

SCOMM

95:25



REPRESENTATIVE ALAN AUSTERMAN Alaska State Legislature

P.O. Box 2368, Kodiak, Alaska 99615 (907) 486-5930 • Session: State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801 465-2487

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 2/15/96

TO: Laure Thompson - Inn Empire

FROM: Cliff 586-3228 9097 (C)

RE: HB 257

PAGES: ~~21~~ pages to follow

... probably more than you'll
ever want to know about
this topic.

Page 17 → 37
never fixed
always busy

OK?

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 254 - "SPLITTING THE BOARD OF FISH"

April 11, 1995

House Bill 254 provides for a separate 7 member Board of Fish to address the concerns of the marine fisheries (whitefish) and crab leaving the present Board of Fish to then only address salmon and freshwater fisheries issues. There is much concern that the current workload of the Board of Fish has increased to an unmanageable level. The workload is dominated by the two most contentious salmon fishing areas of the state: Cook Inlet and the False Pass/AYK Region. As a consequence, the part of the commercial fishing industry which harvests most of the poundage in the state ^{is} ~~are~~ often undermanaged and often misunderstood.

I have introduced this legislation in response to industry concerns and in order to maintain a more reasonable workload on the Board of Fish. Your consideration of this solution is appreciated.

Much better ☺

**BOARD OF FISHERIES
COST PER MEETING DAY
FISCAL YEAR 95**

SCENARIO 1 (DOES NOT INCLUDE ADVISORY COMMITTEES EXPENSES)

TOTAL FY 95 EXPENDITURES FOR BOARD OF FISHERIES: \$255,894.00

TOTAL MEETING DAYS:

48 = 3 yrs cycle

COST PER DAY:

\$5,331.13

COST PER MEETING 94/95 CYCLE:

OCT	2	\$10,662.25
NOV	11	\$58,642.38
JAN	12	\$63,973.50
FEB	12	\$63,973.50
MAR	10	\$53,311.25
TELECONFERENCE	1	\$5,331.13
		<u>\$255,894.00</u>

SCENARIO 2 (INCLUDES ADVISORY COMMITTEES EXPENSES)

The following figures are based on 6 Advisory committee members traveling to board of fisheries meeting and attending for 5 days.

FY95 per diem rate: 95.00 per day

Average airline fare: 450.00 round trip

Airfare: \$2,700 (six persons x 450)

Per diem \$2,850 (six person x 95 per day x 5 days)

\$5,550

2850 x 4 mtgs = 11,400.00

2700 x 4 mtgs = 10,800.00

Total ac expense based on 4 meetings:

22,200.00

scenario 1 total

255,894.00

278,094.00

Total cost per day: **\$6,179.87** (based on 45 meetings days)

Assume - same time frame
1 ex dir

Sound system

2 yr Cycle = 75 Days per yr.

Control # meeting days
to control cost

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB254

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
Title: Establish Two Fish Boards BRU: Boards of Fisheries and Game
Component: Board Services
Sponsor: Rep. Austerman
Requester: House Fisheries COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 482

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES	120.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0
TRAVEL	76.9	115.4	153.8	153.8	153.8	153.8
CONTRACTUAL	43.6	65.4	87.2	87.2	87.2	87.2
SUPPLIES	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
EQUIPMENT	29.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	274.5	355.8	416.0	416.0	416.0	416.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	274.5	355.8	416.0	416.0	416.0	416.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	274.5	355.8	416.0	416.0	416.0	416.0

Estimate of any current year (FY95) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME	2	3	3	3	3	3
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill would establish a separate "Board of Fisheries." This board would need to meet during the same time period as the other two boards (between the calendar months of October and March). Thus, an Executive Director level and Public Technician level people will need to be hired to staff the new board. In the second year, the level of the new board would increase, thus requiring the hiring of a regulations level person to file regulations. The level of travel of the original Board of Fisheries would essentially remain the same (we presume the board would adjust the meeting cycle back to a two year cycle from the three year cycle). The level of travel of the new board would start out short, but would increase up to the current level of the current boards. Since the new board would be meeting during the same time period, a new sound system would need to be acquired.

Prepared by: Laird A. Jones Phone: 485-6098
Division: Administration/Boards Support Section Date: 4/10/95
Approved by Commissioner: Frank Rue Date: _____
Agency: Fish and Game

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

For further distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office



REPRESENTATIVE ALAN AUSTERMAN Alaska State Legislature

P.O. Box 2368, Kodiak, Alaska 99615 (907) 486-5930 • Session: State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801 465-2487

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 254 - "SPLITTING THE BOARD OF FISH"

April 11, 1995

House Bill 254 provides for a separate 7 member Board of Fish to address the concerns of the marine fisheries (whitefish) and crab leaving the present Board of Fish to then only address salmon and freshwater fisheries issues. There is much concern that the current workload of the Board of Fish has increased to an unmanageable level. The workload is dominated by the two most contentious salmon fishing areas of the state: Cook Inlet and the False Pass/AYK Region. As a consequence, the part of the commercial fishing industry which harvests most of the poundage in the state, are often undermanaged and often misunderstood.

I have introduced this legislation in response to industry concerns and in order to maintain a more reasonable workload on the Board of Fish. Your consideration of this solution is appreciated.

**DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA**

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

March 30, 1995

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of HB 254; An Act relating to the management of fish and aquatic plants; establishing the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries.

TO: Representative Alan Austerman
Attn: Amy Daugherty

FROM: George Utermohle *GU*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of HB 254; An Act relating to the management of fish and aquatic plants; establishing the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries.

A sectional summary of a bill is not an authoritative interpretation of the bill. The bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

HB 254 contains a large number of bill sections that make only technical conforming amendments to reflect the creation of the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries to replace the current Board of Fisheries. This summary of HB 254 describes only those bill sections that substantively relate to the creation of the boards or to the allocation of jurisdiction over a particular subject matter to a single board.

Section 1 of the bill sets out the purpose of the bill.

Section 6 of the bill amends AS 16.05.221(a) to create the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries.

Section 8 of the bill adds new subsections to AS 16.05.221 to establish the Board of Marine Fisheries and to describe the respective jurisdictions of the two new fisheries boards.

Section 17 of the bill amends AS 16.05.258(c) to provide for joint meetings of the Board of Game, Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries, and the Board of Marine Fisheries regarding the establishment of nonsubsistence areas.

Sections 21 and 22 of the bill make technical changes to AS 16.05.315 and 16.05.320 regarding joint board meetings and quorum requirements for joint board meetings.

Sections 28 and 29 of the bill amend AS 16.05.632(e) and 16.05.685(c)(2) to give responsibility for regulating the marking of shellfish gear and establishing king crab registration areas to the Board of Marine Fisheries.

Section 33 of the bill amends AS 16.05.730(d) to give the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries responsibility for management of wild and enhanced fish stocks.

Sections 41 - 43 of the bill amend AS 16.10.125, 16.05.165(b), and 16.10.173(b) to give responsibility for regulation of termination devices on pot gear, utilization of herring, and utilization of pollock to the Board of Marine Fisheries.

Section 47 of the bill amends AS 16.10.440(b) to give responsibility to the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries for regulating the taking of salmon eggs for private nonprofit hatcheries.

Sections 56 and 57 of the bill amend AS 16.43.430 and 16.05.440(a) to give responsibility to the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries for regulating the take of salmon in special harvest areas.

Sections 63 and 64 of the bill amend AS 39.50.200(b) to provide that members of the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries are subject to the conflict of interest law (AS 39.50).

Sections 75 - 80 of the bill amend provisions of AS 41.21 and AS 41.23 to provide that the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries may adopt regulations in certain preserves and public use areas.

Sections 85 and 86 of the bill amend AS 44.62.330(a) to provide that the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries are subject to the administrative adjudication provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sections 87 and 88 of the bill make technical amendments to AS 46.15.035 and 46.15.037 to define fish as those species of salmon and freshwater fish that may be taken under regulations of the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries.

Section 91 of the bill provides for continuation of regulations adopted by the current Board of Fisheries and the current joint Board of Fisheries and Board of Game pending the adoption of regulations by the new fisheries boards and the new joint boards.

Section 92 of the bill provides for the appointment and confirmation of the members of the new Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the new Board of Marine Fisheries.

Representative Alan Austerman
March 30, 1995
Page 3

Section 93 of the bill provides for the implementation of this bill in the event that the effective date provision (sec. 94) of the bill does not receive the required two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature.

Section 94 of the bill provides that the substantive provisions of the bill (secs. 1 - 91) take effect on July 1 following the confirmation of five members of each of the new boards established by this bill.

GU:glc
95-277.glc

**DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA**

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

February 1, 1995

SUBJECT: Restructure of the Board of Fisheries (Work Order No. 9-LS0517\A)

TO: Representative Al Austerman
Attn: Amy Daugherty

FROM: George Utermohle *GU*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a bill that divides the responsibilities of the present Board of Fisheries among two boards. The attached bill accomplishes that result.

Numerous statutes must be changed to accomplish the bill's goal. Most sections of the bill make technical and conforming amendments to existing statutes. The key provisions of the bill are described below.

The bill reallocates the responsibilities of the Board of Fisheries between the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries. The Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries will manage salmon and other anadromous fish wherever they occur in the state and other fishery resources and aquatic plants present in the state's freshwater areas. Sec. 6. The Board of Marine Fisheries will manage the fishery resources and aquatic plants, other than salmon and other anadromous fish, present in the state's saltwater areas. Sec. 8. The boards may adopt regulations as necessary to further refine their jurisdiction as to species and areas, except that the Board of Marine Fisheries may not exercise any jurisdiction over salmon and other anadromous fish unless the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries specifically delegates the necessary authority. Sec. 8. The boards may decide between themselves as to whether one or both boards will exercise jurisdiction in estuaries and similar transitional zones between fresh and salt water. Sec. 8.

Section 17 makes a substantive change to the procedure for establishing nonsubsistence areas under AS 16.05.258. This change is made to simplify consideration of nonsubsistence areas by allowing the Board of Marine Fisheries to abstain from meetings on this subject if they do not affect matters within the jurisdiction of the board.

Section 92 requires the governor to appoint the members of the new boards. This section of the bill takes effect 90 days after the bill is signed by the governor or the bill otherwise

Representative Al Austerman

February 1, 1995

Page 2

becomes law. The remainder of the bill does not take effect until July 1 after the legislature has confirmed at least five of the members of each of the boards.

Section 91 is a transitional provision which continues the existing regulations of the Board of Fisheries.

Section 94 is the effective date for secs. 1 - 91 of the bill. Just in case the sec. 94 does not pass, sec. 93 prevents the bill from having any effect before the members of the new boards are confirmed by the legislature.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

GU:glc
95-107.glc

Enclosure

**DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA**

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

March 30, 1995

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of HB 254; An Act relating to the management of fish and aquatic plants; establishing the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries.

TO: Representative Carl Moses
Attn: Cheryl Sutton

FROM: George Utermohle *GU*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of HB 254; An Act relating to the management of fish and aquatic plants; establishing the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries.

A sectional summary of a bill is not an authoritative interpretation of the bill. The bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

This portion of the bill summary for HB 254 describes only those bill sections that substantively relate to the creation of the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries or to the allocation of jurisdiction over a particular subject matter to a single board.

Section 1 of the bill sets out the purpose of the bill.

Section 6 of the bill amends AS 16.05.221(a) to create the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries.

Section 8 of the bill adds new subsections to AS 16.05.221 to establish the Board of Marine Fisheries and to describe the respective jurisdictions of the two new fisheries boards.

Section 17 of the bill amends AS 16.05.258(c) to provide for joint meetings of the Board of Game, Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries, and the Board of Marine Fisheries regarding the establishment of nonsubsistence areas.

Sections 21 and 22 of the bill make technical changes to AS 16.05.315 and 16.05.320 regarding joint board meetings and quorum requirements for joint board meetings.

Representative Carl Moses

March 30, 1995

Page 2

Sections 28 and 29 of the bill amend AS 16.05.632(e) and 16.05.685(c)(2) to give responsibility for regulating the marking of shellfish gear and establishing king crab registration areas to the Board of Marine Fisheries.

Section 33 of the bill amends AS 16.05.730(d) to give the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries responsibility for management of wild and enhanced fish stocks.

Sections 41 - 43 of the bill amend AS 16.10.125, 16.05.165(b), and 16.10.173(b) to give responsibility for regulation of termination devices on pot gear, utilization of herring, and utilization of pollock to the Board of Marine Fisheries.

Section 47 of the bill amends AS 16.10.440(b) to give responsibility to the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries for regulating the taking of salmon eggs for private nonprofit hatcheries.

Sections 56 and 57 of the bill amend AS 16.43.430 and 16.05.440(a) to give responsibility to the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries for regulating the take of salmon in special harvest areas.

Sections 63 and 64 of the bill amend AS 39.50.200(b) to provide that members of the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries are subject to the conflict of interest law (AS 39.50).

Sections 75 - 80 of the bill amend provisions of AS 41.21 and AS 41.23 to provide that the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries may adopt regulations in certain preserves and public use areas.

Sections 85 and 86 of the bill amend AS 44.62.330(a) to provide that the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries are subject to the administrative adjudication provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sections 87 and 88 of the bill makes technical amendments to AS 46.15.035 and 46.15.037 to define fish as those species of salmon and freshwater fish that may be taken under regulations of the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries.

Section 91 of the bill provides for continuation of regulations adopted by the current Board of Fisheries and the current joint Board of Fisheries and Board of Game pending the adoption of regulations by the new fisheries boards and the new joint boards.

Section 92 of the bill provides for the appointment and confirmation of the members of the new Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the new Board of Marine Fisheries.

Representative Carl Moses
March 30, 1995
Page 3

Section 93 of the bill provides for the implementation of this bill in the event that the effective date provision (sec. 94) of the bill does not receive the required two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature.

Section 94 of the bill provides that the substantive provisions of the bill (secs. 1 - 91) take effect on July 1 following the confirmation of five members of each of the new boards established by this bill.

* * *

This portion of the bill summary for HB 254 lists those bill sections that make technical and conforming amendments to reflect the creation of the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries to replace the current Board of Fisheries.

Sections 2-5, 7, 9-16, 18-20, 23-27, 30-32, and 33-40 of the bill make technical and conforming amendments to provisions of AS 16.05.

Sections 44-46 of the bill make technical and conforming amendments to provisions of AS 16.10.

Sections 48 and 49 of the bill make technical and conforming amendments to provisions of AS 16.20.

Sections 50-52 of the bill make technical and conforming amendments to provisions of AS 16.40.

Sections 53-55 and 58-61 of the bill make technical and conforming amendments to provisions of AS 16.43.

Sections 62, 65-74, and 81-84 of the bill make technical and conforming amendments to statutes outside of AS 16.

Sections 89 and 90 of the bill make technical and conforming amendments to provisions of ch. 1, SSSLA 1992, relating to subsistence, which is scheduled to take effect on October 1, 1995.

GU:klb
95-223.klb

**KODIAK LONGLINE
VESSEL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**



326 CENTER AVENUE, P.O. BOX
KODIAK, ALASKA 99615
(907) 486-3781 FAX (907) 486-24

HALIBUT • SABLEFISH • PACIFIC COD • CRAB

April 12, 1995

House Special Committee on Fisheries
Rep. Alan Austerman, Chair
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Fax (907) 465-4956

RECEIVED

APR 13 1995

Ans'd.....

Dear Representative Austerman,

The members of the Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners' Association fully support HB 254, establishing the Board of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries and the Board of Marine Fisheries.

The current board process does not allow for the adequate monitoring of crab and groundfish fisheries issues. We believe the separation proposed in this bill will provide for ample attention to be given to crab and groundfish issues, while not detracting from the importance of salmon and freshwater fisheries issues. This is why we suggested such a separation in our proposal to the Knowles transition team.

The members of the KLVOA appreciate and support your efforts to improve the function and capability of the board process in this manner.

Sincerely,

Linda Kozak

Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

TO: REPRESENTATIVE ALAN AUSTERMAN
STATE OF ALASKA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RE: TWO FISH BOARDS - HB 254

DATE: APRIL 11, 1995

SENT BY FAX: 2 PP

Dear Alan:

Alaska Groundfish Data Bank supports HB 254 establishing a groundfish/shellfish board of fish in addition to the current board.

We originated this idea a number of years ago and are pleased to see that its time has come.

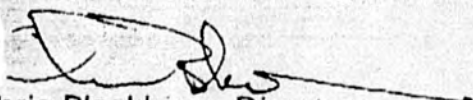
REASONS FOR SEEKING A SHELLFISH/GROUNDFISH BOARD OF FISH

1. The current Board of Fish is composed of fishermen who are engaged in the salmon and herring fisheries. Because the state's herring and salmon fisheries differ among regions, the board composition needs to include people from the major regions -- this does not leave room for a representatives of the State's large boat groundfish and shellfish fisheries, fisheries which are as regionally diverse as the salmon fisheries.
As a result the groundfish/shellfish fishery issues before the Board are dealt with by people who do their best but have no or little independent experience with these fisheries. The situation is similar to convening a board of trawlers to set regulations for the salmon fishery. The State is not well served giving such short shift to its groundfish and shellfish fisheries.
2. The groundfish and shellfish fisheries are mainly prosecuted in the winter months, while the salmon fisheries are prosecuted mainly in the summer months. Since many of the Board member fish salmon, the Board meetings dealing with groundfish and shellfish issues are usually held during the peak of these fisheries, precluding attendance by many Alaskans, particularly those who operate their own vessels, from attending the board meeting.
This is no different than holding a board meeting on salmon issues in July -- something that is rarely, if ever, done.
3. We fully expect that in the long run the State of Alaska will eventually be in a position to take over management of many of the groundfish fisheries, particularly those in the Gulf of Alaska. Without a working groundfish/shellfish board most of the groundfish/shellfish industry would heatedly oppose such a takeover on the grounds that the current board is not set up to adequately understand their industry. These complaints are persistent in the Bering Sea crab fishery where management authority has been delegated to the State of Alaska.

We are aware that there is concern over how a second Board of Fish would be funded. Quite frankly we don't see much additional cost since there should be no increase in issues and therefore no need for additional staff. There might be some additional increase in travel costs. I do not sense that industry would be adverse to some reasonable assessment to meet these costs. The scallop company I represent would be glad to pay an assessment if it meant having their issues heard by a board which understood their fishery.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 254.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Blackburn', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Blackburn, Director
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank



KODIAK FISH COMPANY

E/V Alliance I/V Provider
P. O. Box 469
Kodiak, Alaska 99615-0469



April 10, 1995

The Honorable Alan Austerman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
P. O. Box 20261
Juneau, AK 99802

Re: HB 254

Dear Alan:

We would like to submit our comments regarding HB 254 which relates to modification of the Board of Fish.

We are strongly in support of expansion and splitting of the Board of Fish as defined in HB 254 with minor modification. The Board of Fish now deals with far greater diversity of fisheries and resources than ever imagined by the legislature when the board process was initially defined. In terms of salmon, the issues which come before the board now are alone enough to occupy seven people who are already familiar with those fisheries. Unfortunately, there are many of us involved in other fisheries who believe we get short shrift. Efforts to have the board represent all the diverse fisheries in the State are always going to be wanting as long as one board of seven industry people is the sole regulation maker.

Accordingly, we believe an additional board should be created - as specified in HB 254. The only reservation we have about board responsibility in HB 254 is limiting the current board to salmon and freshwater fish issues. We would suggest that herring be added to the salmon board responsibilities. There are at least two good reasons for this change. First, many of the same participants who fish salmon also fish herring. Having two different board structures would be highly inconvenient and expensive for those who participate in both fisheries. Believe me, we know. We have two boats, one currently ruled by board action and the other by Council action. A mom and pop business, as most of those are in Alaska, is hard pressed to follow one process closely.

Second, if you list those species and fisheries managed by the Board of Salmon and the Board of Marine Fisheries as stipulated in HB 254, the Board of Marine Fisheries has a far broader range of species. As many salmon and/or herring participants engage in the other fishery as well, it seems logical to include herring in with the Board of Salmon and thus

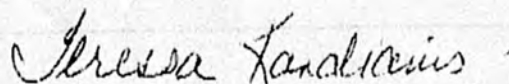
reduce the domain of the Board of Marine Fisheries. It would be pointless to begin with a creation that would be overloaded as is the current Board of Fish.

Further, a lay board assumes that participants bring to the table a wealth of experience which aids decision making. But a wealth of experience in salmon and herring doesn't necessarily aid in decision making about Bering Sea crab fisheries or scalloping. If seats on a board are to be relegated to those who have experience in those fisheries, a board which combines salmon and herring is imminently logical and allows the seats on the other board to be divided more fairly among the plethora of other species that board must manage.

Our other concern is funding of a second board. We are particularly uneasy about staffing shortages which would preclude adequate analysis for the Board's deliberations. Staff provides the research and support the boards must have in order to study a diversity of species and management regimes. As you know, we support a user fee system so that users of a resource contribute toward management of that resource. We believe this is one use of such a fee system and would urge you to amend HB 254 to initiate industry user fees which would be used to defray board costs. Otherwise, we fear that current and appropriate legislative initiatives to control the budget would stifle the urgent need to expand the Board of Fish.

We thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Teressa Kandianis".

TERESSA AND MARK KANDIANIS