

Original sponsors: Gardiner, Branson,  
Duncan, et al

Offered: 3/15/79  
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 193

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to regional fish and game councils;  
7 and providing for an effective date."

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

9 \* Section 1. AS 16.05 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 Sec. 16.05.222. FISH AND GAME RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REGIONS. For  
11 the purposes of conservation and management of the fish and wildlife  
12 resources of the state, there are created six fish and game resource  
13 management regions, the exact boundaries of which shall be established  
14 by the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game, acting jointly, no  
15 later than December 31, 1979. The regions shall encompass the following  
16 general areas:

17 (1) Southeast Alaska: The Southeast Alaska mainland and  
18 islands northward and westward from Dixon Entrance to Cape Suckling, and  
19 the adjacent coastal water seaward to the limit of the state's juris-  
20 diction.

21 (2) Southcentral Alaska: The area drained by water flowing  
22 into the Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, and Cook Inlet from Cape  
23 Suckling westward to Cape Douglas at the base of the Alaska Peninsula,  
24 including all coastal islands north of Shuyak Island and the adjacent  
25 coastal water to the limit of the state's jurisdiction, and the area  
26 lying south of the rim of the Alaska Range and Wrangell Mountains.

27 (3) Southwest Alaska: The part of the Alaska Peninsula and  
28 adjacent mainland which drains into the Pacific Ocean and west side of  
29 Shelikof Strait from Cape Douglas to False Pass and into Bristol Bay

1 from the King Salmon River drainage to False Pass; Shuyak, Afognak,  
2 Kodiak, Trinity, Chirikof, and Shumagin Islands, and all other adjacent  
3 offshore islands; the Aleutian Islands and the Pribilof Islands; and the  
4 adjacent coastal water seaward to the limit of the state's jurisdiction.

5 (4) Western Alaska: The area northward and northwestward  
6 from the King Salmon River drainage, including all land drained by water  
7 flowing into Bristol Bay, the land within the boundaries of the Calista  
8 Regional Corporation, Nunivak and St. Matthew Islands, all other islands  
9 along the coast, and the adjacent coastal water seaward to the limit of  
10 the state's jurisdiction.

11 (5) Arctic Alaska: The land included within the boundaries  
12 of the Bering Straits and the Northwest Alaska Native Association  
13 Regional Corporations, the North Slope Borough, the islands of Little  
14 Diomedes and St. Lawrence, other coastal islands, and the adjacent  
15 coastal water seaward to the limit of the state's jurisdiction.

16 (6) Interior Alaska: The land encompassing the drainages of  
17 the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers northward from the boundary of the South-  
18 central Region, eastward from the boundary of the Western Region, east-  
19 ward and southward from the boundary of the Arctic Region, and extending  
20 to the United States-Canada border.

21 Sec. 16.05.224. REGIONAL FISH AND GAME COUNCILS. (a) The Board  
22 of Fisheries and the Board of Game, acting jointly, shall establish a  
23 regional fish and game council within each fish and game resource  
24 management region. Each regional fish and game council shall be com-  
25 posed of the chairmen, or their designees, of the local fish and game  
26 advisory committees established within its region.

27 (b) The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game, acting jointly,  
28 shall assign a coordinator to each region to distribute relevant support  
29 data and to coordinate the activities of the local fish and game

1 advisory committees and the regional fish and game council. The coordi-  
2 nator shall accompany the chairman of the regional fish and game  
3 council, or his designee, at all hearings of the Board of Fisheries and  
4 the Board of Game.

5 (c) Each regional fish and game council may

6 (1) hold public meetings on fish and wildlife matters;

7 (2) elect a chairman;

8 (3) review, make recommendations, and assist the department,  
9 in consultation with its local fish and game advisory committees and  
10 appropriate federal agencies, in developing plans for the conservation,  
11 regulation, management, and use of the fish and wildlife resources  
12 within its region;

13 (4) perform other duties which may be specified by the Board  
14 of Fisheries and the Board of Game by regulation.

15 (d) Regional fish and game councils shall provide a forum for, and  
16 assist their local advisory committees in obtaining, the opinions and  
17 recommendations of persons interested in fish and wildlife matters in a  
18 manner which maximizes local participation in the decision-making pro-  
19 cess. If differences of opinion exist between the local advisory com-  
20 mittees, the regional fish and game council shall attempt to develop  
21 areas of compromise and to reach a regional consensus on matters of  
22 controversy.

23 (e) The regional fish and game councils may present recommenda-  
24 tions concerning the conservation, regulation, management and use of  
25 fish and wildlife resources within their respective regions, along with  
26 the evidence upon which the recommendations are based, to the Board of  
27 Fisheries or the Board of Game.

28 \* Sec. 2. AS 16.05.260 is amended to read:

29 Sec. 16.05.260. ADVISORY COMMITTEES. (a) The Board of Fisheries

1 and the Board of Game may make regulations they consider advisable in  
2 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) establish-  
3 ing, at places in the state designated by the individual boards,  
4 advisory committees to be composed of persons well informed on the fish  
5 or game resources of the locality. [THE BOARDS SHALL SET THE NUMBER AND  
6 TERMS OF EACH OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES, SHALL DELEGATE  
7 [ONE MEMBER OF EACH COMMITTEE AS CHAIRMAN, AND SHALL GIVE HIM AUTHORITY  
8 TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON FISH OR GAME MATTERS.] Recommendations from  
9 the advisory committees shall be forwarded to the appropriate board for  
10 their consideration but if the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game  
11 chooses not to follow the recommendations of the local advisory com-  
12 mittee the appropriate board shall inform the appropriate advisory  
13 committee of this action and state the reasons for not following the  
14 recommendations. The commissioner shall delegate authority to advisory  
15 committees for emergency closures during established seasons. [THE  
16 COMMISSIONER IS EMPOWERED TO SET ASIDE AND MAKE NULL AND VOID ONLY  
17 OPENING OF SEASONS SET BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES UNDER THIS SECTION.]  
18 The appropriate board shall promulgate the necessary regulations govern-  
19 ing these closures.

20 (b) In addition to the procedure for establishing advisory com-  
21 mittees set out in (a) of this section, an advisory committee may be  
22 established as provided in this subsection. Twenty-five persons from a  
23 specifically defined local area may, with the concurrence of the  
24 regional fish and game council for their region, petition the Board of  
25 Fisheries and the Board of Game jointly for the establishment of an  
26 advisory committee under regulations adopted jointly by the Board of  
27 Fisheries and the Board of Game. Upon receipt of the petition, the  
28 Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game jointly shall establish the  
29 advisory committee. An advisory committee formed under this subsection

1 has the same powers and responsibilities as an advisory committee  
2 formed under (a) of this section.

3 (c) The advisory committees, including advisory committees estab-  
4 lished before July 1, 1979, shall provide the primary source in obtain-  
5 ing the opinions and recommendations of local persons concerning fish  
6 and wildlife management. The regional councils shall provide assistance  
7 to the advisory committees for this purpose.

8 \* Sec. 3. AS 16.05.290 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 16.05.290. COMPENSATION OF BOARD AND COUNCIL MEMBERS. Each  
10 member of a board and of a regional council is entitled to travel ex-  
11 penses and \$100 per diem for each day going to and from and for each day  
12 in actual attendance at board meetings and other meetings or conferences  
13 authorized by a board or by a regional council.

14 \* Sec. 4. AS 16.05.320 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

15 (b) A majority of the members of a regional council constitutes a  
16 quorum for the transaction of business, for the performance of any duty,  
17 and for the exercise of any power.

18 \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1979.  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29