

HB

230

(9) Date Referred: April 2, 1993 FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/14/93

The RESOURCES Committee considered: HB 230

HOUSE BILL NO. 230 VESSEL FEES

"An Act relating to fees for commercial fishing licenses and permits."

RECOMMENDATIONS:
 be replaced with CS HB 230 (RES) the same title
 a new title

- have attached amendments(s)
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendations
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)
 fiscal impact Fish & Game (CFEC) 4-14-93 fiscal note(s) Fish & Game 4/2/93
 zero fiscal note _____ zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Bill Hudson</i>	✓				
<i>John [unclear]</i>	✓				
<i>[unclear]</i>	✓				
<i>David [unclear]</i>	✓				
<i>Gar Blende</i>	✓				
<i>W.K. Williams</i>	✓				

W.K. Williams
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CS HB230 (RES)

Revision Date: 4/14/93 Department Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: "An Act relating to fees for commercial fishing licenses" BRU: Commercial Fisheries (Limited) Entry Commission
 Component: Limited Entry Program Administration
 Sponsor: Representative Moses
 Requestor: House Resources Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO 0 4 7 1

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES	16.6					
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	16.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE: 1005	913.1	913.1	913.1	913.1	913.1	913.1
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts	16.6					
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	16.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY	1					

Estimate of current year (FY93) impact: \$ 0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.) CFEC has simplified and automated the licensing process in response to continuing budget reductions and staff losses over the past several years. The current \$20 per vessel fee is automatically applied with minimal staff resources. The fiscal note is necessitated by the change in the licensing system which will require development of new annual licensing forms, collection and verification of data, response to public inquiry, and reprogramming of data processing. The existing skeletal staff will need to be supplemented for the first year until the new system becomes established. (See attachments)

Prepared By: Roger Kolden Phone: 789-6160
 Agency: Commercial Fisheries(Limited) Entry Commission / Date: 4/14/93

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
 Agency: Commercial Fisheries (Limited) Entry Commission Date: 4/14/93

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HB230 Projected Revenue
Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

Vessel Length	Number Vessels	Proposed Fee	Projected Revenue	Percentage
000-025	6,797	20	135,940	39.5%
026-050	8,783	50	439,150	51.1%
051-075	795	100	79,500	4.6%
076-150	628	250	157,000	3.7%
151-250	167	500	83,500	1.0%
251-998	24	750	<u>18,000</u>	0.1%
Total	17,194		913,090	

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA

TO: Commission

DATE: April 1, 1993

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: Chris Kelly *CK*
Licensing Project Leader
CFEC

SUBJECT: Impacts of Change
in Vessel Fees

I, and the staff in licensing, feel that further explanation of the impacts of the proposed legislation on licensing procedures and workload may be helpful in support of the request for an additional temporary licensing clerk during the first seven months of this transition.

Each fall we mail pre-printed renewal forms to all entities that licensed vessels in the current year. If the vessel owner also held fishing permits, the permit renewal form is printed on the other side of the vessel form. In most cases, very minor changes, if any, are needed on these forms and the license holder simply signs the form and submits the indicated fee. This simplified renewal process was first implemented in 1992 to minimize paper-handling and streamline the process for the fishermen and maximize the efficiency of the small staff available for licensing.

One negative aspect of the process is that less explanatory information can be included on the form. (The assumption is that a simplified form works for straight renewals because the license holders are presumably already familiar with the basic regulations and requirements.) However, the staff has found that license holders tend not to read the preprinted forms closely, they frequently overlook changes in fees even though they may be printed in BOLD print right on the face of the form. Like most people, fishermen are creatures of habit and they tend to sign the form and send it in with the same fee they've paid for years.

For example, in 1992 when these forms were first used, several individuals wrote or called to say that they had received their preprinted permit renewal forms and they really liked having all the permits listed on one form, but they didn't receive their vessel license renewal form(s). They were usually quite embarrassed when we asked them to turn the permit form over, and they found their vessel renewal(s) printed right on the other side!

With a change in the fee schedule, many vessel license applications will have processing delayed until additional fees are received. This

will also delay issuance of permits, since the permit cards cannot be issued until the associated vessels are actually licensed. This requires the staff to send letters explaining the problem and requesting additional fees and these letters must be maintained in a "suspense" file until the fees are received.

As you know, the impact will become greater the closer it gets to the fishing seasons. When license holders find themselves without the necessary permits or vessel licenses as the fishery is about to start, they get on the phone to licensing staff to find out how their licenses may be expedited, and/or to demand that staff make arrangements with local ADF&G offices to somehow enable them to commence fishing even if the licenses haven't been received yet. Each such instance may take 20-30 minutes of phone calls back and forth, and it is not uncommon for you and/or legislators to be dragged into the process.

The renewal forms will have to be modified to explain the new fee schedule and how to determine the vessel length, and to emphasize that the applicant must certify under penalty of perjury that the length information provided is correct. To the extent that we may not be able to list all of the licenses on a single page, this may result in some loss of the efficiencies we gained by introducing the new forms. We know from experience that any such change results in a great deal of confusion and numerous telephone calls from persons complaining about the higher rates and demanding to know how they were established. A significant amount of licensing staff time is taken up in attempting to respond to these inquiries.

These impacts will primarily be felt during the first year of implementation. The additional temporary employee will help to keep licensing productivity at an acceptable level even though the staff will be burdened with a greater than normal volume of telephone calls and correspondence. During the first year, fishermen and vessel owners will be made aware of the changes and the validity of data contained on the vessel license file will be improved. By the second year, the transition should be pretty much accomplished and any lingering impacts can be absorbed with existing permanent and seasonal staff.

Thank you for supporting this request.



HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Wed. Apr. 14, 1993

PLACE: Capitol, Room 124

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
 HB 230 : Vessel Fees
 Game Bd. Confirmations

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?		WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
7 Margie Odland	Law					Y	N	Game Bd Confirmations
① Rep Moses						Y	N	HB 230
② FRANK HOMAN	CFEC	8800 Glacier Hwy Suite 109	99801-8079		789-6160	Y	N	HB 230
③ Jerry Luckhaupt	Leg. Legal	130 Seward Suite 409	99801-2105		2450	Y	N	Bd of Game
④ Margorie Celland		P.O. Box 110300	99801-0300		3600	Y	N	Bd. of Game
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	