

**HB**

**256**

# Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE  
PETER KELLY

Mailing Address:  
119 N. Cushman, Suite 203  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 456-8161



While in Juneau  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska  
99801-1182  
(907) 465-2327

House District 31

## House Of Representatives

### Sponsor Statement

#### House Bill 256

House Bill 256 is a promotional venture to attract Alaskan's and visitors to buy fishing licenses and join in the fun of fishing in Alaska. Although the bill is primarily oriented towards sport fishing, getting individuals into the act of fishing is another way of helping them learn the importance of Alaska's fishery resources.

Fishing is Fun Week is a National event with it's own promotional energy. HB 256 would bring Alaska into the fun event.

It is the intent of the sponsor of this legislation to increase the participation of Alaskan's as well as visitors to Alaska in the appreciation of Alaska's bountiful fishing opportunities. HB 256 will get new anglers hooked on fishing, and seeks to reel back in those who have gotten away from the activity.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 256**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES KELLY, Austerman**

Introduced: 3/15/95

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act authorizing the commissioner of fish and game to establish free sport  
2 fishing days."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* Section 1. AS 16.05.400 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (c) The commissioner may, by regulation, designate not more than two days  
6 each year on which a person, whether a resident or nonresident, may engage in sport  
7 fishing without having obtained a sport fishing license or an anadromous king salmon  
8 tag.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB256

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 Title: An Act authorizing the Commissioner of Fish and Game to establish a free sport fishing BRU: Division of Sport Fish  
Representative Kelly Component: Sport Fisheries  
 Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requester: House Special Committee on Fisheries COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 464

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY95) cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

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

Assumptions: Any initial loss of license sale revenue will be compensated by new anglers that result from these activities.

Prepared by: John Burke *Mark Elmer for John Burke*  
 Division: Sport Fish  
 Approved by Commissioner: Frank  
 Agency: Fish and Game

Phone: 465-6187  
 Date: 2/16/95  
 Date: 3-24-95

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## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### POSITION PAPER

Bill Number: HB256

Sponsor: Representative Kelly

Bill Title: An Act authorizing the commissioner of fish and game to establish free sport fishing days.

Department Position: Support.

This legislation would give the commissioner of fish and game the authority to designate not more than two days each year on which a person, resident or nonresident, may sport fish without a fishing license or king salmon tag. A number of states have free fishing days associated with National Fishing Week Activities and other recreational fishing educational activities. Free fishing days allow people who would like to try fishing an opportunity to do so without the necessity of purchasing a license. The legislative intent is that recreational anglers in Alaska have this same opportunity.

Free fishing days offer people who do not ordinarily fish the opportunity to experience fishing without the associated expense of a license. A free fishing day in conjunction with National Fishing Week activities or winter fishing carnivals can serve to introduce or reacquaint people with recreational fishing; people who might otherwise not participate because of the expense of a license. Free fishing days are an effective centerpiece for department sponsored or assisted aquatic education programs. These programs primarily focus on the conservation concepts and angler ethics required to promote a sustained yield from recreational fishing resources.

It is important that the commissioner have the flexibility to designate the days in question. Traditionally National Fishing Week occurs in early June during the peak of most king salmon fisheries. Many of these fisheries are intensely fished and fully utilized. It is possible that a free fishing day would create a derby-like situation in these already crowded fisheries. This may not be a positive effect as a disproportionate number of fish might be harvested in such a situation. This could significantly complicate management and perhaps even the intended allocation of harvest. It is also possible that the department could lose significant revenue from the loss of king salmon tag sales. Though this scenario is possible, we do not think it is likely. In any event if such a situation developed, the commissioner could chose

to designate the free fishing day after the peak king salmon fishery.

Initial license and king salmon tag sale opportunities that are lost due to a free fishing day should be compensated by the new anglers that result from these activities.

We feel that free fishing days would not only result in more recreational anglers, but could also indirectly result in a more informed public relative to ethical angling practices and the conservation concepts necessary to promote a sustained yield from the recreational fishing resource.

Commissioner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Frank Re*

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

*3.24.55*



## National Fishing Week Steering Committee

Field Office: 2944 Patrick Henry Drive, Suite 15  
Falls Church, VA 22044-2926 • 703/532-7730 • Fax 703/241-9717

The following states have provided the dates for their 1994 Free Fishing Day(s). In general, this allows the public to fish without a license. *Individual states may place some restrictions and other regulations may apply.* Check with your State Fish and Game Agency or the National Fishing Week Steering Committee for specific state information.



### NATIONAL FISHING WEEK JUNE 6-12, 1994 FREE FISHING DAYS

Alabama:	June 11	Nevada:	June 11
Arizona:	June 11	New Hampshire:	June 4
Arkansas:	June 10 - 12	New Jersey:	June 11 - 12
California:	June 11 & Sept 24	New Mexico:	June 4 & Sept 24
Colorado:	June 4 - 5	New York:	June 25 - 26
Connecticut:	June 11	North Dakota:	June 11 - 12
Delaware:	TBA	Ohio:	June 4 - 5
Florida:	June 11 - 12	Oklahoma:	June 11 - 12
Georgia:	June 11 - 12 & Sept 24	Oregon:	June 11
Idaho:	June 11	Pennsylvania:	June 4 - 5
Illinois:	June 10 - 13	Rhode Island:	June 4 - 5
Indiana:	June 11 - 12	South Carolina:	June 11 - 12
Iowa:	June 10 - 12	South Dakota:	May 21 - 22
Kansas:	June 11 - 12	Tennessee:	June 11
Kentucky:	June 4 - 5	Texas:	June 4
Louisiana:	June 11 - 12	Utah:	June 11
Maine:	June 19 & Feb 20	Vermont:	June 11
Maryland:	June 4 & 11, July 4	Virginia:	June 4 - 5
Massachusetts:	June 18 - 19	Washington:	June 11 - 12
Michigan:	June 11 - 12	Washington, D.C.:	June 6 - 12
Minnesota:	June 11 - 12	West Virginia:	June 11 - 12
Missouri:	June 11 - 12	Wisconsin:	June 5

THE NATIONAL FISHING WEEK STEERING COMMITTEE  
2944 PATRICK HENRY DRIVE  
SUITE 15  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22044-2926  
(703) 532-7730

Not all states planning to sponsor Free Fishing Day(s) have approved dates and are listed as "TBA."

Post-It™ brand tax transmittal memo 7871 # of pages 1

To <i>M. Kramer</i>	From <i>Ron Johnson</i>
Co.	Co.
Dept.	Phone #
Fax # <i>452-5428</i>	Fax #

Midnight Sun Flycasters  
P.O. Box 81031  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

March 13, 1995

Dear Sirs,

The Midnight Sun Flycasters would like you to consider introducing legislation that would offer individuals an opportunity to fish in Alaska without a fishing license for at least two days out of the year. It appears that many of the lower 48 states have such provisions for people in their states.

Free fishing days are an important promotional tool across the country. The purpose of free fishing days is to encourage new people to get acquainted with the great sport of fishing. Alaska could promote the excellent fishing opportunities that we enjoy. This event could also promote tourism and economic benefits for our state.

The Midnight Sun Flycasters of Fairbanks Alaska is a nonprofit Flyfishing club in the interior of Alaska. Our purpose and desire is to promote and work for the betterment of sport fishing, to encourage and advocate conservation of resources in our lands, streams and lakes and to promote the education of the public in regards to our wonderful heritage of sport fishing.

We would like to see these days take place during National Fishing Week. Thankyou for considering our desire.

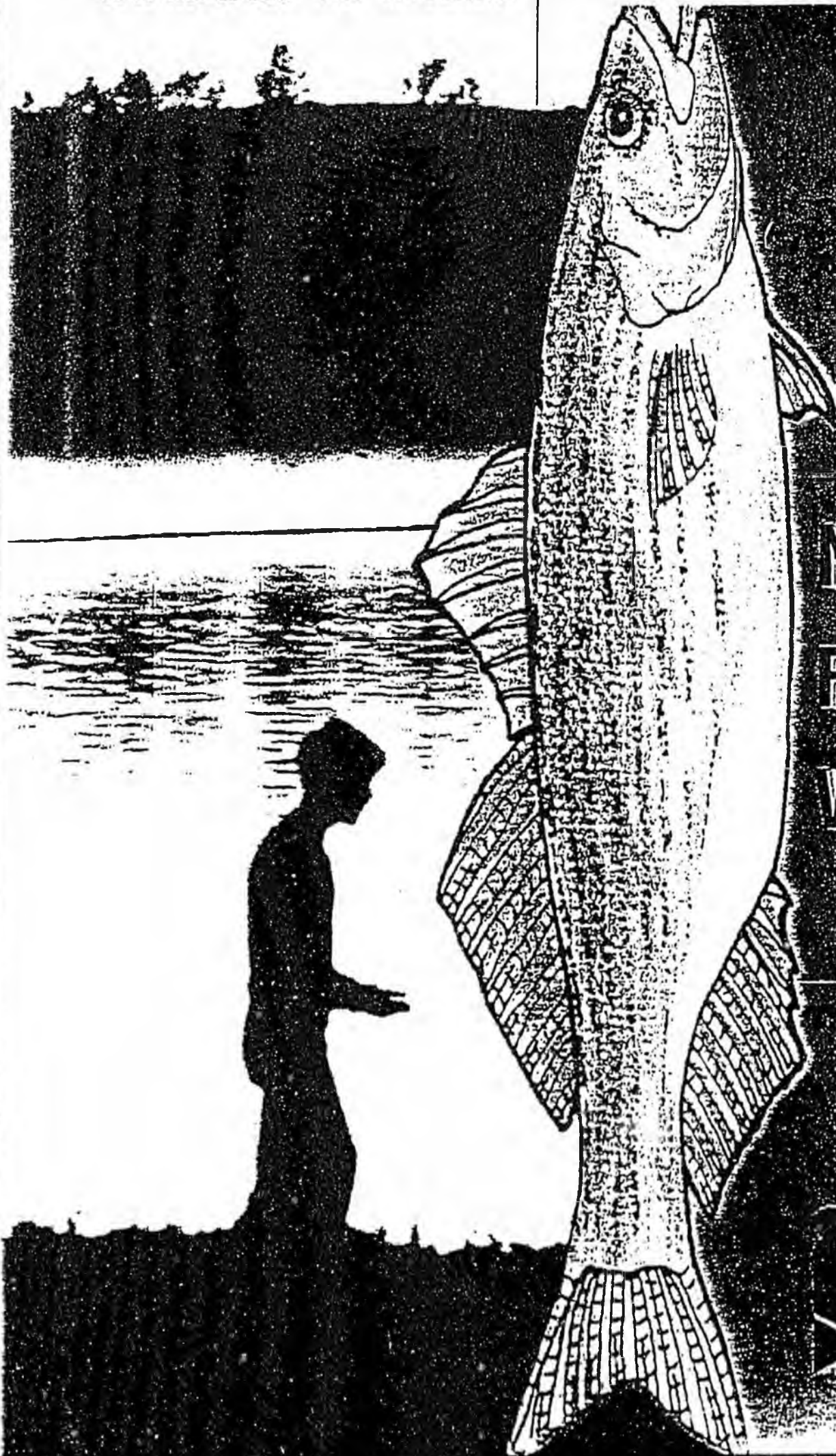
Sincerely,

*Ronald J. Johnson*  
Ronald J. Johnson

President MSFC

(907) 451-6139

Letter of Support for HB 256



# National Fishing Week



MAY 18 1992



Fishing is a healthy outdoor recreational activity in New York which grows more popular every year. The reasons are as many and diverse as the waters where the sport can be pursued.

New York is a state truly rich in water resources. The mammoth Great Lakes, sprawling reaches of Long Island's coastal shores, legendary Catskill streams, rare splendor of our Finger Lakes, miles of rivers and tiny Adirondack ponds all have their beauty and each offer unparalleled fishing potential.

That potential is made real for present day fishermen by the continuance of New York's century-old tradition of sound fisheries management carried forward by dedicated professionals. Their efforts have resulted in a breadth and scope of fishing opportunity unmatched in the nation. We also help people learn about fishing so they can enjoy this lifetime recreation.

Fishing has a particular fascination for children of all ages. Mindful of this affinity, New York makes available to young anglers a formal and enjoyable educational program. The Sportfishing Aquatic Resources Education Program (SAREP) uses trained volunteers to impart to our youth a feeling for the traditions of sportfishing and solid knowledge about conservation, management and wise use of our aquatic resources. More than 2.3 million anglers 16 years and older and about one million children enjoy angling in New York each year. Cumulatively they fish more than 50 million days and spend in excess of \$2.5 billion annually in pursuit of their favorite fish.

To give both residents and nonresidents an opportunity to savor the joys of fishing in New York, we again invite the public to enjoy two free days of fishing on June 27-28, 1992. No license is required for this weekend, allowing first-time anglers and those who have gotten away from the sport a chance to wet a line and perhaps ignite a lifetime love affair. Good stewardship of our natural resources is an easier goal to attain when all of our citizens have an appreciation for and a stake in those resources. Fishing is a great place to start that linkage. This year we celebrate this observance throughout June, beginning with National Fishing Week, June 1-7, and culminating with our free fishing days on the last weekend.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mario M. Cuomo, Governor of the state of New York, do hereby proclaim June, 1992, as

## FISHING MONTH

in New York state.



BY THE GOVERNOR:

G I V E N under my hand and the  
Privy Seal of the State at the  
Capitol in the City of Albany  
this fourth day of May in the  
year one thousand nine hundred  
hundred and ninety-two.

*Mario M. Cuomo*

*Andrew J. Tambelli*  
Secretary to the Governor



# Alaska Sportfishing Association

P. O. Box 24-1847 Anchorage, AK 99524-1847


Representative Pete Kelly  
State House  
Juneau, Ak 99801  
Via Fax

Dear Representative Kelly,

We have just been advised of HB 256 which authorizes the Commissioner of Fish and Game to establish free sport fishing days.

The Alaska Sportfishing Association (ASA) feels that the bill provides everyone the opportunity to take part in one of Alaska's premier activities. It should increase the awareness of both Alaskans and our visitors to the sport of fishing and the use of our incredible Alaska outdoors.

ASA wholeheartedly supports HB 256 and urges

 3/14/95

Phil Cutler, President

# STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, there are over one million anglers including women, children, senior citizens and handicapped, who enjoy fishing reservoirs, lakes, ponds, streams and rivers in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, June 7 - 13, 1993 has been proclaimed as National Fishing Week; and

WHEREAS, fishing is an established recreational activity in Oklahoma enjoyed by over one million anglers, including women, children, senior citizens and handicapped; and

WHEREAS, fishing generates more than \$442 million annually to the benefit of local economies; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission has recognized June 12 and 13 during National Fishing Week as "Free Fishing Days" in Oklahoma;

WHEREAS, of "Free Fishing Days" in Oklahoma, the first state in the nation to designate a "Free Fishing Day" celebration;

NOW THEREFORE, I, David Walters, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim the week of June 7 - 13, 1993, as

### NATIONAL FISHING WEEK

In the State of Oklahoma.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol in the City of Oklahoma City, this 20th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-three, and of the State of Oklahoma the eighty-fifth year.*

*John Kramer*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*David Walters*  
GOVERNOR