

SB

56

HFIN

FILE

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSSB 56(FIN)

- 1 Page 2, line 1:
- 2 Delete "immediately under AS 01.10.070(c)"
- 3 Insert "January 1, 2005"



SENATOR FRED DYSON

SB 56

Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to Fishing Licenses for Yukon Residents"

Updated: April 7, 2003

Contact: Senator Fred Dyson's office at (907) 465-2199

The Yukon Territory and its residents have a great deal in common with Alaska and Alaskans. SB 56 extends a small, but important, gesture of good will to our closest neighbor. Yukoners have no coast on the Pacific Ocean and several hundred of them buy Alaska Fishing Licenses each year to fish in Alaskan salt waters. They spend thousands of dollars in our local economies on their fishing expeditions.

When Representative John Harris and former Senator Phillips introduced similar legislation in April of 2000, the Yukon Legislative Assembly immediately passed laws that will give reciprocity to Alaskans. They not only give us resident fishing license rates for the fresh water fish that are under territorial jurisdictions, but they have worked through an agreement with their Federal Department of Oceans and Fish to allow Alaskans to catch Salmon in Yukon rivers. Yukon has some wonderful fishing opportunities including in world record Lake Trout and Pike.

The people and government of Yukon Territory are going through difficult times with a decreasing population now under 30,000 people and a stifled economy. Regardless, they are supporting our efforts to build our gas pipeline, connect our railroad to the North American Railroad System, and upgrade the Alaska Highway. This bill is a small but significant step to further enhance our good relationship with our Canadian neighbors.

Headquarters:
217 2nd Street, Suite 201
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-2323 FAX 463-5515

Regional Office:
601 West 5th Ave., Suite 600
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 278-2722 FAX 278-6643



April 28, 2003

Senator Fred Dyson
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Dyson:

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, representing approximately 700 member businesses and 35 local chambers of commerce, supports Senate Bill 56, sport fishing fees for Yukon residents.

Senate Bill 56 will allow residents of the Yukon Territory to purchase fishing licenses at the in-state rate, in order to encourage them to visit Alaska. The Yukon Territory has no Pacific coastline, and we believe it is eminently fair and reasonable to extend to its residents the less-expensive alternative of purchasing a fishing license as Alaskans themselves can do. Moreover, it is clearly an excellent opportunity to send a message of friendship and cooperation to this part of Canada. The Yukon Legislative Assembly has already acted to extend the benefits of fishing licenses enjoyed by locals to Alaskans, and the spirit of reciprocity calls for us to do the same.

We wish you the success in securing passage of SB 56 by the State Legislature this year, and we stand ready to assist you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela La Bolle".

Pamela La Bolle
President

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CITY OF SKAGWAY

GATEWAY TO THE GOLD RUSH OF '98"

P.O. BOX 415, SKAGWAY, ALASKA 99840

(PHONE) (907) 983-2297

(FAX) (907) 983-2151

May 1, 2003

To: Senator Georgianna Lincoln
Fax: (907)-465-2652
From: Bob Ward, City Manager
Re: SB 56

Dear Senator Lincoln:

I understand that you will be hearing SB 56 today, which deals with a reciprocal arrangement between Alaskan and Yukon residents for resident fishing license fees, without conferring resident status for bag limits.

I believe this to be a desirable, if not important, "cross border handshake" that recognizes the close economic, social and historical ties between the residents of Yukon and Alaska.

While this is a new issue for us and has not enjoyed any public debate, cursory discussion indicates favor for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Ward Jr.,
City Manager

**HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA**

P.O. BOX 1209 • HAINES, ALASKA 99827

Administration (907) 766-2231 • Fax (907) 766-3179

Tax Office/Assessor (907) 766-2711 • Fax (907) 766-2716

Tourism (907) 766-2234 • Tourism Fax (907) 766-3155

May 2, 2003

Senator Georgianna Lincoln
Alaska State Legislature
M/S 3100
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: SB 56

Dear Senator Lincoln:

At the request of your staff I have polled the Borough Assembly members and Mayor to get their feelings on the above-referenced bill. I have not been able to reach them all, but the majority of them think this is a great idea.

The people of the Yukon Territory have always been good neighbors with Haines -- allowing us to hunt and fish in their back yard and welcoming us with open arms.

We can't do anything about the exchange on their money - the least we can do is try to help them out with resident licenses so that a fishing trip to Alaska's waters can be affordable once again. Not only will this be to their benefit, but the money they spend in Haines will help our flagging economy.

Please do all you can to see that this bill is successful.

Sincerely,

Tim Troll
Manager
HAINES BOROUGH

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



P.O. Box 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 465-3532
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 21, 2004

The Honorable John Harris
House Finance Committee Co-Chair
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Harris:

Alaska has much in common with our neighbors in the Yukon Territory. We are working together on the gas pipeline, the railroad extension, border issues, trade agreements, cultural exchanges, fish and game management, roads, invasive species, and many other issues. I have recently entered into a Bi-Lateral Agreement with Premier Dennis Fentie of the Yukon and we are both very committed to building a great future together.

Due to the whims of old border agreements, Yukon has no access to salt water on the Pacific Ocean. Many Yukoners love to fish the salt water. They come by the hundreds to Haines and Skagway to fish each summer and spend significant amounts of their depreciated dollars in those communities.

Senate Bill 56 makes a small gesture of good will to the Yukoners by allowing them to purchase fishing licenses at Alaska resident rates. Our friends in the Yukon are very excited about this show of neighborliness and have already passed legislation that will provide reciprocity for Alaskans.

There are approximately 31,000 people in the entire Yukon Territory, less than the population of several of our cities and all of our Senate districts. The implementation of SB 56 will cost our state very little and will probably result in many more Yukoners coming to fish and spend money in Alaska.

You should be receiving a letter from Premier Fentie explaining why this small gesture on our part is so very important to our Yukon neighbors. Please honor his request and mine that will significantly improve the existing good will between neighbors and pass SB 56.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank H. Murkowski".

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

cc: House Finance Committee Members



Office of the Premier
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

2620-50-02-04
2605-40-06-04

January 22, 2004

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol, Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

I understand you have a bill in your Finance Committee that will mean a great deal to the people of Yukon. Yukoners love to fish, but Yukon has no saltwater access. The kind offer of the Alaska Legislature to allow Yukoners to buy Alaska fishing licences at resident rates is a marvelous gesture of goodwill that will facilitate even more Yukoners traveling to the Alaskan coast to fish and support the local economy.

Amendments to the Yukon Territory Fishery Regulations to provide for licence fee reciprocity for residents of Alaska were adopted in September 2003. These provisions will allow Alaskans to fish in Yukon at resident rates when similar provisions are enacted for residents of Yukon in Alaska. Your attention to the passage of SB-56 will be greatly appreciated by the people of Yukon.

Sincerely,

Premier
Dennis Fentic

c Jim Kenyon, Minister of Environment

Sport Fishing License Sales to Yukon Territory Residents

Fishing Licenses Sold in 2003							
Class	Number of Licenses Sold	Fee for License	Total License Revenue	Number of King Salmon Stamps Sold*	Fee for King Salmon Stamp	Total King Salmon Stamp Revenue	Total Revenue
07	249	\$100.00	\$24,900.00	125	\$100.00	\$12,450.00	\$37,350.00
09	1	\$100.00 **	\$100.00	1	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$150.00
6A	26	\$50.00	\$1,300.00	13	\$50.00	\$650.00	\$1,950.00
6B	1193	\$20.00	\$23,860.00	597	\$20.00	\$11,930.00	\$35,790.00
6C	983	\$10.00	\$9,830.00	492	\$10.00	\$4,915.00	\$14,745.00
6D	219	\$30.00	\$6,570.00	110	\$30.00	\$3,285.00	\$9,855.00
9C	0	\$30.00***	\$0.00	0	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	2673****		\$66,560.00	1336		\$33,280.00	\$99,840.00
Fishing Revenues with SB56 license fee							
Class	Number of Licenses Sold	Fee for License	Total License Revenue	Number of King Salmon Stamps Sold*	Fee for King Salmon Stamp	Total King Salmon Stamp Revenue	Total Revenue
01	2202	\$15.00	\$33,030.00	1101	\$10.00	\$11,010.00	\$44,040.00
Total	2202		\$33,030.00			\$11,010.00	\$44,040.00
							\$55,800.00
*King Salmon Stamp sales are not tracked by licensee. The Department is assuming that 50% of the licensees are purchasing a king salmon stamp.							
**Sport fishing portion of license is \$100.00. Total license cost includes hunting license of \$85.00 for a total license cost of \$185.00.							
***Sport fishing portion of license is \$30.00. Total license cost includes hunting license of \$85.00 for a total license cost of \$115.00.							
****This is the total number of sport fishing licenses purchased by 2,202 unique residents of the Yukon. 480 of the 2,202 residents purchased two or more licenses in 2002 for a total of 2,682 licenses sold.							
1/21/2004							