

**HB**

**458**

Adjust financial  
Addendums to  
vendors.

Paul Shadura  
Pres. Kenzi Pen. Fishing

262-2492

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## 'Dude fishing' bill aims toward extreme tourists

**PAY TO WORK: Visitors would be able to play commercial fishermen.**

By CATHY BROWN  
 The Associated Press

*(Published: April 6, 2004)*

JUNEAU -- Tourists will pay to ride on a dog sled or hike on a glacier. But will they put up cash for the experience of pulling sockeye salmon out of a commercial fishing net?

A bill passed Monday by the House Special Committee on Fisheries assumes they will.

Currently, tourists cannot do any work on a commercial fishing operation without a crew member fishing license.

For nonresidents, those cost \$180 a year. House Bill 458 would create one-day licenses costing \$30 and three-day licenses costing \$50.

Adam Berg, an aide to Rep. Carl Moses, D-Unalaska, said the change could make it affordable for fishermen to offer tours on Alaska commercial fishing trips.

"There's all sorts of extreme tourism options for them when they come up right now, and this is just another one," Berg said.

Moses is pitching the bill as a way to help commercial fishermen who have been hit hard by low salmon prices and, in some parts of the state, smaller catches.

"The whole idea of the bill is to give permit holders the option of another possible avenue to raise money," Berg said.

"In essence, it seems like we're setting up dude fishing," said Rep. Dan Ogg, R-Kodiak. "Is that like dude ranching -- dude fishing?"

The bill seems to have generated the most interest so far from the Kenai Peninsula, where representatives of two Cook Inlet fishing groups testified in favor of it.

Paul Shadura, president of the setnet group Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association, said it could help fishermen diversify their income and provide a service to tourists.

"There's those thrill seekers out there who just basically want to touch a fish," Shadura said.

Roland Maw, executive director of the United Cook Inlet Drift Association, said he believes there will be a demand for the trips.

Two years ago, he said, his son advertised a commercial fishing trip on the online auction site eBay and had 1,200 hits within 12 hours.

The change could also help out a fisherman who needs to hire a temporary crew to fill in for an injured worker, Maw said.

Rep. Peggy Wilson, R-Wrangell, questioned whether the change could hurt the Fishermen's Fund, a fund that provides for medical care when fishermen are hurt on the job. Wilson said inexperienced crew members probably will be more prone to injury than seasoned workers.

Guy Bell of the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development said 39 percent of commercial fishing license fees go to the fund, so it would be unfair to deny coverage to some of those paying the fees.

The fund is in good shape financially, Bell said.

Fisheries Committee members generally were enthusiastic about the bill.

They voted to move up the effective date to this July 1 instead of Jan. 1, 2005.

They also added the three-day license option for fishermen wanting to offer trips longer than a day.

But the bill's chances for passage are uncertain because it is sponsored by a Democrat in the Republican-dominated Legislature.

It next goes to the House Resources Committee.

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R.I. Social Security Numbers

6-13-17

This law states that unless

HB 458 Sue Jorgeson - Fishing Vessel Safety  
Coordinator Coast Guard

Dude Fishing

Fisherman bringing tourist on board,  
change from commercial to passenger

- random drug testing
- master licensed to passenger  
(coast guard passenger license)

for 6 or less passenger  
over the 6 then vessel has to be  
inspected by the Coast Guard higher  
permit



23-LS1591U  
Utermohle  
3/31/04

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 458( )  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES MOSES BY REQUEST, Wolf

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to a one-day commercial fishing crewmember license; and providing  
2 for an effective date."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 \* Section 1. AS 16.05.480(g) is amended to read:

5 (g) A [FOR A CREWMEMBER FISHING LICENSE ISSUED FOR  
6 CALENDAR YEAR 2002 AND FOLLOWING YEARS, A] resident engaged in  
7 commercial fishing who is 11 years of age or older and who does not hold an entry  
8 permit or an interim-use permit shall pay a [AN ANNUAL] fee of \$60 for an annual  
9 crewmember fishing license. A [. FOR A CREWMEMBER FISHING LICENSE  
10 ISSUED FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2002 AND FOLLOWING YEARS, A] resident  
11 engaged in commercial fishing who is less than 11 years of age and who does not hold  
12 an entry permit or an interim-use permit shall pay an annual fee of \$5.

13 \* Sec. 2. AS 16.05.480(h) is amended to read:

14 (h) A [FOR A CREWMEMBER FISHING LICENSE ISSUED FOR

1 CALENDAR YEAR 2002 AND FOLLOWING YEARS, A] nonresident engaged in  
2 commercial fishing who is 11 years of age or older and who does not hold an entry  
3 permit or an interim-use permit shall pay a [AN ANNUAL] base fee of \$60 for an  
4 annual crewmember fishing license, plus an amount, established by the department  
5 by regulation, that is as close as is practicable to the maximum allowed by law. A  
6 [FOR A CREWMEMBER FISHING LICENSE ISSUED FOR CALENDAR YEAR  
7 2002 AND FOLLOWING YEARS, A] nonresident engaged in commercial fishing  
8 who is less than 11 years of age and who does not hold an entry permit or an interim-  
9 use permit shall pay an annual base fee of \$5 plus an amount, established by the  
10 department by regulation, that is as close as is practicable to the maximum allowed by  
11 law.

12 \* Sec. 3. AS 16.05.480 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13 (j) Notwithstanding (g) and (h) of this section, a resident or nonresident  
14 engaged in commercial fishing who does not hold an entry permit or an interim-use  
15 permit may obtain a one-day crewmember fishing license for a fee of \$30.

16 \* Sec. 4. AS 16.10.310(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) The department may

18 (1) make loans

19 (A) to individual commercial fishermen who have been state  
20 residents for a continuous period of two years immediately preceding the date  
21 of application for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370, who have had an  
22 annual [A] crewmember or commercial fishing license under AS 16.05.480 or  
23 a permit under AS 16.43 for the year immediately preceding the date of  
24 application and any other two of the past five years, and who actively  
25 participated in the fishery during those periods

26 (i) for the purchase of entry permits; or

27 (ii) to upgrade existing vessels and gear for the purpose  
28 of improving the quality of Alaska seafood products;

29 (B) to an individual for the repair, restoration, or upgrading of  
30 existing vessels and gear, for the purchase of entry permits and gear, and for  
31 the construction and purchase of vessels, if the individual has been a state

1 resident for a continuous period of two years immediately preceding the date  
2 of application for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370, and either

3 (i) because of lack of training or lack of employment  
4 opportunities in the area of residence, does not have occupational  
5 opportunities available other than commercial fishing; or

6 (ii) is economically dependent on commercial fishing  
7 for a livelihood and for whom commercial fishing has been a traditional  
8 way of life in Alaska;

9 (C) for the purchase of quota shares for fisheries in or off the  
10 state by individual commercial fishermen who

11 (i) have been state residents for a continuous period of  
12 two years immediately preceding the date of application for a loan  
13 under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370;

14 (ii) for any two of the past five years, possessed an  
15 annual [A] crewmember or commercial fishing license under  
16 AS 16.05.480 or a permit under AS 16.43 and actively participated in a  
17 fishery for which the license or permit was issued;

18 (iii) qualify as transferees for quota shares under  
19 applicable law; and

20 (iv) are not eligible for financing from other recognized  
21 commercial lending institutions to purchase quota shares;

22 (D) to an individual commercial fisherman to satisfy past due  
23 federal tax obligations, if the fisherman has been a state resident for a  
24 continuous period of two years immediately preceding the date of application  
25 for the loan, has filed past and current federal tax returns with the federal  
26 government, has executed an agreement with the federal government for  
27 repayment of past due federal tax obligations, and either

28 (i) has had an annual [A] crewmember or commercial  
29 fishing license under AS 16.05.480 or a permit under AS 16.43 for the  
30 year immediately preceding the date of application and any other two  
31 of the past five years, and has actively participated in the fishery during

1 those periods;

2 (ii) because of lack of training or lack of employment  
3 opportunities in the area of residence, does not have occupational  
4 opportunities available other than commercial fishing; or

5 (iii) is economically dependent on commercial fishing  
6 for a livelihood and for whom commercial fishing has been a traditional  
7 way of life in Alaska;

8 (2) designate agents and delegate its powers to them as necessary;

9 (3) adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of  
10 AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370, including regulations to establish reasonable fees for  
11 services provided;

12 (4) establish amortization plans for repayment of loans, which may  
13 include extensions for poor fishing seasons or for adverse market conditions for  
14 Alaska products;

15 (5) enter into agreements with private lending institutions, other state  
16 agencies, or agencies of the federal government to carry out the purposes of  
17 AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370;

18 (6) enter into agreements with other agencies or organizations to create  
19 an outreach program to make loans under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370 in rural areas of  
20 the state;

21 (7) allow an assumption of a loan if

22 (A) the applicant has been a state resident for a continuous  
23 period of two years immediately preceding the date of the request for an  
24 assumption; and

25 (B) approval of the assumption would be consistent with the  
26 purposes of AS 16.10.300; an applicant for a loan assumption may not be  
27 disqualified because the applicant does not meet the loan eligibility  
28 requirements of (1) of this subsection;

29 (8) prequalify loan applicants for a limited entry permit loan or a quota  
30 shares loan and charge a fee not to exceed \$200 for prequalification;

31 (9) charge and collect the fees established under this subsection;

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(10) refinance a debt obligation incurred by a borrower or borrowers under this section if the borrower or borrowers otherwise qualify for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370;

(11) refinance debt obligations, not to exceed \$300,000, incurred by a borrower or borrowers for the purchase of a commercial fishing vessel or gear if the borrower or borrowers otherwise qualify for a loan under AS 16.10.300 - 16.10.370; the department may collect a refinancing loan origination charge as provided by regulation.

\* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect January 1, 2005.

**Representative Carl E. Moses, House District 37  
(907) 465-4451 – Adam Berg, Staff**

**SPONSOR STATEMENT / SECTIONAL ANALYSIS**

**HB458 – One-Day Commercial Fishing Crewmember License**

The economic health of certain communities and regions of Western Alaska have been jeopardized by unprecedented low salmon returns and prices. These low returns have particularly impacted commercial salmon fishermen in those regions. It is in the best interest of the State of Alaska and these communities to maximize options available to those fishermen to earn a living. One option available is to allow the purchase of one-day commercial fishing crewmember licenses. This would allow visitors an affordable way to engage in a sort of extreme tourism adventure by actually participating in the fishery as a crewmember.

Tourists can currently go out with a commercial boat but cannot have any form of active participation without buying a full year crewmember license.

**BILL SECTIONS 1-2:** Changes the term from a “crewmember fishing license” to an “annual crewmember fishing license”. (Note: The reason for the term change applies to Bill Section 4.)

**BILL SECTION 3:** Allows residents and non-residents to purchase a one-day commercial fishing crewmember license for \$30.

**BILL SECTION 4:** Assures that a one-day license holder is not considered a fisherman eligible for the Commercial Fishing Revolving Loan Fund.

**BILL SECTION 5:** Changes the definition of “fisherman” to assure one-day license holders do not qualify for the Fisherman’s Fund

SPONSOR STATEMENT / SECTIONAL



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org  
www.ufa-fish.org

March 11, 2004

Representative Tom Anderson, Chair  
House Committee on Labor and Commerce  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (Mail Stop 3100)  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Chairman Anderson,

United Fishermen of Alaska supports HB 458 relating to a one-day commercial fishing crewmember license. This bill would provide the flexibility for commercial fishermen to take out a guest or client for a single day without requiring the full year crew license. Many tourists and visiting family members of fishermen are interested in seeing for themselves and taking part in the rich tradition of commercial fishing in Alaska. Allowing the option of a one day crew license would provide this excellent opportunity for them to gain an appreciation for Alaska's well-managed fisheries, while bringing an additional possible source of income for fishermen. This would be an excellent new and innovative way to market Alaska's fish.

We also believe that the revenue from the one day crew license would likely offset the costs incurred in establishing the program. We do not expect that professional crew members would consider this as an alternative to their normal full year crew license.

United Fishermen of Alaska represents 32 Alaska Commercial fishing organizations and hundreds of individual fishermen and fishing related businesses, altogether representing over 10,000 Alaska fishermen. We support HB 458 and thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel  
Executive Director

CC: Representative Carl Moses

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Druggers Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association  
Bristol Bay Reserve • Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association • Chignik Seiners Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cordova District Fishermen United  
Crab Rationalization and Buyback Group • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association  
Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Pacific Scallop Cooperative • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
Old Harbor Fishermen'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 • Sitka Regional Aquaculture Association  
United Catcher Boats • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association • Western Gull of Alaska Fishermen