SCOMM

126:24

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: HB 284
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: None
Title: Board of Fisheries Conflicts of Interest
BRU
Component
Sponsor: Rep. Scalzi
Requester: Special Committee on Fisheries
Component No.

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
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						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

Prepared by: Special Committee on Fisheries
Phone 465-4925
Division: Rep. Stevens, Committee Co-Chair
Date/Time 2/11/02 8:47 AM
Approved by:
Date 2/11/2002
Agency

(Revised 9/2001 OMB)

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE DREW SCALZI
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

(907) 465-2689; (800) 665-2689
FAX: (907) 465-3472
Representative_Drew_Scalzi@legis.state.ak.us

Official Business

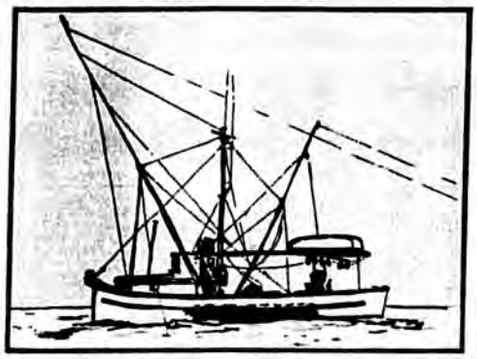
Sponsor Statement

HB284 - An Act relating to participation in matters before the Board of Fisheries by members of the board; and providing for an effective date."

Alaska is unique in its vastness and abundant resources, yet its number of inhabitants is few. To effectively assure that our lay boards and commissions are composed of qualified individuals, appointments are made through the governor and confirmed by the legislature. Because of the small number of inhabitants in our state, it often becomes difficult for a board to operate in a manner that utilizes the full extent of its make-up.

The current conflict of interest measure, as applied to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, works against its productivity. It is not in the best interest of the state to have board members disqualify themselves from participation in matters in which they may have a direct interest, because it follows that these areas would be the ones in which members have the most expertise.

If the same measure were applied to state legislators, seldom would there be a piece of legislation that would not find some members disqualified from participation. This bill mandates full personal disclosure on matters related to the subject for eligible participation, but requires a board member to actively participate or vote.



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward St., No. 505
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-9400
(907) 586-4473 Fax

February 11, 2002

Representative Peggy Wilson, Co-Chair
Representative Gary Stevens, Co-Chair
House Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representatives Wilson & Stevens:

The Alaska Trollers Association supports HB 284, which requires members of the Board of Fisheries to participate in the issues that come before the board, even if they have a personal or financial interest in the matter.

ATA firmly believes in a lay Board of Fisheries and thinks a recusal process similar to the one used by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is adequate for identifying significant conflicts of interest. There are really very few instances where Board of Fisheries members stand to significantly benefit from the decisions their one vote influences. I have participated in Board of Fisheries meetings for more than 15 years and have yet to find board members anything less than honest in disclosing their fisheries interests. In those cases where an individual could directly benefit, say where a high dollar value fishery has a small number of participants, I have witnessed Board members voluntarily conflict themselves out of the vote.

It is important to appoint high caliber individuals to the Board of Fisheries who have sufficient interest and understanding of Alaska's fishery issues and a willingness to study topics and share critical information with fellow Board members. Once appointed, these folks should be allowed to do their job.

We ask for your support on HB 284.

If I can provide additional information on this or other topics, please don't hesitate to call.

Best Regards,

Dale Kelley
Executive Director

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
PO Box 22427
Juneau, Alaska 99802
(907) 586-5860 Fax (907) 586-0167
E-mail: usag@gci.net

February 6, 2002

Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative Gary Stevens
Co-Chairs
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Co-Chairs,

Re: HB 284 Board of Fisheries Conflict of Interests

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) supports passage of this bill to provide for Board members to participate in matters before the Board if they declare their personal or financial interest in a fishery.

Members should be appointed to the Board for their expertise in some aspect of fishing. Due to the limited size of the board and the wide range of fisheries in the state, it is vital that all Board members be able to participate in the decision making process.

The100-plus members of USAG urge your support for passing this bill.

If you have any questions about our position or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jerry Madden

Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 65 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska
P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / phone (907) 424-3447 / fax (907) 424-3430 /
e-mail cdfu@ptialaska.net

February 4, 2002

House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1192

RE: HB 284 - Board of Fisheries Conflict of Interest

Dear Members,

CDFU, representing the fishing fleets of Area E - the Copper River and Prince William Sound - fully support HB 284. The Alaska Board of Fisheries plays an extremely important role in the viability of our fisheries resources, the commercial fishing industry, sport, personal use and subsistence fisheries of our state. We believe that this Board should be governed by the same parameters as Legislators themselves and most local governments relative to participation in matters under their purview upon full disclosure of personal and financial interests. HB 284 accomplishes that. Another important fisheries regulatory body - the North Pacific Management Council - operates under these parameters, as well.

Given the diversity of resources and fisheries regulated by this relatively small Board, it is imperative that all of the members are allowed to participate fully in both discussion and deliberation. After all, knowledge and experience is one key reason for any person's appointment to the Board and it only makes sense for them be allowed to fully utilize that expertise.

We urge your support of HB 284.

Sincerely,

Sue Aspelund

Sue Aspelund
Executive Director

FROM : BRAD BARR PHONE NO. : 253 833 5776 Jan. 30 2001 11:45AM P1

C.A.M.F.

Concerned Area M Fishermen

5128 Foster Avenue S.E., Auburn, WA 98092
Phone: (253) 833-5776 - Fax: (253) 833-5776

January 28, 2002

Representative Gary Stevens
Representative Peggy Wilson,
Co-Chairs
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 98801-1182

Dear Representatives Stevens and Wilson,

I am writing to give Concerned Area M Fishermen's support for HB 283 & HB 284. Both of these bills will bring a balance back to the Board of Fisheries that is badly needed. The Board needs more geographical representation as well as better balance between commercial, sport and subsistence. The present Board is weighted heavily towards sport and central Alaska. The bias towards certain user groups and regions could be eliminated with the passage of HB 283. The issue of Conflict of Interest has been an ongoing concern for many participating in the board process and HB 284 would bring relief on this issue to commercial fishermen and many coastal communities of Alaska.

Concerned Area M Fishermen represents 110 drift gillnet salmon permit holders from the Alaska Peninsula/ Aleutian Islands and is a member group of the UFA. We appreciate both of you taking the time to read our comments on what we feel are two very important issues. Hopefully the Alaska House of Representatives will consider these bills during this session to help improve the Board of Fisheries process.

Sincerely,

Brad Barr

Brad L. Barr
President

UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

February 4, 2002

Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative Gary Stevens
Co-Chairs
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Co-Chairs,

Re: HB 284 Board of Fisheries Conflict of Interests

United Fishermen of Alaska supports passage of this bill to provide for Board members to participate in matters before the Board if they declare their personal or financial interest in a fishery.

Members are on the Board for their expertise in some aspect of fishing. Due to the limited size of the board and the wide range of fisheries in the state, it is vital that all Board members be able to participate in the decision making process.

The twenty-nine members groups of UFA would appreciate your support in passing this bill.

If you have any questions about our position or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Gemmell

Thomas M. Gemmell
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Reserve
Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Copper River Salmon Producers Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Pink and Chum
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Old Harbor Fisherman's Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gilnetters