

BY REP. MENARD, Swackhammer, Boyer, Grussendorf

1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE BILL NO. 502

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to regulation of fish spotters."

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

8 \* Section 1. AS 16.10 is amended by adding new sections to read:

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ARTICLE 11. FISH SPOTTERS.

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Sec. 16.10.810. LICENSE AS FISH SPOTTER. (a) The department

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shall issue a license as a fish spotter to a person who

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(1) is 18 years of age or older;

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(2) holds a valid commercial pilot license issued by the

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Federal Aviation Administration;

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(3) has liability insurance in an amount to be determined

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by the department; and

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(4) pays a license fee set by the department.

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(b) A license is valid for the calendar year in which it is

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issued. The department may suspend or revoke a license if the person

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holding the license no longer meets the requirements of (a) of this

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section or violates AS 16.10.820.

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Sec. 16.10.820. REQUIREMENTS FOR FISH SPOTTERS. A person may

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not act as a fish spotter unless the person

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(1) holds a license issued under AS 16.10.810;

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(2) holds a commercial fishing license under AS 16.05.-

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480(a);

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(3) is accompanied by at least one observer in the air-

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craft;

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(4) registers in advance with the department fisheries

1 biologist in charge of the fishery in which the person will be acting;  
2 and

3 (5) marks the person's aircraft with 24-inch tail numbers  
4 under each wing.

5 Sec. 16.10.830. VIOLATIONS. A person who violates AS 16.10.820  
6 is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

7 \* Sec. 2. AS 16.05.251 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 (g) The Board of Fisheries may restrict the operations of fish  
9 spotters in a fishery when restrictions are necessary to protect the  
10 conservation of the resource.

11 \* Sec. 3. AS 16.05.940 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

12 (36) "fish spotter" means a person who is engaged by a  
13 commercial fisherman to pilot a plane for the purpose of aerially  
14 locating concentrations of fish and communicating their location to  
15 the fisherman.