

Introduced: 2/16/68  
Referred: Resources  
& Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HAMMOND, PALMER AND POLAND

2 SENATE BILL NO. 327

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to persons eligible to obtain gear  
7 licenses."

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

9 \* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. (a) The legislature finds that  
10 excessive entry into Alaskan fishing areas has resulted in massive accumula-  
11 tions of salmon fishing gear with attendant ever-increasing difficulty in  
12 providing for sound conservation and management of the resource.

13 (b) The legislature further finds that the uninhibited issuance  
14 of gear licenses to anyone despite total lack of experience in the particu-  
15 lar area has not only been the prime factor tending toward accumulation of  
16 excessive gear but also has posed additional management, enforcement, and  
17 public safety problems through the lack of familiarity with regulations,  
18 waters, and procedures peculiar to the individual area.

19 (c) In view of the findings in (a) and (b) of this section, it  
20 is considered necessary by the legislature to impose experience requirements  
21 prior to issuance of salmon gear licenses to any applicants.

22 \* Sec. 2. AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

23 Sec. 16.05.536. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR GEAR LICENSES. (a) Except  
24 in cases of extreme hardship as determined by the commissioner, a sal-  
25 mon gear license for a specific area may be issued only to a person who

26 (1) has previously held a gear license for that specific  
27 area; or

28 (2) has, for any three years, concurrently held a commercial  
29 fishing license and actively engaged in commercial fishing in that

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specific area.

(b) An applicant who claims that he is qualified for a gear license under (a)(2) of this section shall submit to the department

(1) an affidavit by the applicant stating that he has commercially fished in the specific area for the required time;

(2) substantiation from state records evidencing that he did purchase an Alaska commercial fishing license for the required three years; and

(3) either affidavits from two persons holding currently valid gear licenses in the area where the applicant desires to fish stating that the applicant has fished the required time in that area, or statements signed by three employees of the department evidencing that the applicant did report in at a department office within the required area during the required three years.

\* Sec. 3. AS 16.05.540 is amended to read:

Sec. 16.05.540. LIMITATION ON ISSUANCE OF FISHING GEAR LICENSES. The fishing gear licenses mentioned in secs. 550 - 650 of this chapter shall be issued one to the applicant and only for the area in which the applicant qualifies under sec. 536 of this chapter.