percent per annum, provided, how-
19 ever, the Director shall have the power to increase said interest
20 rate on any new loans for the purpose of covering existing or
21 anticipated losses, reserves for losses and costs of administration
22 or decrease said interest rate on any new loans when income from
23 interest exceeds existing or anticipated losses, reserves for
24 losses and costs of administration.

25 (2) Designate agents and delegate such of his powers as
26 he deems necessary to such agents.

27 (3) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary
28 or convenient to carry out his functions in remarking, servicing and
29 collection of loans.

1 (4) Establish amortization plans for repayment of loans
2 which may include delayed payment of principal and/or interest
3 for a period not to exceed one (1) year.

4 (5) To enter into agreements with private loaning insti-
5 tutions, other state agencies or agencies of the Federal govern-
6 ment, to carry out the purposes of this Act.

7 (6) Service and collect all loans made, including tak-
8 ing such legal action as may be necessary, or entering into com-
9 promises or refinancing agreements.

10 Sec. 5. ELIGIBILITY. No loan shall be made unless the
11 applicant shall:

12 (1) Be a resident of Alaska and a bona fide commercial
13 fisherman having held a commercial fishing license in Alaska for
14 a period not less than four years immediately preceding the making
15 of the loan;

16 (2) Give satisfactory evidence of his ability to oper-
17 ate successfully which shall include past earnings as a fisherman;
18 and

19 (3) Give satisfactory evidence that he is unable to
20 secure a commercial loan from a bank or like lending institution
21 authorized to do business in Alaska.

22 Sec. 6. CREATION OF FUND. There is hereby created a Fisher-
23 men's Revolving Loan Fund in such amounts as may be hereafter
24 appropriated to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act.
25 All repayments of principal, interest, fees, charges, court costs,
26 or any sums recovered by compromise or by the sale of collateral
27 shall revert to this fund.

28 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall become effective
29 immediately upon its passage or approval or upon its becoming law

1 without such approval.

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