

Original sponsor: Ferguson

Offered: 5/14/81  
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 249 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the division of commercial fisher-  
7 ies and fisheries information planning and analysis;  
8 and providing for an effective date."

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

10 \* Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES. (a) The legislature finds that  
11 there is a need for the state

12 (1) to plan for the continuing development and evaluation of  
13 comprehensive commercial and subsistence fisheries information regarding the  
14 identification and separation, enumeration, distribution, migration patterns,  
15 run timing, biological characteristics, and habitat requirements of all  
16 significant fish populations and stocks, including underutilized species;  
17 and

18 (2) to continually improve its effort to address major fisheries  
19 resource allocations among user groups and gear types with effective in-  
20 season management resulting from comprehensive data and knowledge of fisher-  
21 ies populations and stocks upon which Alaskans rely for food, income, and  
22 recreation.

23 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to initiate and consolidate an  
24 ongoing process for the state to plan for and identify commercial and sub-  
25 sistence fisheries informational needs in order to ensure the sustained  
26 yield and equitable management of the fisheries populations and stocks, the  
27 development and evaluation of that information, and to assist the in-season  
28 management of those stocks to minimize the social and economic effects of  
29 resource allocation decisions among user groups and gear types.

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

2 Sec. 16.05.095. FISHERIES INFORMATION PLANNING AND ANALYSIS. The  
3 division of commercial fisheries, in addition to its other duties,  
4 shall

5 (1) locate and gather all known information and data, from  
6 all known sources, necessary or advisable for the development, imple-  
7 mentation, and evaluation of management strategies for the subsistence  
8 and commercial fisheries in the state; this information and data shall  
9 include data regarding identification and separation, enumeration,  
10 migration patterns and run timing, biological characteristics, and  
11 habitat requirements and any other relevant data, of all significant  
12 fish populations and stocks in the state, including underutilized  
13 species;

14 (2) identify, on a continuing basis, the data and informa-  
15 tion necessary or advisable to ensure that the division may effectively  
16 address major commercial fisheries issues among user groups and gear  
17 types with improved in-season management;

18 (3) identify, on a continuing basis, the fisheries informa-  
19 tion that is in need of further analysis for effective use by the  
20 division;

21 (4) assist the department and the Board of Fisheries in  
22 identifying fisheries and areas that are in need of, or will need,  
23 special information and data collection or analysis projects to effec-  
24 tively and equitably manage the fish stocks;

25 (5) assist the department in identifying and evaluating the  
26 information and data necessary or advisable to improve the state's  
27 position in all international agreements, negotiations, or discussions;

28 (6) participate with and assist the Board of Fisheries,  
29 other divisions, sections and other programs or efforts authorized by

1 the commissioner in the preparation of statewide and regional manage-  
2 ment plans so that those plans are based on the best information avail-  
3 able and recognize information and data that should be developed;

4 (7) prepare an annual report to the legislature, to be  
5 submitted not later than 10 days after the legislature convenes in each  
6 regular session; the report shall detail the state of information and  
7 data available for each fisheries stock, including underutilized  
8 species, the additional research necessary or advisable to meet the  
9 purposes of this section, and identify those research projects which  
10 are continuous in nature and those research projects which have a  
11 definite term of completion.

12 \* Sec. 4. AS 37.25 is amended by adding a new section to read:

13 Sec. 37.25.040. APPROPRIATIONS FOR PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF  
14 COMMERCIAL FISHERIES. An appropriation to the division of commercial  
15 fisheries, Department of Fish and Game, for a research project which  
16 has a definite term of completion is valid for the duration of the  
17 research project. The unexpended and unobligated portion of the appro-  
18 priation made for the project shall be carried forward to subsequent  
19 fiscal years.

20 \* Sec. 5. Nothing in this Act may be interpreted or implemented so as to  
21 diminish the powers or effectiveness of the regional planning teams author-  
22 ized by AS 16.10.375.

23 \* Sec. 6. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-  
24 070(c).