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SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/27/90

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 4/11/90

The Finance Committee considered

SB 531

"An Act establishing certain labeling and identification requirements for food products containing farmed finfish."

and recommended:

replace with CS SB 531 (Finance)
 or adopt CS

same title
 new title
 technical title change (HB only)

attached amendment(s)
 letter of intent adopted

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

~~individual recommendations~~

further referral to _____

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Dept/Date:

fiscal note(s) DEC 2.5 3/23/90

zero fiscal note(s)

appropriation-no fiscal note

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

Dept/Date:

fiscal note(s)

zero fiscal note(s)

SIGNING DO PASS:

J. Duncan
Paul Grub

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

FILE LOGGING - NO REC
Rich Hebel (No Rec)
CO-CHAIR

1. _____

2. _____

Co-Chairs: Signatures and Recommendations

STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CSSB 531 (L&C)

PUBLISH DATE: 3/27/90

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: An act establishing certain labeling for food containing farmed finfish
Sponsor: Labor & Commerce Committee
Requestor: Senator Eliason

Agency Affected: Environ. Conservation
BRU: Environmental Health
Components: Sanitation and Seafood

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND&STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS,CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
REVENUE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PART-TIME	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TEMPORARY	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

One time costs associated with development and distribution of notification to restaurants, retail grocery stores, wholesalers, food and seafood processors of labeling and identification requirements.

Changes in CSSB 531 (Fin) have no fiscal impact. This fiscal note is appropriate. 4/11/90 vvw

Prepared by: Douglas C. Donegan
Division: Environmental Health

Phone: 465-2609
Date: 3/23/90

Approved by Commissioner: ADH
Agency: Environmental Conservation

Date: 3/23/90

Distribution (by preparer) :
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

) Changes in SB 531 (L&C) have no fiscal impact. This fiscal note is appropriate.

Original sponsor(s): Labor & Commerce Committee

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 531 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing certain labeling and identifica-
7 tion requirements for food products containing farmed
8 salmon; and providing for an effective date."

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

10 * Section 1. AS 17.20.040 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

11 (12) the food is a farmed salmon product, unless

12 (A) the product is labeled to identify the product as
13 farmed fish raised outside the state, if the product is sold in a
14 packaged form; or

15 (B) the product is conspicuously identified as farmed
16 fish raised outside the state, if the product is sold in an
17 unpackaged form.

18 * Sec. 2. AS 17.20.370 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

19 (14) "farmed salmon product" means a food product that
20 contains salmon that is propagated, farmed, or cultivated in an
21 aquatic farm; in this paragraph

22 (A) "aquatic farm" means a facility that grows, farms,
23 or cultivates finfish in captivity or under positive control, but
24 does not include a salmon hatchery that is owned by the state or
25 that holds a salmon hatchery permit under AS 16.10.400;

26 (B) "positive control" has the meaning given in
27 AS 16.40.199.

28 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect August 1, 1990.

4/11/90
Roger Painter

Senate Bill 531 (Labeling of farmed finfish products)

This legislation would require restaurants that serve catfish, trout and other non-controversial species to reprint their menus. Supermarkets would be required to label products containing farmed finfish at fish counters, in advertisements and to relabel pre-packaged products. Importers (usually brokers and distributors) also would be required to label products as they come into the state and are sold on the wholesale market.

Since the issue really is how to distinguish farmed salmon from Alaska's "wild" catches, the best approach would be to limit the labeling requirements to farmed salmon. This approach would require the labeling, for instance, of farmed salmon purchased from B.C. and processed in Alaska to distinguish from "wild" salmon products.

Alaska cannot require the labeling of products in other areas, and since only a tiny fraction of our catch is sold in-state, the legislation would not influence 99 percent of sales. Yet, Alaska restaurants, supermarkets and distributors would be saddled with unnecessary requirements and expenses. By adopting amendments to limit the scope to farmed salmon, the legislation would still achieve its desired goal at a much lower cost and impact upon Alaska businesses.

Proposed Amendment:

Line 8 (title):

[FINFISH] salmon; and providing for an effective date."

Line: 11:

(12) the food is s farmed [finfish] salmon product, unless

Line 19:

(14) "farmed [FINFISH] salmon product" means a food product that

Line 20:

contains [FINFISH] salmon that is propagated, farmed, or cultivated in an

Line 23:

or cultivates [FINFISH] salmon in captivity or under positive control, but

FISCHER
MOVED
ADOPTED

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Alaska Environmental Lobby, Inc.

P.O. Box 22151 Juneau, Alaska 99802

907-463-3366

AEL ISSUE PAPER - SB 531 ESTABLISHING CERTAIN LABELING AND IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING FARMED FINFISH

The Alaska Environmental Lobby supports this legislation.

* In Alaska, we are fortunate to have a vast supply of fresh seafood available to consumers. The finfish commercially harvested in our state and sold in our markets and restaurants grows in its natural habitat. The product is thus not only fresh but lives in clean waters and feeds in this natural environment.

* An increasing amount of finfish marketed in Alaska comes from farms outside the state. Because Alaskans are accustomed to buying a product they assume to be natural, they may think they are purchasing fresh, ocean-grown fish when in fact the product is farmed. We believe it is the consumers' right to know what it is they are getting when they purchase finfish at the store or in a restaurant. For this reason, we support this legislation which would require any farmed finfish product sold in Alaska be labeled as such. Further, it is important that these products be labeled as not being from Alaska so that consumers can continue to trust that any non-labeled finfish they purchase is indeed a natural Alaskan product.

* Many consumers prefer to purchase and eat naturally-grown rather than farmed finfish because the latter are fed food different from what would be available in the natural habitat and are often treated with chemicals and/or hormones to insure their survival and faster growth. For these Alaskans, it is important to know whether the finfish being sold is farmed or not.

* Because this legislation protects Alaskans' right to be informed consumers, we urge legislators to support it.

April 10, 1990

Ellen Wolf

Volunteer Lobbyist

CLEAN AIR COALITION • PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND CONSERVATION ALLIANCE • ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
ALASKA CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB • JUNEAU GROUP, SIERRA CLUB • KNIK GROUP, SIERRA CLUB • DENALI GROUP, SIERRA CLUB
ANCHORAGE AUDUBON SOCIETY • ARCTIC AUDUBON SOCIETY • DENALI CITIZENS' COUNCIL • ALASKA FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY • KACHEMAK BAY CONSERVATION SOCIETY • KENAI PENINSULA AUDUBON SOCIETY • KODIAK AUDUBON SOCIETY
LYNN CANAL CONSERVATION • SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY • NORTHERN ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
SOUTHEAST ALASKA CONSERVATION COUNCIL • KNIK CANOERS AND KAYAKERS

Original sponsor(s): Labor & Commerce Committee

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