

SB

290



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - SENATE

SENATOR RICHARD I. ELIASON

RULES COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN  
LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE, VICE CHAIRMAN  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
FISHERIES SUBCOMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN



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## EXPLANATION OF PURPOSE OF SB 290 BY Senator Eliason

### SB 290 "An Act relating to supplying false information on fish tickets"

By law, every time a fisherman sells fish to a commercial fish buyer, the transaction must be documented by a fish ticket which is filled out by the fish buyer and signed by the buyer and the fisherman. This ticket describes what species of fish are sold, the poundage, the price paid, an imprint of the fisherman's fishing permit, and a description of the area where the fish were caught. Copies of each fish ticket are provided to the fisherman, the Dept. of Fish and Game (or National Marine Fisheries Service for those fisheries under federal jurisdiction), the Dept. of Revenue, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, and Dept. of Public Safety.

It is vitally important for fisheries management, taxation, and so on that all of this information in accurate. But currently there is no specific prohibition in law against providing false information when fish is sold to the fish buyer.

One prime example of how incorrect information on fish tickets can affect a fishery is in the halibut fishery. The fishery is managed jointly between the U.S. and Canada by the International Pacific Halibut Commission. It is managed on a strict quota-by-area system whereby the Alaskan and Canadian coastline is divided into areas (labeled 1A, 2A, 3A, 1B, 2B, etc.). Each area has an allotted number of pounds it can catch. There have long been suspicions, and lately some substantiation, that some of the large vessels which fish in one area will report to their buyers that they caught the fish in another area. They do this in hopes of filling the quota in an area where they do not fish so that the quota in their own area will not be filled as soon and they will be allowed more days of fishing. Without disincentives for this practice it is likely to continue or get worse as halibut seasons get shorter and shorter each year.

While creating penalties for providing false information on fish tickets may not be highly enforceable or totally effective in stopping the practice, it is likely to curb it dramatically since fishermen have no guarantee that falsely reporting the area fished will extend their season and so will see it as not worth the risk. Management of the fishery will become more fair and will be based on more dependable catch data.

BILL NO: SB 290

DATE: 5/8/87

TITLE: "An Act relating to supplying false information on fish tickets."

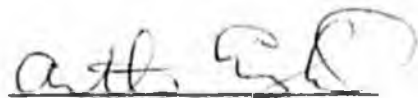
CONTACT: Capt. James Nutgrass  
Director  
Fish & Wildlife Protection

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY /

The Department of Public Safety supports SB 290, "An Act relating to supplying false information on fish tickets."

The passage of this amendment to AS 16.05.690 will give the Department of Public Safety the ability to charge a person who falsifies information on fish tickets with a clear, enforceable statute. This amendment will place the commercial fishermen who harvest Alaska's resources on notice that accurate information is required to be supplied by them on fish tickets.

In sum, the passage of this amendment will aid our department in carrying out its enforcement responsibilities and protection of the Fish & Wildlife Resources of the State of Alaska.

  
ARTHUR ENGLISH  
Commissioner

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: SB 290

Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

REQUEST

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: "An Act relating to supplying false information on fish tickets."

Sponsor: Sen. Eliason

Requestor: Senate Resources

Agency Affected: Public Safety

BRL: Fish & Wildlife Protection

Components: Enforcement

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

| OPERATING         | FY 87 | FY 88 | FY 89 | FY 90 | FY 91 | FY 92 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| TRAVEL            |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| CONTRACTUAL       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| SUPPLIES          |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| EQUIPMENT         |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| LAND & STRUCTURES |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS    |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| MISCELLANEOUS     |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| TOTAL OPERATING   |       | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| CAPITAL           |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| REVENUE           |       |       |       |       |       |       |

**FUNDING:: (Thousands of Dollars)**

|               |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| GENERAL FUNDS |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FEDERAL FUNDS |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| OTHER         |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| TOTAL         |  |   |   |   |   |   |

**POSITIONS:**

|           |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| FULL-TIME |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PART-TIME |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| TEMPORARY |  |   |   |   |   |   |

**ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)**

No fiscal impact is anticipated.

*JWK*  
*5/11/87* Prepared by: Kyle Weaver  
Division: Fish & Wildlife Protection

Phone: 269-5539

Date: 5/11/87

Approved by Commissioner: Arthur English  
Agency: Public Safety

Date: 5/11/87

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