

HB

19

HFIN

FILE

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: April 7, 1997

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/17/97

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 19

HOUSE BILL NO. 19

SPORT FISHING GUIDES

“An Act relating to licensing of sport fishing services operators and fishing guides; and providing for an effective date.”

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute CSHB 19 (Fin) the same title a new title

additional referral to _____ Committee
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): _____ (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: _____ (Dept/Date)
 fiscal note(s) _____ fiscal note(s) FG 2/27/97
DPS 2/27/97

zero fiscal note(s) _____ zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS		DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Gene Therriault</i>	Therriault			X	
<i>Mark Hanley</i>	Hanley			X	
<i>Glen Mulder</i>	Mulder				X
<i>Jerry Martin</i>	Martin			X	
<i>Vicki Kohring</i>	Kohring				X
<i>Pat Kelly</i>	Kelly			X	
<i>Gene Crussendorf</i>	Crussendorf	X			
<i>John Davies</i>	Davies	X			
<i>John Foster</i>	Foster	X			
<i>Carl E. Moses</i>	Moses	X			
<i>John Davis</i>	DAVIS			X	

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Gene Therriault* *Mark Hanley*

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: BB 19

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 Title: An Act relating to licensing of sport fishing BRU: Fish and Wildlife Protection
services operators and fishing guides Component: Detachments
 Sponsor: Representative Austerman
 Requestor: H. Fisheries COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0490

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES	50.0	95.4	95.4	95.4	95.4	95.4
TRAVEL		5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
CONTRACTUAL		4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
SUPPLIES		1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	50.0	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.6	106.3

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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CHANGE IN REVENUES () Revenue Code	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other I/A	50.0	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3
TOTAL	50.0	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3

Estimate of current year (FY 97) impact: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	1	1	1	1	1
PART-TIME	1	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

SEE PAGE 2

Prepared By: Lt. Joel L. Hard Phone: 269-5409
 Division: Fish and Wildlife Protection Date: January 31, 1997
 Approved by Commissioner: *Ronald L. Otte* Date: 1/31/97
 Agency: Ronald L. Otte, Department of Public Safety

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: HB 19

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety

ANALYSIS CONTINUED:

This Bill provides for licensing qualifications for sport fishing services operators and fishing guides to include licensing fees, reporting requirements, performance standards, and certain penalty provisions. The Department of Fish and Game and the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection understand that the field enforcement of this industry will be best accomplished by FWP. To that end, an RSA will be established by ADF&G in the amount of \$50,000.00 to fund an investigator/trooper position for the latter half of FY98, with an increase in subsequent years to \$100,000.00 to nearly fund the position and support moneys.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB19

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: Sport Fishing Guides BRU: Sport Fish
 Component: Sport Fish
 Sponsor: Rep. Austerman
 Requester: House Fisheries COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 464

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES	86.0	86.0	86.0	86.0	86.0	86.0
TRAVEL	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
CONTRACTUAL	58.0	108.0	108.0	108.0	108.0	108.0
SUPPLIES	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
EQUIPMENT	5.0					
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	159.0	204.0	204.0	204.0	204.0	204.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1024)	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Fish and Game Fund - 1024)	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8
TOTAL	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: \$ 0

POSITIONS

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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attachment

Prepared by: Kevin Delaney *[Signature]* Phone: 465-4180 or 267-2224
 Division: Sport Fish Date: 1/17/97
 Approved by Commissioner: Frank Rue *[Signature]* Date: 1/27/97
 Agency: Fish and Game

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1) Operational Expenditures to Administer License Sales:

It is estimated that a total of 4,200 licenses will be sold the first year. For the first year of a program such as this we should be prepared to handle almost double that number of applicants. In future years the program will be streamlined. It is assumed most of the licenses will be sold during the first half of the calendar year.

Personnel Services		
	Admin Clerk I for 9 months	23.6
Contractual		
	Postage	5.0
	Telephone	1.0
Supplies		
	License Forms	4.0
	Letterhead, envelopes, etc.	1.0
	Total -->	34.6

2) Operational Expenditures for Reporting Mandates:

The bill stipulates reporting requirements the department shall collect from licensed guides. To comply with the mandated reporting requirements the Department feels it will be necessary to develop a log book, or similar program for licensed businesses. The Department estimates it will cost approximately \$69,400 annually (with a one time equipment expenditure making the FY98 operational expenditure total \$74,400) to implement this reporting requirement and comply with the inseason reporting requirement intent of the legislation. A breakdown of these costs are as follows:

Personnel Services		
	Accounting Clerk III for 5 months	15.1
	Fishery Biologist II for 11 months	47.3
Travel		2.0
Contractual		2.0
Supplies		3.0
Equipment (FY98 only)		5.0
	Total -->	74.4

3) Operational Expenditures for Enforcement:

The bill establishes penalties for failure to comply with licensing and reporting provisions of the bill. To assure compliance, the department feels it is necessary to provide adequate enforcement. Thus, \$100,000 will be given to the Department of Public Safety through an RSA to fund a guide enforcement function. Only \$50,000 will be RSA'd in FY98. These monies are listed under miscellaneous operating expenditures. It must be noted that Public Safety may have to add an additional position if this bill is passed.

4) Revenues to Fish and Game Fund:

Under this bill three types of licenses would be sold. Expected revenues to the Fish and Game Fund from these licenses would be:

	<i>Estimated Number to be Sold</i>	<i>Licenses Cost</i>	<i>Estimated Revenues</i>
<i>Services or Services/Guide Licenses:</i>			
Resident:	1,200	75	90,000
Non-resident:	500	275	137,500
<i>Guide Licenses:</i>			
Resident:	1,350	25	33,750
Non-resident:	350	75	26,250
Rebate to vendors			(4,700)
	Total ->		282,800

Assumptions:

- 1) The number of services licenses to be sold is based on the number of businesses which registered with the Department during 1996 to conduct sport fishing guide activities. During 1996, 1,700 businesses registered with the department to conduct sport fish guiding activities in the state. About 70%, or 1,200 of these businesses were resident.
- 2) The number of guide licenses to be sold is based on the number of guides which businesses registered with the Department during 1996 to conduct sport fishing guide activities for them. During 1996, 3,391 guides were registered with the department to conduct sport fish guiding activities in the state. 1,700 of these could obtain a combined services/guide license, leaving 1,700 that could purchase a guide license. About 80% of the registered guides were residents.
- 3) Since the guide license will be sold through the existing license vendor system, 5% of the revenue (\$3,000) plus \$1 per license (\$1,700) will be retained by the vendors. Thus \$4,700 must be subtracted from the total.
- 4) Most of the revenues will be received in the first half of each calendar year.

#1A

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: CSHB 19(RES)

BY REPRESENTATIVE MULDER

- 1 Page 1, line 4, through page 3, line 15:
2 Delete all material.
- 3 Page 3, line 16:
4 Delete "Sec. 2."
5 Insert "Section 1."
- 6 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Failed

-
- 7 Page 4, line 4, following "bond;":
8 Insert "and"

1B

- 9 Page 4, line 5:
10 Delete "; and"
11 Insert "."

passed

- 12 Page 4, lines 6 - 8:
13 Delete all material.

- 14 Page 5, line 2, following "license;":
15 Insert "and"

- 16 Page 5, line 3:
17 Delete "; and"
18 Insert "."

- 1 Page 5, lines 4 - 6:
- 2 Delete all material.

- 3 Page 8, line 17:
- 4 Delete "sec. 3"
- 5 Insert "sec. 2"

- 6 Page 8, line 18:
- 7 Delete "sec. 3"
- 8 Insert "sec. 2"

- 9 Page 8, line 22:
- 10 Delete "sec. 3"
- 11 Insert "sec. 2"

- 12 Page 8, line 23:
- 13 Delete "sec. 3"
- 14 Insert "sec. 2"

- 15 Page 8, line 28:
- 16 Delete "sec. 3"
- 17 Insert "sec. 2"

- 18 Page 8, line 29:
- 19 Delete "Section 4"
- 20 Insert "Section 3"

- 21 Page 8, line 30:
- 22 Delete "sec. 4"
- 23 Insert "sec. 3"

AMENDMENT

#2
Adopted
no lobby

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSHB 19(RES)

1 Page 2, line 22, following "regulating":

2 Insert "the sport fishing services industry and"

3 Page 3, lines 13 - 15:

4 Delete ";

5 (17) regulating the sport fishing services industry as needed for the
6 conservation, development, and utilization of fishery resources"

AMENDMENT

#3

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSHB 19(RES)

no/obj
Adopt

- 1 Page 8, lines 17 - 28:
- 2 Delete all material.
- 3 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

HB 19 fee differential issue

The resident/nonresident fee differential may be subject to challenge under Privileges and Immunities Clause of the United States Constitution.¹ That Clause provides "[t]he citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states." Art. IV, sec. 2, United States Constitution. Unless the discrimination is closely related to the advancement of a substantial state interest, the Privileges and Immunities Clause prohibits the states from offering less favorable treatment to nonresidents than residents if the activity in question is basic to the livelihood of the nation. Carlson v. State, 798 P.2d 1269, 1274 (Alaska 1990) (citation omitted). The privilege of doing business on terms of substantial equality is this type of activity.. Id.

In Toomer v. Witsell, the Supreme Court held that it is permissible "to charge nonresidents a differential which would merely compensate the State for any added enforcement burden they may impose or for any conservation expenditures from taxes which only residents pay." 334 U.S. 385, 398 (1948). When considering resident/nonresident fee differentials imposed on commercial fishers, the Alaska Supreme Court has expanded on this holding:

The proper focus in our view is on whether residents and similarly situated nonresidents are being treated with substantial equality.) The appropriate inquiry is thus whether all fees and taxes which must be paid to the state by a nonresident to enjoy the state-provided benefit are substantially equal to those which must be paid by similarly situated residents when the resident's pro rata shares of state revenues to which nonresidents make no contribution are taken into account.

Carlson v. State, 798 P.2d 1269, 1268 (Alaska 1990).

¹ The fee differential may also be subject to challenge under the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution. However, because the standards satisfying the Privileges and Immunities Clause are significantly more demanding than those for the Equal Protection Clause, we believe that if the guide/operator fee differential satisfies the former it will also satisfy the later.

We are not aware of any evidence indicating that it is significantly more expensive for the state to license a nonresident than a resident or that residents contribute more to sport fish production than do nonresidents. The fee differentials may serve the legitimate interest of requiring nonresident guides and operators to pay their fair share of the costs of administering the guide/operator system.² However, more than mere assumptions will be necessary to defend the fee differential if it is challenged. Id. at 1275. The method for crediting residents with state revenues to which only they contribute is complex, and under the most recent decision in Carlson, 919 P.2d 1337 would involve only analysis of the contributions by resident and nonresident guides and operators, not total contributions by the state. Id. at 1343-44.³ If the fee differential is successfully challenged, the state may be forced to refund the additional amounts paid by nonresidents.

² General fund expenditures go into the maintenance of habitat and into fish management and enforcement of fishing regulations, and state residents have foregone development opportunities by maintaining fish habitat, but under the analysis applied by the Alaska Supreme Court in Carlson, it is not clear that these costs would be considered. It is likely that only costs relating to licensing and administering the activities of licensees would be relevant under the Carlson analysis.

³ The case of Carlson v. State, involving a challenge to the commercial fishing 3:1 fee differential, has been in litigation since 1984 and is still unresolved.

December 16, 1996

Senator Miller
Representative Phillips
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Senator Miller and Representative Phillips,

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has increasingly been discussing issues regarding the growth of the sport fishing guide industry in Alaska and its implications on fish allocation and management. Resolution of many of these issues, however, is hampered by the lack of information regarding this industry in many parts of Alaska. Both legislative and regulatory actions are required to remedy the lack of information to ensure informed decisions are made with respect to this industry. The Board of Fisheries can make regulatory changes, and is currently considering several proposals to accomplish this. One item that requires legislative action is the development of a statewide licensing and reporting system for sport fishing guide services and guides. Legislation to accomplish this was debated during the last legislative session in the form of HB 175, sponsored by Representative Austerman. Unfortunately, the legislation passed the State House but failed to pass the State Senate in 1996. The legislation has been pre-filed this session by Representative Austerman.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries supports this legislation. Both the Board and the task force believe that a comprehensive licensing system is needed to better define this diverse industry. The proposed licensing system provides needed definitions for companies and individuals who provide sport fishing guiding, chartering, and outfitting services. Through such definitions, it is hoped that the industry can be more fully identified and organized. It is also believed that the definitions will close loopholes in current definitions, thereby providing a level playing field for the industry and for better enforcement of regulations pertaining to sport fishing guides and charters. It is also believed that comprehensive licensing will add stability to this economically important industry which supports many jobs throughout Alaska. Insurance requirements for companies and safety requirements for guides are stipulated to assure that anglers utilizing this industry are protected and a professional level of service is maintained. The proposed license package also establishes fees and reporting requirements that provide the needed

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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA

AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DIRECTOR
DONALD A. MCCAUGHNAN

P.O. BOX 95009
SEATTLE, WA 98145-2009

TELEPHONE
(206) 634-1838

FAX:
(206) 632-2923

February 13, 1997

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1997

Ans'd.....

Representative Alan Austerman
Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, Alaska 99801

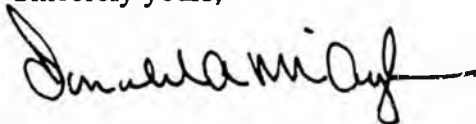
Dear Representative Austerman:

The International Pacific Halibut Commission wishes to inform you that we strongly support House Bill No. 19 dealing with sports fish reporting.

The Commission requires accurate estimates of halibut sports fish removals in Alaska. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has always been very cooperative in producing annual estimates, and this bill will assist the department in increasing the level of accuracy.

Thank you for your support of fisheries conservation issues.

Sincerely yours,



Donald A. McCaughran
Director

DAM:ps
Encls.

February 22, 1997

Mr. Austerman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Austerman,

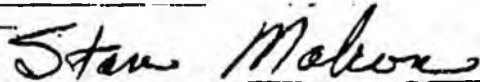
We would like to state our support for HB-19 WORK DRAFT dated 2/18/97. This support represents the position of the following SE Alaskan charterboat associations:

Petersburg Charter Boat Association, Juneau Charter Boat Operators Association, Prince of Wales Charter Association, and Sitka Charterboat Operators Association

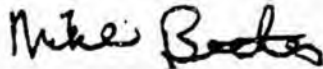
Our four organizations represent 192 vessels.

We are here in Ketchikan attending the Board of Fisheries meetings and representing our respective associations. Due to HB-73 being first on the agenda at the last teleconference and timing conflicts with the Board of Fisheries meetings, we were unable to testify. We will make every effort to attend the next teleconference.

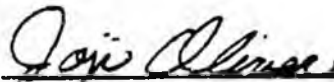
Respectfully,



President, Petersburg Charter Boat Association



President, Juneau Charter Boat Operators Association



President, Prince of Wales Charter Association



Vice President, Sitka Charterboat Operators Association

cc: Board of Fisheries Chairman - Dr. White



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 CS HB 19 (RES)

The guided sport fishery is an important and rapidly growing commercial industry in the Alaska economy. The ability of the state to provide for the sustainable development and sound, sensible management of our fishery resource is dependent upon the availability of complete information upon which to base decisions.

There is a lack of data available regarding the commercial guided sport fishery in Alaska. Currently, no uniform licensing procedure for sport fish guides exists in Alaska. Registration of the guides themselves is required on a few rivers, but not everywhere. Thus, we do not have complete information about who is actively engaged in commercial sport fish guiding, how many clients are served, what the catch rates are, and what rivers, streams and marine waters are being utilized.

Without a means for gathering information, it is impossible to monitor the activity or growth of the commercial sport fish fishery on a statewide basis. It is imperative for the state to have solid information to ensure the sustainable development of this commercial industry and to ensure the sound management of the fishery resources upon which this commercial industry depends.

Section 1 of HB 19 includes "the sport fishing services industry" under the authorities of the Board of Fisheries "as needed for the conservation, development and utilization of fisheries". With this language the board will have the same regulatory authority with guide business operators that it currently has with the commercial, sport, guided sport, subsistence and personal use fishing. The "guided sport" currently in existing statute has been generally interpreted to limit the board's regulatory authority over exclusively guided anglers.

HB 19 also establishes in statute a sport fish guide licensing program and requires ADFG to collect the needed information for a period of 3 years. It does not impose any limitations on the number of guides or vessels in the state, nor does it affect their activities other than having to report and carry the documentation on themselves. The cost of licensing, data gathering, analysis and enforcement will be funded by the revenues generated from the license fees. Therefore, this program will be fiscally self-sustaining.

The bill establishes three options of guide licensure: (1) A sport fishing services operator license costs \$75 for resident sport fish guide business owners and is obtainable from ADFG. An Alaska business license and proof of financial responsibility are the only requirements to obtain an operators license. (2) A fishing guide license costs \$25 for resident sport fish guides and will be readily available through ADFG's vendor licensing system. This is modeled after how commercial crew licenses are obtained. First Aid certification, North American citizenship, and a Coast Guard 6-pack license, if required, are the only requirements for the guide license. (3) We have also provided a third alternative in which an individual could obtain both guide and operator licenses as one combined license for \$75 from the department to accommodate the many one-person operations.

Each person who plans to engage in sport fish guiding, both on fresh and salt water, from a vessel or otherwise, will be required to purchase a license. The sport fish division of ADFG will develop reports which license holders will be required to submit. This will enable the state to build a databank regarding the commercial guided sport fishery.

This legislation, then HB 175, passed the House last year with a vote of 36 to 4, but did not make it all the way through the Senate before the session ended. I feel that HB 19 is a piece of forward looking legislation which, 5, 10 and 20 years from now, the charter industry and our state's resources will benefit as a result of it's passage. It is time to acknowledge this important growing industry and make sure that management decisions can be based on complete information.

March 13, 1997



Katmailand
Inc.

Representative Scott Ogan
Co-Chair House Resources
House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject, **HB 19, Sportfishing guide licensing and regulations**

Dear Representative Ogan,

I believe that the Sport Fishing industry is just that, an industry. I also believe that as an industry the sport fishing community needs licensing and certain regulations to help both the industry and the State of Alaska.

I support the thrust of HB 19, but I am completely opposed to the current language that gives the Board of Fisheries the authority to act as an Occupational Licensing Board for the sport fishing industry.

Specifically, on page 3, lines 14-16, "**regulating the sportfishing services industry as needed for the conservation, development, and utilization of fishery resources, the safety of clients of the industry, or the protection of the integrity of the industry.**" and on page 5, lines 8-11, "**satisfies additional requirements adopted by the Board of Fisheries that the board finds necessary for the conservation, development, and utilization of the fishery resources of the state, the safety of clients of the sport fishing services industry, or the protection of the integrity of the sport fishing services industry**" is language that gives the Board of Fisheries absolute authority to act as an occupational licensing board.

I'm sure I do not need to point out to you the debacle of the big game commercial services board. We do not need such a problem in the sport fishing industry. To try to make a short analogy, the big game commercial services board ended up with a very flat tire. I'd hate to see you install the same flat tire onto the sport fishing industry prior to having the flat repaired.

Located in Katmai National Park

4550 Aircraft Drive • Anchorage, Alaska 99502 • 907-243-5448 • Toll-Free Reservations 800-544-0551 • Fax 907-243-0649
BROOKS LODGE • KULIK LODGE • GROSVENOR • KATMAI AIR • KATMAI-BRISTOL BAY FLOAT TRIPS

I support HB 19 without this language. I cannot support HB 19 as it is currently written. I urge you to amend the language specified above out of HB 19. With this minor change you have our total support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bo Bennett".

Griffith W. (Bo) Bennett,
Manager, Kulik Lodge
Katmailand, Inc.

To: Mr. Davis, Committee members,

Re; HB 19 Testimony

From: Robert Ward, Box 631 Anchor Point, AK. 99556

I am a Halibut and Salmon recreational fishing guide operating from Homer, AK. I am presently the Secretary/Treasure for the Homer Charter Association, I am also serving on the Board of Fish Guide Task Force, and I am on the Board of Directors of the Alaska Sportfishing ~~Services~~ Industry Association, and in February of this year I was appointed to the Advisory Panel to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council representing Halibut Charter Industry members.

I am committed to the elevation of the level of professionalism within my industry. I have eleven years operation my own business and vessel and I know of no other Alaskan so dedicated to this cause.

I am comfortable with the amendments offered to HB 19 and I have faith in the Board of Fish process with minor exceptions. We need the inclusion of a vehicle to assure a balance of representation at the advisory committee between the commercial and the guide industries when decisions are acted upon.

License limitation is not a part of this bill nor is it intended to be.

HB 19 is about data collection of the participation levels by guides and the collection of effort and harvest levels of those utilizing our services.

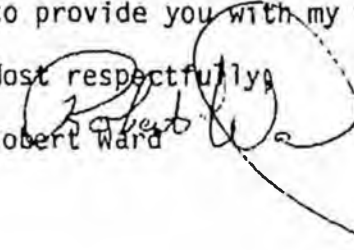
We desperately need the State of Alaska to take this action to help the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in the management of the resources we provide access to. We are facing a commercially predominant management body that is very naive to the composition and profile of the recreational fishery in waters under their jurisdiction. They need this legislation to provide the information they need to make their management decisions. I don't want under-informed and mis-informed resource managers to manage my state industry. I have the University of Alaska Institute of Social and Economic Research analysis of the Halibut Charter Industry here with me and it is 900 pages of assumptions and estimations with which the NPFMC is about to make a decision impacting my industry upon. Had HB 19 been available to us along with the information it would provide I would have a much easier job representing my industry. As an example it "estimates" between 500 and 2055 Halibut Charterboats operating from State of Alaska ports.

Please advance this bill in a form that will assure us that this tool will be available to both State and Federal resource managers.

I wish to apologize for the condition of my testimony, the LIO office in Anchorage only offered this typewriter to make my testimony presentable to you and without "delete" and Spellchecker I am at a disadvantage.

It is my desire and requirement of those I am representing that the above words are read into the testimony for the official record. I will have a schedule conflict with both the NPFMC and the LIO office, Anchorage so I will not be able to provide you with my voice but my thoughts are stated above.

Most respectfully,


Robert Ward

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To (H) Finance	From Anch LIO
Co.	Co.
Dept.	Phone # 258-8111
Fax # 465-2418	Fax #

Written (H)