

Introduced: 4/23/81
Referred: Resources and
Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SACKETT

2 SENATE BILL NO. 502

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 development of commercial fish
7 and shellfish species and underutilized species; and
8 providing for an effective date."

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

10 * Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

11 (1) in many geographic regions of the state the commercial fish-
12 ing industry provides the only significant occupational opportunities for
13 residents of the regions;

14 (2) in many geographic regions of the state with limited occupa-
15 tional opportunities other than in the commercial fishing industry the
16 optimum yield of the harvest of certain species has not been reached,
17 commercial fishing has only recently developed, or a substantial portion of
18 the allowable harvest of the species has been allocated to fishing vessels
19 of a foreign nation;

20 (3) in many geographic regions of the state there are significant
21 populations or stocks of fish and shellfish which are not harvested com-
22 mercially;

23 (4) it is in the interest of the state that all developing and
24 potentially significant commercial fisheries achieve optimum utilization of
25 populations and stocks of fish and shellfish, consistent with the needs of
26 subsistence fishermen;

27 (5) facilitating the growth of developing and potentially signifi-
28 cant commercial fisheries will provide increased occupational opportunities
29 in many geographic regions of the state; and

1 (6) It is in the best interest of the residents of the different
2 geographic regions of the state that local organizations are provided an
3 opportunity to participate in development planning for existing and potential
4 commercial fisheries.

5 * Sec. 2. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of this Act to

6 (1) establish a process for facilitating the growth of the com-
7 mercial harvest of developing commercial and underutilized fish and shell-
8 fish species in the different geographic regions of the state in such a
9 manner as to increase occupational opportunities within the commercial
10 fishing industry; and

11 (2) provide an opportunity for the residents of different geo-
12 graphic regions of the state to participate in the development planning for
13 existing and potential commercial fisheries.

14 * Sec. 3. AS 16.05.050(12) is amended to read:

15 (12) not later than March 31 of each year, provide to the
16 commissioner of revenue and the commissioner of commerce and economic
17 development the names of those fish and shellfish species which he
18 designates as developing commercial fish and shellfish species for the
19 following fiscal year of the state; a fish or shellfish species is a
20 developing commercial fish or shellfish species if, with a specified
21 geographical region,

22 (A) the optimum yield from the harvest of the species
23 has not been reached;

24 (B) a substantial portion of the allowable harvest of
25 the species has been allocated to fishing vessels of a foreign
26 nation; or

27 (C) a commercial harvest of the [FISH] species has
28 recently developed.

29 * Sec. 4. AS 45 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

1 CHAPTER 99. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

2 Sec. 45.99.001. DEVELOPING AND UNDERUTILIZED FISH AND SHELLFISH
3 SPECIES. (a) The commissioner of commerce and economic development
4 shall annually prepare, and amend as necessary, a comprehensive plan
5 for enhancing occupational opportunities in the commercial fishing
6 industry in different geographic regions of the state by

7 (1) facilitating growth in the commercial harvest of develop-
8 ing commercial fish and shellfish species within those geographic
9 regions; and

10 (2) developing commercial fisheries of underutilized species
11 within those geographic regions.

12 (b) The plan shall identify

13 (1) developing commercial fish and shellfish species and
14 underutilized species within specified geographic regions;

15 (2) the factors impeding increased harvest, processing, and
16 marketing of developing commercial fish and shellfish species and
17 underutilized species, including lack of supportive infrastructure,
18 excessive regulatory burdens, lack of coordination of government
19 agencies, lack of application of available technology, and inadequacies
20 in government and private financial participation programs;

21 (3) commercial fishing industry market, product, and tech-
22 nology research and development needs; and

23 (4) technical assistance needs of the harvesting, process-
24 ing, and marketing elements of the commercial fishing industry.

25 (c) The plan shall include recommendations for

26 (1) responding to the research and development needs of the
27 commercial fishing industry as regards the industry's markets, products,
28 and technology;

29 (2) The provision of technical assistance to those elements

1 of the commercial fishing industry engaged in the harvesting, process-
2 ing, and marketing of fish and shellfish;

3 (3) meeting the infrastructure needs of the commercial
4 fishing industry including port and harbor development; and

5 (4) appropriate action to relieve the effects of factors
6 impeding the increased harvest, processing and marketing of developing
7 commercial fish and shellfish species and underutilized species.

8 (d) The Department of Commerce and Economic Development shall
9 submit recommendations developed under (c)(1) and (2) of this section
10 as budget requests in accordance with AS 37.07.050. The requests
11 submitted shall include recommendations, when appropriate, for con-
12 tracting or joint participation with local governments, private non-
13 profit corporations or private institutions to meet the technical
14 assistance or research and development needs.

15 (e) In preparing the plan under this section, the commissioner of
16 commerce and economic development shall use every reasonable effort to
17 provide opportunities for the residents of the different geographic
18 regions of the state to participate in the development planning.

19 (f) The Department of Commerce and Economic Development shall
20 annually submit a report to the legislature detailing the elements of
21 the development plan developed under this section by the 10th day after
22 each legislature convenes.

23 (g) In this section

24 (1) a species is a "developing commercial fish or shellfish
25 species" if, within a specified geographic region,

26 (A) the optimum yield from the harvest of the species
27 has not been reached;

28 (B) a substantial portion of the allowable harvest of
29 the species has been allocated to fishing vessels of a foreign

1 nation; or

2 (C) a commercial harvest of the species has recently
3 developed;

4 (2) a species is an "underutilized species" if, within a
5 specified geographic region, the species is not currently harvested for
6 commercial purposes but that adequate populations or stocks exist to
7 produce a product for existing or future market demands.

8 * Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-
9 070(c).