

HB

13

(7)
Date Referred to Committee: January 13, 1997

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 2/20/97

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 13

HOUSE BILL NO. 13

MARINE SAFETY TRAINING & EDUCATION

Act relating to marine safety training and education programs."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute _____ 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) Revenue fiscal note(s) _____

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

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Jeannette James</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE Jeannette James

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 13

"An Act relating to marine safety training and education programs."

January 20, 1997

The Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) has been operating in the State of Alaska for 12 years. The primary purpose of this organization is to reduce the loss of life and injury in the Alaskan marine environment by providing education through a statewide network of qualified marine safety instructors.

AMSEA provides the safety training required by the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Act of 1988 to communities throughout Alaska. The Act, which took effect in 1991, requires a minimum in safety training and equipment for commercial fishing vessels.

AMSEA also helps Alaskans by providing marine safety instructor training some of whom teach drill instructor courses. Other marine safety instructors also train the Alaska boating and fishing public, including many children and adults, in marine safety. Of the 7300 people AMSEA trained in 1995, 2000 were from the commercial fishing industry, 3700 were children.

According to a study conducted in 1995 by the Native Health Service, AMSEA training significantly reduced fatalities among commercial fishermen. This coincides with a 50 percent drop in fishing fatalities in Alaska in the last four years.

AMSEA is a nonprofit, community-based information and training network, supported by many volunteers. Its annual budget has ranged from \$100,000 to \$250,000 in the past five years. It has been receiving 100 percent of its funding from federal grants but last year's funding fell to \$50,000 and the number of people training fell to an all time low. This organization deserves our intervention to ensure long-term funding source stability.

The Fishermen's Fund (AS 23.35.060) was created before statehood. One hundred percent of the fishermen's fund is funded by commercial fishing license fees. Sixty percent of license fees are dedicated to this fund. Since commercial fishermen are often the beneficiaries of the required marine safety training, it is appropriate to allow part of the interest on the fund to be used to fund some of AMSEA's marine safety programs.

It is estimated that the Fishermen's Fund generates approximately \$300,000 in interest a year. By way of this legislation, AMSEA is requesting up to approximately \$150,000 a year.



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives
Special Committee on Fisheries
Alan Austerman, Chairman

SPONSOR HB13

HOUSE BILL 13 alias HOUSE BILL 366

HB 13 is the resurrection of HB 366 from last session. Last year, HB 366 successfully passed all committees of both houses but failed in the last few days of session to reach the Senate floor for a final vote.

Many of the accompanying back up items refer to the former bill number, HB 366 which is identical to HB 13.

REPRESENTATIVE ALAN AUSTERMAN Alaska State Legislature

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

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Representative Jeannette James, Chair
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Alan Austerman, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries



DATE: January 15, 1997

RE: House Bill 13

My bill, house bill 13, "relating to marine safety training and education programs", was referred to your committee on the first day of this session. I respectfully request that a hearing for HB 13 be scheduled for committee at your earliest possible convenience.

If you have any questions or needs regarding scheduling this legislation, please contact my staff, Amy Daugherty, at x4230.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
Division of Legislative Finance



P.O.Box 113200
Juneau, AK 99811-3200
(907) 465-3795
FAX (907) 463-4885

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 16, 1996
TO: Representative Alan Austerman
ATTN: Amy Daugherty
FROM: Jetta Whittaker *JWH*
Fiscal Analyst
SUBJECT: Fishermen's Fund Statistics

You asked for some general information on the Fishermen's Fund to accompany House Bill 366. I was able to determine the following from the Governor's budget detail book and conversations with the Departments of Labor and Revenue:

The Disabled Fisherman's Fund provides for assistance with the costs of occupational injuries and illness for Alaska's licensed commercial fishermen who are injured or become ill due to commercial fishing activities on shore or in Alaska waters. The fund consists of crewmember license and permit fees collected by the Department of Fish and Game and the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. Sixty percent of these license and permit fees are dedicated to the Disabled Fishermen's Fund. From crewmember licenses, which are \$30 and \$90 for residents and non-residents, respectively, the Fund collected \$994,800 in FY95. From permits issued, at \$30 and \$90 again, the Fund collected another \$396,100, for a total of \$1,390,900 in FY95.

At the close of FY95, the Fund contained \$7,367,700. The total number of claims submitted for review in FY95 was 1,237. FY95 Actuals reflect that the total amount of claims paid was \$339,400, while FY95 Authorized amount for claims was \$1,063,300.

In FY97, the Governor requests \$1,039,400 for the grants line as payment of benefits to individuals, and estimates that 2,300 claims will be submitted. The increase in expected claims is due to an effort to increase awareness of the Fund via a broader distribution of Fishermen's Fund booklets and general information in FY97.

The Department of Labor has calculated that 64% of claims submitted resulted in payment in FY93, and estimated that the claim payment rate has increased a bit since then, due to improved database tracking. The remaining claims are rejected or pending for receipt of further information.

As you know, the interest earned by the Disabled Fishermen's Fund does not return to the Fund itself, but instead is deposited in the General Fund. The Treasury Management Division in the Department of Revenue does not separately track interest earned on funds that deposit earnings into the general fund, but has prepared a fiscal note to estimate the effects of HB366. The Division estimates that \$200,000 would be available for appropriation if half of the Fund's earnings are to be redirected from the General Fund.

I hope this information proves useful to you. Please call if you have any questions.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH 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, 1996

SUBJECT: Fishermen's Fund (CSHB 366(HES))

TO: Representative Alan Austerman
Attn: Amy Daugherty

FROM: George Utermohle *GU*
Legislative Counsel

You have asked whether CSHB 366(HES) alters or impairs the present dedication of certain revenues to the fishermen's fund (AS 23.35.060).

The answer is no.

The fishermen's fund is composed of 60 percent of money received by the state from commercial fishermen's licenses and money appropriated to the fund by the legislature. AS 23.35.060. The dedication of commercial fishermen's license fees is valid under art. IX, sec. 7 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska because the dedication existed at the time the constitution was ratified by the voters of the Territory of Alaska.¹ Dedicated funds in existence at the time of ratification are allowed to continue. The Attorney General on numerous occasions has stated that such grandfathered dedicated funds may be destroyed if the purpose or terms of the dedication are altered. 1959 Alaska Att'y Gen. Op. No. 7; 1959 Alaska Att'y Gen. Op. No. 14; 1985 Inf. Alaska Att'y Gen. Op. (366-071-85) October 31; among several others.

¹ Article IX, sec. 7, Constitution of the State of Alaska states (emphasis added):

SECTION 7. DEDICATED FUNDS. The proceeds of any state tax or license shall not be dedicated to any special purpose, except as provided in section 15 of this article or when required by the federal government for state participation in federal programs. This provision shall not prohibit the continuance of any dedication for special purposes existing upon the date of ratification of this section by the people of Alaska.

Representative Alan / erman

February 1, 1996

Page 2

CSHB 366(HES) does not alter the purpose or the terms of the dedication of certain revenue to the fishermen's fund. The bill provides that interest earned on the principal of the fishermen's fund may be appropriated by the legislature for marine safety training and education programs. The interest earned on the principal of the fund is not dedicated to the fund. The interest is deposited into the general fund and is available for appropriation by the legislature for any public purpose. See, 1982 Alaska Att'y Gen. Op. No.13, at 14 - 18, November 30; 1985 Inf. Alaska Att'y Gen. Op. (366-071-85) October 31. The bill does not alter this arrangement in the least. All the bill does is to state that the legislature may appropriate some of this interest to certain programs if the legislature so decides.

Thus the bill does not alter or impair the current dedication of commercial fishermen's license fees to the fishermen's fund or the use of those fees to provide benefits to injured fishermen.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

GU:glc
96-077.glc

DEPARTMENT 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

December 28, 1994

SUBJECT: Fisherman's fund (AS 23.35)(Work Order No. 9-LS0362)

TO: Representative Ben Grussendorf
Attn: Katherine

FROM: Michael F. Ford *M.F.*
Legislative Counsel

You have asked if the fisherman's fund (AS 23.30.060) could be used to fund a program to teach safety to commercial fishermen. As explained in this memo, I believe that using the fund to teach safety could only be done if this purpose was added as a statutory purpose of the fund.

The existing benefits provided by the fund, those under AS 23.35.070 - 23.35.140, are all intended to treat fishermen who become disabled. There are no funds provided for prevention of injuries, or safety training. It could certainly be argued that prevention of accidents is directly related to the general purpose of the fund, but without statutory authority this type of expenditure would be beyond the scope of the benefits provided under existing law.

I should also point out that if the legislature alters the fund this would raise dedicated fund issues. As a fund in existence at statehood, the fisherman's fund is exempt from the prohibition against dedicated funds contained in Article IX, section 7, of the Alaska Constitution. However, the Attorney General has taken the position that no change to a grandfathered fund is permitted without destroying the legal dedication and making the fund subject to the dedicated fund clause. In short, you could modify the purpose of the fisherman's fund to permit funding for a safety program but by doing so you run the risk of destroying the dedicated fund exemption presently enjoyed by the fund.

If you have further questions on this matter please contact me.

MFF:lmb
95-063.lmb

March 4, 1996

TO: Rep. Alan Austermann and all members of the House Finance Committee
c/o Amy Daugherty
Alaska State Legislature

FROM: Jetta Budd *Jetta Budd*
1718 Edgcumbe Drive
Sitka, AK 99835

File

RE: HB 366

My family has been commercial and sport fishing family in Alaska for 26 years. We have seen friends and neighbors devastated by needless marine accidents that resulted in death or injury. The saddest sights are the children who have suffered from boating accidents caused by ignorance. Drowning is the leading cause of death among children in Alaska under 14. These can be prevented with the help of the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) training.

AMSEA has a proven record of effectiveness. Since AMSEA has provided training during the last three years, commercial fishing fatalities has decrease by 50%. Much of that is attributed to knowledge and prevention strategies taught by AMSEA staff. This is so important that our schools have integrated survival and marine safety skills into the curriculum.

HB 366 would help support our fishing families with the needed knowledge and prevention techniques to safely use Alaskan waters. All Alaskans who live and/or work near water will benefit from passing this bill. PLEASE consider our lives and health and pass HB 366. Without AMSEA and their resources, health and safety programs will be without expert instructors and equipment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please copy for each member of the House Finance Committee.



Alaska Marine Safety Education Association

P.O. Box 2592, Sitka, Alaska 99835 PH (907) 747-3287 FAX (907) 747-1406

AMSEA FUNDING FACT SHEET

1. The State of Alaska has never funded a statewide marine safety program. Federal funds that are available for state boating safety programs are unavailable to Alaska since we have no safe boating act.
2. The State of Alaska is the only state without a safe boating program.
3. The state of Alaska has the highest drowning rate in the nation.
4. It's commercial fishing fleet also has the highest fatality rate in the nation.
5. AMSEA has filled in the states' marine safety void for the last ten years through its port based instructor network which has been funded by several small federal grants. This void has been filled at no cost to the state.
6. In FY 1995, AMSEA's budget from federal sources was cut by 20%. Due to recent Congressional action, in FY 1996, AMSEA's budget will be cut by another 75%. This will result in a budget that will not sustain AMSEA's marine safety efforts at even a basic level.
7. It is past time for the State of Alaska to assume responsibility for one of the leading cause of unintentional death in the state.
8. The interest on Alaska's Fishermen's Fund is approximately \$350,000 a year. This interest has been put into the state's general fund every year.
9. The State of Alaska can be categorically responsible by "earmarking" 50% of the interest from the Fishermen's Fund to AMSEA in FY 1996 for AMSEA's proven effective injury prevention program.
10. The cost to society of a human life is estimated at one million dollars. This does not include the additional costs injuries and fatalities add to fishing businesses every year. Not to mention the pain and suffering associated with these losses.

Support Organizations: Alaska Department of Public Safety - Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Emergency Medical Services Section
 Alaska Native Health Service - Alaska Vocational Technical Center - Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
 Southeast Region Emergency Medical Services Council - University of Alaska Marine Advisory Program - United States Coast Guard, 17th District



Alaska Marine Safety Education Association
P.O. Box 2592, Sitka, Alaska 99835 PH (907) 747-3287 FAX (907) 747-1406

AMSEA ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LAST 10 YEARS

- * Trained over 40,000 members of the public in marine safety
- * 20,000 of those trained were children in Coastal and Interior Alaska.
- * Trained over 2,500 commercial fishermen in required Drill Instructor training in 57 Alaskan ports.
- * Trained over 400 Marine Safety Instructors who train members of the public in 50 home ports.
- * Surveys document that at least 40 lives have been saved as a result of AMSEA training.
- * A recent study has found that AMSEA's training had been responsible in part for the 50% reduction in commercial fishing fatalities in the last several years.
- * Brought marine safety training into numerous remote Alaskan schools statewide.
- * Sends out over 1,300 Marine Safety Update publications to mariners in Alaska 4 times a year.
- * Acts as a clearinghouse for marine safety information. AMSEA's curriculum is a standardized curriculum on marine safety relevant to the Alaskan environment.
- * Maintains an inventory of marine safety videos, supplies and training equipment to loan.
- * Has written and produced award winning marine safety publications, displays and videos.
- * Coordinated marine safety training efforts with over 50 public and private agencies.
- * Worked with the Coast Guard to problem solve marine safety equipment problems and regulations.
- * Helped members of the public access marine safety equipment resources.

AMSEA's efforts in marine safety have been recognized by awards from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Safety Council, U.S. Marine Safety Association and the Alaska Safety Advisory Council, among other awards.

Alaska Marine Safety Education Association

*Dedicated to Providing Quality
Marine Safety Education*



AMSEA Membership Information

Newsletter Subscription Only	\$15.00	Group	\$100.00
Individual	\$20.00	Sustaining	\$500.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, ZIP _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____



All members receive the quarterly newsletter, *Marine Safety Update*. Group and Sustaining members receive recognition in the publication. The membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Those paying dues between October 1 and December 31 will be paid through the following year.

Send membership to: AMSEA, P.O. Box 2592, Sitka, Alaska 99835 (907) 747-3287

As a NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, AMSEA is funded by public grants and private donations. We are also supported by a dedicated group of volunteers and by a cooperative effort between a number of organizations concerned about marine safety and survival in Alaska. Support members include:

United States Coast Guard
17th District

Alaska Department of Health
and Social Services,
Emergency Medical Services Section

State of Alaska
Department of Education
Alaska Vocational Technical Center

Alaska Department of Public Safety

Northstar Survival, Inc.

Southeast Alaska Regional
Health Corporation

Southeast Region Emergency
Medical Services Council

University of Alaska
Marine Advisory Program

Alaska Native Health Service

Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) provides training without discrimination because of race, color, age, sex, national origin, religious beliefs, or handicapping conditions.

ALASKA MARINE SAFETY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS
P.O. Box 2592 Sitka, AK. 99835 ph. (907) 747-3287 fax (907) 747-1406 Feb. 1997

Dolly Garza (Vice-Chair)
Marine Advisory Program
700 Katlian Suite D
Sitka, Ak. 99835
ph 747-3988 fax 747-1443 alt. fax 747-6452
e-mail ffdag@aurora.alaska.edu

Larry Bussone
Alaska DHSS-EMS Section
P.O. Box 110616
Juneau, Ak. 99811-0616
ph 465-3027 fax 465-4101

Sue Jorgensen
17th USCG District (moc)
P.O. Box 25517
Juneau, AK. 99802-5517
ph 463-2292 1-800-478-7369 fax 463-2299
e-mail sjorgensen/d17-10@internet.uscg.mil

Dave Robbins/Shawn Sorenson
SEARHC
222 Tongass Drive
Sitka, Ak. 99835
ph 966-8742 fax 966-8707
e-mail searchceb@ptialaska.net

Jim Herbert (Sec./Treas)
AVTEC
P.O. Box 1461
Seward, AK. 99664
ph 224-3322 fax 224-3380

Ron Perkins
Ak. Native Health Service
3925 Tudor Center Drive
Anchorage, Ak. 99508
ph 273-0102 fax 271-4734

Hank Pennington
Marine Advisory Program
900 Trident Way
Kodiak, Ak. 99615
ph 486-1514 fax 486-1540

Pat Holmes
Ak. Dept. of Fish and Game
211 Mission Rd.
Kodiak, Ak. 99615
ph 486-1815 Fax 486-1841
e-mail patho@fishgam.state.ak

Steve Jimerfield
Public Safety Academy
811 Sawmill Creek Rd.
Sitka, Ak. 99835
ph 747-6611 ext. 225 fax 747-5606

Don Lane (Chair)
North Pacific Fishermen's Assoc
P.O. Box 2921 (home)
Homer, AK. 99603
ph 235-7898 (& fax)
e-mail drl@xyz.net

Debby Hassel
S.E. Region EMS Council
207 Moller Dr., Rm. 113
Sitka, AK. 99835
ph 747-8005 fax 747-1406
e-mail tmcoord@ptialaska.net

John Winther
Petersburg Vessel Owners Assoc.
P.O. Box 1364
Petersburg, Ak 99833
ph 772-4734 fax 772-3048

Sue Hargis
17th USCG District (moc)
P O Box 25517
Juneau, Ak 99802-5517
ph 463-2297 wk fax 463-2299
sudic@ptialaska.net

Jennifer Lincoln
e-mail jxw7@niosr2.em.cdc.gov
NIOSH-DSR
4230 University Dr Grace Hall, Suite 310
Anchorage, Ak 99508
ph 271-2382 fax 271-2390

Paula Cullenberg
North Pacific Fisheries Observer Training Center 707 "A" Street, Suite 207 Anchorage, Ak.
99501 ph 257-2770 fax 257-2774 e-mail ampic@uaa.alaska.edu



Alaska Marine Safety Education Association

P.O. Box 2592, Sitka, Alaska 99835 PH (907) 747-3287 FAX (907) 747-1406

August 4, 1995

Alan Austerman
P.O. Box 2368
Kodiak, Ak. 99615

Dear Representative Austerman:

I am writing this letter to you in regards to funding for AMSEA's statewide training and education efforts in marine safety. Our financial situation now is critical. This summer, our budget (which comes solely from federal sources) has been cut by 75% from an already very minimal staff and low overhead program.

Through AMSEA's efforts in FY 95, over 7,500 people in trained in marine safety. Over of those trained are children, and over 1,000 were commercial fishermen, who are required to take USCG approved training in conducting emergency on board drills and survival. The AMSEA network of community based marine safety instructors has been responsible for training over 2,800 commercial fishermen in this requirement over the last 4 years. This has resulted in training being brought into over 60 Alaskan fishing ports. As a recent study has indicated (Perkins study enclosed), this training has been at least partly responsible for the 50% reduction in commercial fishing fatalities over the last 3 years in Alaska.

Alaska is the only state in the nation without a safe boating program, yet Alaska has the highest drowning rate in the nation (12x the national average). AMSEA has tried to fill in this education gap for the last 10 years, but without some state support at this point, AMSEA's efforts will be reduced to near zero.

AMSEA recognizes that fiscal belt tightening needs to occur at both the state and federal level. However, there is a source of fishermen contributed revenues that could be used to support AMSEA's work. The Fishermen's Fund was established in the early 1950's to help defray minor medical costs suffered by fishermen on the job. This fund is totally contributed to by fishermen. Income to this fund has greatly increased over the past few years and expenses keep decreasing. Although this is a grandfathered dedicated fund, the interest it is now earning goes into state general operating revenues. At this time there is over 7.2 million dollars in this Fund. AMSEA cannot and does not wish to tap into this dedicated fund's principal itself, but thinks it would make common sense to use just 50% or so of the \$300,000 in interest the Fund generates annually and put this back into injury prevention in fisheries and marine users.

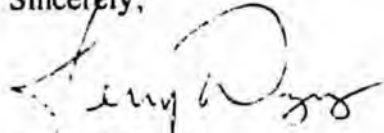
AMSEA is seeking your support for this funding in the next legislative session. We have the support from a number of fishing groups on this issue. Sitka's Representative, Ben Grussdendorf is interested in working with you and Carl Moses this summer to pave the way for introducing a bill in the next legislature and working this through the budgetary process.

We hope that we can gain your support for this important work. AMSEA has worked for over

10 years to build expertise in marine safety relevant to the Alaska working, recreational and subsistence environment. It would be grossly inefficient to lose this expertise and then have to recreate it all again at a future date because the need was still great.

Please feel free to contact this office or Rep. Grussendorf if you need any other information on this matter at this time. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Jerry Dzukan
Director/Training Coordinator

c.c. Rep. Ben Grussendorf
Rep. Carl Moses

enc: Perkins study
AMSEA Accomplishments
Proposal for long term funding base for AMSEA
Port list of AMSEA outreach delivered Drill Instructor courses
AMSEA brochure

ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

ACEMS
P.O. Box 110616
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0616
(907) 465-3027



RECEIVED
MAR 03 1996
Ans'd.....

February 15, 1996

The Governor's Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services has voted unanimously to support proposed legislation for marine safety training programs, sponsored by the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA). On behalf of the Council I urge you to support the intent of C.S. for House Bill No. 366, which would provide a stable source of funding for marine safety training in Alaska.

A paper titled "AMSEA Accomplishments in Last 10 Years" is enclosed. Another paper, "Evaluation of an Alaska Marine Safety Training Program," by Ron Perkins, MPA, Injury Prevention Coordinator, Alaska Area Native Health Service, also is enclosed, which shows that AMSEA training has resulted in statistically significant reductions in loss of life among commercial fishers in Alaska.

Commercial fishing is the most dangerous occupation in Alaska, resulting in many deaths and serious injuries each year. About nine years ago, the EMS Section, in the Department of Health and Social Services, obtained a grant from the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop marine safety training and instructor training for commercial fishers. Most of these funds were passed through to the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA), based in Sitka, which began developing training programs and training instructors from throughout the state. After three years, that grant program expired, but the EMS Section was able to continue funding AMSEA with a CDC Injury Prevention and Control Capacity Building grant. When eligibility for this grant program expired in FY 94, AMSEA was able to obtain some additional funding from the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). As these sources of funding expire, the financial viability of AMSEA is in serious jeopardy.

I suggest you contact Mark Johnson, Chief of the Community Health and Emergency Medical Services Section, in the Department of Health and Social Services, for more information on this important, lifesaving program.

Sincerely,

John Hall, M.D.
Chairman
Alaska Council on EMS

Enclosures (2)

cc: Karen Perdue, DHSS Commissioner
Elmer Lindstrom, DHSS Special Assistant
Peter M. Nakamura, MD, MPH, Division of Public Health Director
Jerry Dzugan, Alaska Marine Safety Education Assoc. Exec. Director



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

211 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 272-2704
FAX: (907) 272-5269

North Pacific Fisheries
OBSERVER TRAINING PROGRAM
COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY AND
CONTINUING EDUCATION

February 11, 1997

Representative Con Bunde
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, AK 99811-1182

Dear Representative Bunde,

I am writing on behalf of the approximately 350 groundfish and shellfish observers working in Alaska's commercial fisheries, in support of HB 13. The bill directs a percentage of the annual interest from the Fishermen's fund toward the educational activities of the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association. The Fishermen's Fund is in support of this bill.

The Observer Training Center is a subset of the University of Alaska Anchorage. Annually, we train over 150 observers for either the National Marine Fisheries Service's groundfish program or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's crab and scallop program. Following training, observers head out to sea for approximately 90 days, collecting biological information about target fisheries, bycatch, birds and marine mammals. Approximately 25% of the observers trained in Anchorage are Alaska residents.

Safety training encompasses a full day of our training and is critical to the well being of our observers, many of whom have never been to sea before. Both of our instructors have gone through AMSEA's safety instructor training program. AMSEA's curriculum materials, including videos and handouts are used in all of our training classes.

Without reservation, I can say that AMSEA's training and materials are top notch. Their program has been instrumental in ensuring the safety of observers. AMSEA's staff is approachable and flexible; their materials are affordable and are clearly in touch with Alaska's commercial fishing industry.

I urge you to support AMSEA in face of their financial cuts from Congress. They are undoubtedly one of the most valuable programs to the State's commercial fishing industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Cullenberg".

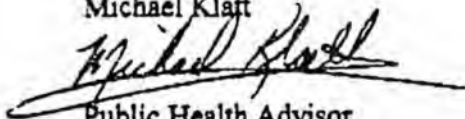
Paula Cullenberg, Director
North Pacific Fisheries Observer Training Center

To: Representative Alan Austerman

As a safety and health professional, I am keenly aware of the importance of training to prevent drownings and cold water immersion, hypothermic-related deaths. Unfortunately, our State has the highest work and non-work-related drowning rates in the nation. A recent study by the Alaska Area Native Health Service showed that all the commercial fishermen, who had received marine safety training from the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association and who were involved in a vessel sinking/capsizing or man-overboard event, survived, while many others perished. Therefore, I strongly encouraged that members of the House Finance Committee and the House as a whole pass HB 366. Please share this with members of the House Finance Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Klatt



Public Health Advisor
Alaska Field Station
Division of Safety Research
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

&

Chairman
Alaska Federal Safety and Health Council

&

Co-chair
Interagency Working Group for the Prevention of Occupational Injuries in Alaska

3151 Rosalind Loop
Anchorage, AK 99507
271-2382 (w)
349-3419 (h)



907-486-3910
Box 991

Kodiak, Alaska
99615

October 12, 1995

FAX 486-6292

Governor Tony Knowles
c/o Mary McDowell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles,

I am writing to express our continued support for the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) and to suggest a source of funding to continue its efforts to reduce loss of life in the fishing industry.

We have been strong supporters and advocates of AMSEA since its inception nine years ago. During that time AMSEA has never received any direct funding from the State, but has relied on grant funding from federal sources and income generated through its extensive offerings of classes to fishermen. AMSEA's budget was cut over 75% last year by Congress and sources of other grant funds have dried up due to budget cuts. We are very concerned about AMSEA's future as an ongoing source of safety training for fishermen.

The fishing industry by their own initiative contributes a portion of their license fees to the Fisherman's Fund to defray costs of injuries occurring within state waters. That fund has now grown to 7.2 million dollars, but the more than \$300,000 annual interest on the fund is deposited to the General Fund, rather than to programs that can further reduce injuries and loss of life in our dangerous industry.

We propose that a percentage of that interest be "earmarked" on a year to year basis for support of AMSEA. We recognize that by state law funds cannot be "dedicated" to any source, but that the legislature can earmark funds as we propose. This funding would in no way jeopardize the principal or viability of the Fisherman's Fund, and in fact, the effort would help the state to be more categorically responsible for the use of its revenues. The money for the Fishermen's Fund is generated by the fishing industry, and this proposed use of the income from the Fund would directly benefit the industry in assuring the continued viability of the successful, effective, and important AMSEA safety program.

Sincerely,

Al Burch
Executive Director

Jay E. Stinson
President

cc: Fred Zharoff, Allen Austerman, AMSEA

Harvesting Alaskan Shrimp and Whitefish

9727 Wren Lane
Eagle River, AK. 99577

Constitution

September 26, 1995

Representative Pete Kott
State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kott:

You frequently send newsletters asking for my views on a variety of topics, and today I have some input for you. I have worked for the U.S. Public Health Service for the past 24 years, 16 of which have been in Alaska. I have a Bachelors and a Masters degree in Public Health. I recently completed a research project that might be of interest to you. The research project evaluated a marine safety training program that is conducted by the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA). This research paper will be published in the national peer review journal, Public Health Reports, in the November/December issue in 1995. The paper was also selected as one of 300 out of 900 papers for oral presentation at the World Injury Control Conference in Melbourne, Australia in February 1996.

The bottom line according to my research is that the AMSEA program is very effective in preventing deaths among the fishermen who took the course. The distressing point is that AMSEA relies entirely on short term grants for their funding. We need to support this effective program with recurring funding from the State. The funding could and should come from excess revenues of the Fishermen's Fund. This money originally came from the fishermen and AMSEA directly benefits the fishermen.

I realize there are obstacles to overcome in order to be able to use this excess funding but please see if it can be accomplished.

Thank you for your time and interest. If I can answer any questions, please call.

Ron Perkins

Ron Perkins, MPH
Tel 273-0102

RECEIVED

MAR 08 1996

Ans'd.....

Stickeen Wilderness Adventures

The oldest operating business on the Stikine River and the Anan bear observatory.

P.O. Box 934
107 Front Street
Wrangell, Alaska 99929

A division of TH Charters/Marine

Telephone (907) 874-2085
U.S.A. 800-874-2085
Fax (907) 874-2285

March 4, 1996

Dear Representative Hanley ;

My name is Todd Harding, I am the owner/operator of Stickeen Wilderness Adventures, and a member of the Wrangell Volunteer Fire dept., & Search and Rescue, and an A.M.S.E.A. (Alaska Marine Safety Education Association) instructor.

Michael Clemmans and I became A.M.S.E.A. instructors in October of 1994, when we both saw the need for this type of training and education for Commercial Operators and the general public of Wrangell, as most of the people do not have the time or they do not have the money due to Wrangell's economic depression to travel to other communities to get this kind training and education. There for I support A.M.S.E.A. for what they have done and can continue to do for Alaskans, especially those of us in isolated rural communities. I would like to ask you to support A.M.S.E.A. and House Bill Number 366.

Mark if you ever get the chance to take one of A.M.S.E.A. Survival Equipment, Procedures, and on board Drill course, which is mandatory for commercial fishing vessels, as per 46CFR 28.270, you will find, the self confidence and ability gained cannot be measured by money. As you may know, when you are on the water, and for what ever reason, it happens, it is only you and your abilities and confidence within your self that will bring you home.

Mike and I thank you for your for your help and support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Todd E. Harding

Todd E. Harding
Stickeen Wilderness Adventures
Michael Clemmans
Campbell Towing

c.c. Wrangell Economic Dir.. Carol Rushmore
Representative Alan Austerman

October 13, 1995

Governor Tony Knowles
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles,

You might remember during a campaign trip to Kodiak at the time of our annual Crab Festival, that you were involved in one of the highlights of our festivities, the survival suit race. You might also remember the frustration you experienced when getting into your suit during the race. (I'm the gal that was helping you.) I am pleased to let you know that this past year one of the Kodiak High School teams won the race. This is the first time in years that the United States Coast Guard team did not win. Needless to say the Kodiak High School students are very proud of this accomplishment and they intend to do their best at keeping the trophy this coming year. So what is this all leading up to?

I teach Marine and Wilderness Survival Training as well as Fisheries Science at Kodiak High School. I am also an instructor for the ALASKA MARINE SAFETY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, and include this training as part of my high school curriculum. At the present time I have 50 students involved in this training and have trained 40 other students as well as 40 adults in the past two years.

AMSEA is facing a major loss of funding from the Federal Government this year and I am very concerned about the future of AMSEA. AMSEA has provided invaluable training to the members of our community as well as members of many maritime dependent communities around the state and the nation. AMSEA has proven itself a leader in marine safety training and has filled a need in Alaska's maritime industries. Federal Regulations have made this type of training mandatory for persons onboard all commercial vessels. The healthy future of AMSEA and its ability to continue to provide this training depends on continued funding from somewhere. We are looking to the State of Alaska to help us with that funding.

I am asking you to please support reliable long term state funding of the AMSEA Program. I have read the proposal of using interest money from the Fishermen's Fund to support AMSEA and think this would be a fine way to use those resources. AMSEA is saving fishermen and fisherwoman's lives as well as lives of those involved in other

marine related industries. AMSEA could help you become a condender in the 1996 Kodiak Crab Festival Survival Suit races. We sincerely invite you to be a member of one our teams. We also sincerely thank you for your consideration towards this very important matter.

Hope to see you this spring!



Jane Eisemann
Kodiak High School Fisheries Instructor

cc/ Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer
Jerry Dzugan Director AMSEA

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 13

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Marine Safety Training & Education
 Sponsor: Representative Austerman
 Requestor: Hcuse STA

Department Affected: Labor
 BRU: Fishermen's Fund
 Component: Fishermen's Fund

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 343

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUE FUND SOURCE #						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY97) impact: \$ None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

A Bill to identify the interest earned off the fisherman's fund as a source of revenue to fund marine safety training and education.

Prepared by: Paul Grossl, Director *Paul Grossl* Phone: 465-2790
 Division: Workers' Compensation Date: 1/21/97
 Approved by Commissioner: Tom Cashen, Commissioner *Tom Cashen*
 Agency: Department of Labor Date: 1/21/97

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
 For further distribution information call the Governor's Legislative Office

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Revenue
 Title: Marine Safety Training and Education BRU: Revenue Operations
 Component: Treasury
 Sponsor: Rep. Ivan Austerman
 Requestor: (H) STA COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 121

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	239.0	239.0	239.0	239.0	239.0	239.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
TOTAL	239.0	239.0	239.0	239.0	239.0	239.0

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost \$ 0.00

POSITIONS:

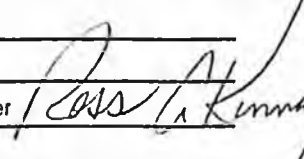
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS:

Earnings on the Fisherman's Fund currently are left with the General Fund and do not belong to the fund. This bill would allow for appropriating upto one-half of the interest that currently goes to the General Fund to be used for marine safety and education programs. Treasury will incur no additional costs if this bill is passed. While we have shown the funding source above as General Fund, it is unclear which agency would reflect the expenditure of the money as the bill does not address the administration of the programs.

ASSUMPTIONS:

Current balance is approx \$9 million. If we assume the balance of the fund stays stable and use 5.32% (the 12/30/96 480 T-bill rate) as our interest rate assumption, the fund will earn approx \$478,000 interest per year. One-half of this amount would then be \$239,000.

Prepared by: Betty Martin, Comptroller Phone: 465-2350
 Division: Treasury Date: 2/19/97
 Approved by Commissioner: Ross Kinney, Deputy Commissioner  Date: 2/19/97
 Agency: Department of Revenue

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
 For further distribution information call the Governor's Legislative Office