

HB

186

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/2/07

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 5/9/07

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 186(FSH)

HB 186 SPORT FISHING GUIDE RECORDS

"An Act relating to sharing with certain federal agencies records required of sport fishing guides; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:

- Same Title
- New Title

HOUSE BILL:

- Same Title
- Technical Title Change
- New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
DFIG	3/16			✓	

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	WAGONER	✓			
	wielechowski			✓	
	HIGGINS	✓			
	McBure	✓			
CHAIR:					

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 186(FSH)
 (H) Publish Date: 3/22/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____

Dept. Affected: ADFG

Title Sport Fishing Guide Records

RDU Sport Fisheries

Component Sport Fisheries

Sponsor Representative(s) Harris and Thomas

Requester House Resources Committee

Component No. 464

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-----------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-------------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill allows the Department to share guide records with the NMFS and IPHC. These records are already entered into a database. Sharing the records will not result in increased costs.

Prepared by: Kelly Hepler, Director

Division Sport Fisheries

Phone 267-2195

Date/Time 3/16/07 10:00 AM

Approved by: Tom Lawson, Director, Administrative Services

Agency Fish & Game

Date 3/16/2007

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB186-DFG-SF-03-16-07
 Bill Version: HB186
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: ADFG
 Title Sport Fishing Guide Records RDU Sport Fisheries
 Component Sport Fisheries
 Sponsor Representative(s) Harris and Thomas
 Requester House Resources Committee Component No. 464

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-----------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-------------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type-Do not abbreviate)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill allows the Department to share guide records with the NMFS and IPHC. These records are already entered into a database. Sharing the records will not result in increased costs.

Prepared by: Kelly Hepler, Director Phone 267-2195
 Division: Sport Fisheries Date/Time 3/16/07 10:00 AM
 Approved by: Tom Lawson, Director, Administrative Services Date 3/16/2007
 Agency: Fish & Game

Sec. 16.05.815. Confidential nature of certain reports and records.

(a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, records required by regulations of the department concerning the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery products, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors required by regulation of the department are confidential and may not be released by the department or by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission except as set out in this subsection. The department may release the records and reports set out in this subsection to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. The department and the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release the records and reports set out in this subsection to the recipients identified in this subsection if the recipient, other than a recipient under (5) - (9) of this subsection, agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the records and reports. The department and the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release

(1) any of the records and reports to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the professional staff of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council as required for preparation and implementation of the fishery management plans of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council within the exclusive economic zone;

(2) any of the records and reports to the professional staff of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission who are employed in the Alaska Fisheries Information Network project for the purpose of exchanging information with users authorized by the department;

(3) any of the records and reports to the Department of Revenue to assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities;

(4) records or reports of the total value purchased by each buyer to a municipality that levies and collects a tax on fish, shellfish, or fishery products if the municipality requires records of the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery products to be submitted to it for purposes of verification of taxes payable;

(5) such records and reports as necessary to be in conformity with a court order;

(6) on request, the report of a person to the person whose fishing activity is the subject of the report, or to a designee of the person whose fishing activity is the subject of the report;

(7) on request, annual statistical reports of a fisherman, buyer, or processor to the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the subject of the report, or to a designee of the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the subject of the report;

(8) any of the records and reports to the Department of Public Safety for law enforcement purposes;

(9) fish tickets, fish ticket information, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors and information in those reports to the law enforcement personnel of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the purpose of enforcing fishery laws in waters of this state and in waters of the exclusive economic zone adjacent to this state;

(10) fish tickets and fish ticket information regarding halibut to the International Pacific Halibut Commission;

(11) any of the records and reports to the child support services agency created in AS 25.27.010, or the child support enforcement agency of another state, for child support purposes authorized under law; and

(12) any of the records and reports to the Department of Natural Resources to assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities in regard to sport fishing operations and sport fishing guides within the Kenai River Special Management Area under AS 41.21.500 - 41.21.514.

(b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, records or reports received by the department which do not identify individual fishermen, buyers, or processors or the specific locations where fish have been taken are public information.

(c) Crab stock abundance survey information that reveals crab catch by sampling location is confidential and is not subject to inspection or copying under AS 40.25.110 - 40.25.120 until the close of the fishing season for which the survey was conducted.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the department shall keep confidential (1) personal information contained in fish and wildlife harvest and usage data; and (2) the records of the department that concern (A) telemetry radio frequencies of monitored species; (B) denning sites; (C) nest locations of raptors that require special attention; (D) the specific location of animal capture sites used for wildlife research or management; and (E) the specific location of fish and wildlife species. The department may release records and information that are kept confidential under this subsection if the release is necessary to comply with a court order, if the requestor is a state or federal agency, if the requestor is under contract with the state or federal agency to conduct research on a fish or wildlife population, or if the requestor has been authorized by the department to perform specific activities and agrees to use the records and information only for purposes as provided under a contract or agreement with the department. After 25 years, the records and information that are kept confidential under this subsection become public records subject to inspection and copying under AS 40.25.110 - 40.25.140 unless the department determines that the release of the records or information may be detrimental to the fish or wildlife population. In this subsection, "personal information" has the meaning given in AS 40.25.350

Alaska State Legislature

Session: (Jan-May)
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799




Interim: (June-Dec)
716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128

John Harris
Speaker of the House

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Charlie Huggins, Chair
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Representative John 
Speaker of the House

DATE: April 2, 2007

SUBJECT: Hearing Request for CSHB 186 (FSH)

I respectfully request that the Senate Resources Committee hear CSHB 186 (FSH): An Act relating to sharing with certain federal agencies records required of sport fishing guides; and providing for an immediate effective date, at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions please contact either me or my staff, Tom Wright, at 465-4859.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

3721

Alaska State Legislature

Session: (Jan-May)
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799




Interim: (June-Dec)
716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128

John Harris
Speaker of the House

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Charlie Huggins, Chair
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Representative John Harris 
Speaker of the House

DATE: April 13, 2007

SUBJECT: Hearing Request for CSHB 186 (FSH)

Thank you for scheduling CSHB 186 (FSH): An Act relating to sharing with certain federal agencies records required of sport fishing guides; and providing for an immediate effective date.

The current version of the bill, the sponsor statement, fiscal note and background information has been forwarded to your office. No video/audio equipment will be necessary for the bill presentation.

Tom Wright of my staff and Doug Vincent-Lang of ADF&G will testify on behalf of the bill. I have not requested witnesses to be on line, however, several persons did testify on the bill in the House Fisheries Committee and the House Resources Committee.

If you have any questions please contact either me or my staff, Tom Wright, at 465-4859.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sgr called re teleconf: "other sites may add"

*Charis
5874*

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 186(FSH)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered: 3/22/07

Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HARRIS BY REQUEST, Thomas, Kelly, Seaton, Johnson, Wilson

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to sharing with certain federal agencies records required of sport**
2 **fishing guides; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 *** Section 1. AS 16.05.815(a) is amended to read:**

5 (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, records required by
6 regulations of the department concerning the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery
7 products, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors required
8 by regulation of the department are confidential and may not be released by the
9 department or by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission except as set
10 out in this subsection. The department may release the records and reports set out in
11 this subsection to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. The
12 department and the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release the
13 records and reports set out in this subsection to the recipients identified in this
14 subsection if the recipient, other than a recipient under (5) - (9) of this subsection,

1 agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the records and reports. The department and
2 the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release

3 (1) any of the records and reports to the National Marine Fisheries
4 Service and the professional staff of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council as
5 required for preparation and implementation of the fishery management plans of the
6 North Pacific Fishery Management Council within the exclusive economic zone;

7 (2) any of the records and reports to the professional staff of the
8 Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission who are employed in the Alaska Fisheries
9 Information Network project for the purpose of exchanging information with users
10 authorized by the department;

11 (3) any of the records and reports to the Department of Revenue to
12 assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities;

13 (4) records or reports of the total value purchased by each buyer to a
14 municipality that levies and collects a tax on fish, shellfish, or fishery products if the
15 municipality requires records of the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery products to
16 be submitted to it for purposes of verification of taxes payable;

17 (5) such records and reports as necessary to be in conformity with a
18 court order;

19 (6) on request, the report of a person to the person whose fishing
20 activity is the subject of the report, or to a designee of the person whose fishing
21 activity is the subject of the report;

22 (7) on request, annual statistical reports of a fisherman, buyer, or
23 processor to the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the subject of the
24 report, or to a designee of the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the
25 subject of the report;

26 (8) any of the records and reports to the Department of Public Safety
27 for law enforcement purposes;

28 (9) fish tickets, fish ticket information, records required of sport
29 fishing guides, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors and
30 information in those reports to the law enforcement personnel of the National Marine
31 Fisheries Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the

1 purpose of enforcing fishery laws in waters of this state and in waters of the exclusive
2 economic zone adjacent to this state;

3 (10) fish tickets, [AND] fish ticket information, and records required
4 of sport fishing guides regarding halibut to the International Pacific Halibut
5 Commission;

6 (11) any of the records and reports to the child support services agency
7 created in AS 25.27.010, or the child support enforcement agency of another state, for
8 child support purposes authorized under law; and

9 (12) any of the records and reports to the Department of Natural
10 Resources to assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities in
11 regard to sport fishing operations and sport fishing guides within the Kenai River
12 Special Management Area under AS 41.21.500 - 41.21.514.

13 * **Sec. 2.** The Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

Alaska State Legislature

Session: (Jan-May)
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799



Interim: (June-Dec)
716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128

John Harris

Speaker of the House

SPONSOR STATEMENT

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 186 (FSH)

"An Act relating to sharing with certain federal agencies records required of sport fishing guides; and providing for an immediate effective date."

House Bill 186 makes minor amendments to Alaska statutes to address a gap in current law.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game cannot share logbook information from charter fishermen with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This is resulting in management inefficiencies and increased costs and enforcement difficulties. To correct this, HB 186 would allow ADF&G to share confidential charter logbook information with these federal agencies. Shared information would remain confidential. The data released to these federal agencies would still not be able to be released to the general public.

The bill would make two minor amendments to AS 16.05.815, which provides confidentiality to certain reports and records required by ADF&G concerning landings of fish, shellfish or fishery products of fishermen, buyers and processors. Among the records that are confidential under this statute are records required of sport fishing under AS 16.40.280 and 5 AAC 75.076. These are logbooks kept by charter fishing guides recording daily fishing activities, including effort and catch information. The current statute provides for a number of exceptions allowing these reports and records to be released to specified entities for limited purposes; the amendments proposed by HB 186 add exceptions allowing records of sport fishing guides to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and NOAA.

In addition to existing exceptions, this bill will authorize the limited release of records required of sport fishing guides for two other purposes. Records from guides, including logbooks, could be shared with the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and for enforcement purposes, with law enforcement personnel of NMFS and NOAA. These records can already be shared with NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) for the purpose of fishery management planning, so the proposed bill expands the list of uses for the data.

Having the logbook data on halibut catches will allow the NPFMC more effectively to manage the federal halibut fisheries in the waters off Alaska's coasts. In recent years, the Council has wrestled with difficult and controversial decisions about the management of these fish, which are highly prized both by commercial and sport fishermen in Alaska. The availability of logbook records will give federal fisheries managers the information they need to better meet harvest goals and balance the requirements of all user groups. It will also eliminate the need to adopt a federal reporting program, easing reporting requirements on Alaskan guides.

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone 907-586-6652

Fax 907-523-1168

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



E-mail: seafa@gci.net

April 8, 2007

Representative John Harris
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Interdepartmental Mail Stop:3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Rep. Harris,

While we were at the NPFMC meeting, everyone was testifying in support of HB 186 although not many had taken the time to write in support so we set up these petitions. You will see that it is a combination of charter and commercial representatives and companies that signed them.

Please use as appropriate for the committee meetings in the Senate.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy H.", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

Support HB 186 Confidential Sharing of Sportfish Data

We, the undersigned support HB 186 that allows confidential data sharing of sportfish data between NMFS, NMFS Enforcement and IPHC.

Name/Signature (legible)	Address	Affiliation
Edward R Hansen	9369 north Douglas Hwy, Juneau	AK Halibut Fisherman
Rick Bierman	P.O. Box 210166 Cook Inlet AK 99521	Juneau Charter Boat Owners Assn.
TIM EVERS	P.O. Box 99547, NINILCHIK AK. 99639	Deep Creek Charterboat Assoc.
CORA CROME	P.O. Box 232 Petersburg, AK 99833	Petersburg Vessel Owners Assoc.
Joel Hansen	417 ARROWHEAD ST. SITKA, AK 99835	THE BOAT COMPANY
KEN NEWBY	1424 MISSION RD PADRE, AK. 99615	KACD Charter
CHRIS FIALA	Box 3750 KODIAK AK 99611	KACD Charter
Robert D Alverman	Rm 282 405 20 th Ave W., Southflow, 98119	FVDA-NAST
REX MURPHY	PO Box 3309 HOMER AK 99603	AK CHARTER ASSN
GREG SUITER	PO Box 2302 HOMER AK 99603	ALASKA CHARTER ASSN
Brennan Eude	Box 576 Wrenell, AK 99929	Commercial Fisherman
JEFF FARVAT	439 Verhovica Ave, Sitka, AK. 99835	Commercial Fisherman
Erik Bahnsen	P.O. Box 10362 Sitka, AK 99835	Charter Fisherman
DAN FALWELL	123 ANNA DR SITKA AK 99835	COMM. FISH.
AURORA JOHNSON	1709 U.P.L. #3 - SITKA AK 99835	COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN
Anna Williams	PO Box 6455 SITKA AK 99835	ALFA
Khande Hubbard	P.O. Box 3302, Jensen, AK 99664	Commercial Fisherman
Linda Behnkien, ALFA	403 Lincoln St 237 SITKA AK 99835	AK Local Fishermen's Assoc.
John Miller	Box 32425 Juneau, AK. 99803	SE Salmon Fisherman
JOHN TENSEN John E Jensen	Box 601 Petersburg Ak 99835	COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN

Sec. 16.05.815. Confidential nature of certain reports and records.

(a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, records required by regulations of the department concerning the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery products, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors required by regulation of the department are confidential and may not be released by the department or by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission except as set out in this subsection. The department may release the records and reports set out in this subsection to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. The department and the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release the records and reports set out in this subsection to the recipients identified in this subsection if the recipient, other than a recipient under (5) - (9) of this subsection, agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the records and reports. The department and the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release

(1) any of the records and reports to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the professional staff of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council as required for preparation and implementation of the fishery management plans of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council within the exclusive economic zone;

(2) any of the records and reports to the professional staff of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission who are employed in the Alaska Fisheries Information Network project for the purpose of exchanging information with users authorized by the department;

(3) any of the records and reports to the Department of Revenue to assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities;

(4) records or reports of the total value purchased by each buyer to a municipality that levies and collects a tax on fish, shellfish, or fishery products if the municipality requires records of the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery products to be submitted to it for purposes of verification of taxes payable;

(5) such records and reports as necessary to be in conformity with a court order;

(6) on request, the report of a person to the person whose fishing activity is the subject of the report, or to a designee of the person whose fishing activity is the subject of the report;

(7) on request, annual statistical reports of a fisherman, buyer, or processor to the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the subject of the report, or to a designee of the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the subject of the report;

(8) any of the records and reports to the Department of Public Safety for law enforcement purposes;

(9) fish tickets, fish ticket information, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors and information in those reports to the law enforcement personnel of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the purpose of enforcing fishery laws in waters of this state and in waters of the exclusive economic zone adjacent to this state;

(10) fish tickets and fish ticket information regarding halibut to the International Pacific Halibut Commission;

(11) any of the records and reports to the child support services agency created in AS 25.27.010, or the child support enforcement agency of another state, for child support purposes authorized under law; and

(12) any of the records and reports to the Department of Natural Resources to assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities in regard to sport fishing operations and sport fishing guides within the Kenai River Special Management Area under AS 41.21.500 - 41.21.514.

(b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, records or reports received by the department which do not identify individual fishermen, buyers, or processors or the specific locations where fish have been taken are public information.

(c) Crab stock abundance survey information that reveals crab catch by sampling location is confidential and is not subject to inspection or copying under AS 40.25.110 - 40.25.120 until the close of the fishing season for which the survey was conducted.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the department shall keep confidential (1) personal information contained in fish and wildlife harvest and usage data; and (2) the records of the department that concern (A) telemetry radio frequencies of monitored species; (B) denning sites; (C) nest locations of raptors that require special attention; (D) the specific location of animal capture sites used for wildlife research or management; and (E) the specific location of fish and wildlife species. The department may release records and information that are kept confidential under this subsection if the release is necessary to comply with a court order, if the requestor is a state or federal agency, if the requestor is under contract with the state or federal agency to conduct research on a fish or wildlife population, or if the requestor has been authorized by the department to perform specific activities and agrees to use the records and information only for purposes as provided under a contract or agreement with the department. After 25 years, the records and information that are kept confidential under this subsection become public records subject to inspection and copying under AS 40.25.110 - 40.25.140 unless the department determines that the release of the records or information may be detrimental to the fish or wildlife population. In this subsection, "personal information" has the meaning given in AS 40.25.350

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone 907-586-6652

Fax 907-523-1168

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



E-mail: seafa@gci.net

March 25, 2007

House Resource Committee
Rep. Craig Johnson, Co-Chair
Rep. Carl Gatto, Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support HB 186

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFa) supports HB 186 that allows data sharing of charter records between ADFG and IPHC and NMFS. Had this data sharing been in place the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) action taken in 2006 for an annual limit for clients on charter vessels in Southeast (2C) would likely be being implemented in 2007 instead it was rescinded because of enforcement issues with the inability to share data. This is why IPHC took an action because the NPFMC could not re-implement a different management measure in time for the 2007 season. The NPFMC at the end of March and at their June meeting will be looking at management measures for Southeast (2C) for 2008, again many of these measures will not work without data sharing between ADFG & NMFS Enforcement. We are attaching several pages of the NPFMC 2C management measures analysis that explain this issue more fully. These measures that can't be implemented without the data sharing in place are the management measures most likely to be the least onerous on the charter industry such as annual limits. The data will also make the implementation of the halibut charter moratorium simpler for all involved. Please pass this legislation so that the NPFMC can take meaningful action that can be implemented.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

CH

1. GAVEL In & Call to Order: Note time - members present

**I CALL THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
TO ORDER ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH.**

LET THE RECORD REFLECT THAT IT IS _____ P.M.

PRESENT ARE:

**Vice-Chairman Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Bill Wielechowski
Senator McGuire
Senator Wagoner
& myself, Senator Charlie Huggins**

- a. Ask the speakers to place themselves on the record**
- b. Go to public testimony if any are signed up**

2. HB 186 – SPORT FISHING GUIDE RECORDS

- Tom Wright, staff to Speaker Harris (sponsor)**
- Doug Vincent-Lang, ADF&G (in person)**
- Darrell Davis, Dept of Admin, Office of Information Tech (teleconference)**

Ask the speakers to place themselves on the record.

(NEXT COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL: SENATE RULES FOR SENATE FLOOR SCHEDULING)

3. HB 176 – CREATING THE ROUSSEAU CAUSEWAY PARK

- Rep. Wilson (Sponsor) or Cliff Stone, staff to Rep. Wilson, to present the bill**
- Marlene Campbell, City and Borough of Sitka (teleconf)**
- Mike Eberhardt, DNR / Juneau State Parks (in person)**
- Mr. Harvey Brandt (citizen) (teleconference)**

Ask the speakers to place themselves on the record.

(NEXT COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL: SENATE FINANCE)

4. HB 165 – BIG GAME GUIDES AND TRANSPORTERS

- **Rep. Ledoux (Sponsor), or Suzanne Hancock, staff to Rep. Ledoux, to present the bill**
- **Rick Metzger (citizen) (teleconference)**
- **Bobby Fithian, Alaska Professional Hunters Assoc. (teleconference)**

Ask the speakers to place themselves on the record.

(NEXT COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL: SENATE JUDICIARY)

5. Announcements??

6. Meeting adjourned at _____ p.m.

May 9, 2007

Senate Resources Bill Packet

Enclosures: Fiscal Notes – Inside Packet

1. **CS HB 186 (FSH) Sponsor Statement**1 page
2. **CS HB 186 (FSH)**.....1 page
3. **Memorandum from Department of Law re HB 186**3 page
4. **CS HB 186**3 page
5. **ADF&G Amendment**1 page
6. **NOAA State record-keeping and reporting tools**.....9 pages
7. **Memorandum and Email from ADF&G regarding data security**.....3 pages
8. **Letters of support and petitions**25 pages

Alaska State Legislature

Session: (Jan-May)
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799



Interim: (June-Dec)
716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128

John Harris **Speaker of the House** **SPONSOR STATEMENT**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 186 (FSH)

"An Act relating to sharing with certain federal agencies records required of sport fishing guides; and providing for an immediate effective date."

House Bill 186 makes minor amendments to Alaska statutes to address a gap in current law.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game cannot share logbook information from charter fishermen with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This is resulting in management inefficiencies and increased costs and enforcement difficulties. To correct this, HB 186 would allow ADF&G to share confidential charter logbook information with these federal agencies. Shared information would remain confidential. The data released to these federal agencies would still not be able to be released to the general public.

The bill would make two minor amendments to AS 16.05.815, which provides confidentiality to certain reports and records required by ADF&G concerning landings of fish, shellfish or fishery products of fishermen, buyers and processors. Among the records that are confidential under this statute are records required of sport fishing under AS 16.40.280 and 5 AAC 75.076. These are logbooks kept by charter fishing guides recording daily fishing activities, including effort and catch information. The current statute provides for a number of exceptions allowing these reports and records to be released to specified entities for limited purposes; the amendments proposed by HB 186 add exceptions allowing records of sport fishing guides to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and NOAA.

In addition to existing exceptions, this bill will authorize the limited release of records required of sport fishing guides for two other purposes. Records from guides, including logbooks, could be shared with the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and for enforcement purposes, with law enforcement personnel of NMFS and NOAA. These records can already be shared with NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) for the purpose of fishery management planning, so the proposed bill expands the list of uses for the data.

Having the logbook data on halibut catches will allow the NPFMC more effectively to manage the federal halibut fisheries in the waters off Alaska's coasts. In recent years, the Council has wrestled with difficult and controversial decisions about the management of these fish, which are highly prized both by commercial and sport fishermen in Alaska. The availability of logbook records will give federal fisheries managers the information they need to better meet harvest goals and balance the requirements of all user groups. It will also eliminate the need to adopt a federal reporting program, easing reporting requirements on Alaskan guides.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 186(FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered: 3/22/07

Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HARRIS BY REQUEST, Thomas, Kelly, Seaton, Johnson, Wilson, Kerttula, Roses

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to sharing with certain federal agencies records required of sport**
2 **fishing guides; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 *** Section 1. AS 16.05.815(a) is amended to read:**

5 (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, records required by
6 regulations of the department concerning the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery
7 products, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors required
8 by regulation of the department are confidential and may not be released by the
9 department or by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission except as set
10 out in this subsection. The department may release the records and reports set out in
11 this subsection to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. The
12 department and the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release the
13 records and reports set out in this subsection to the recipients identified in this
14 subsection if the recipient, other than a recipient under (5) - (9) of this subsection,

1 agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the records and reports. The department and
2 the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release

3 (1) any of the records and reports to the National Marine Fisheries
4 Service and the professional staff of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council as
5 required for preparation and implementation of the fishery management plans of the
6 North Pacific Fishery Management Council within the exclusive economic zone;

7 (2) any of the records and reports to the professional staff of the
8 Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission who are employed in the Alaska Fisheries
9 Information Network project for the purpose of exchanging information with users
10 authorized by the department;

11 (3) any of the records and reports to the Department of Revenue to
12 assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities;

13 (4) records or reports of the total value purchased by each buyer to a
14 municipality that levies and collects a tax on fish, shellfish, or fishery products if the
15 municipality requires records of the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery products to
16 be submitted to it for purposes of verification of taxes payable;

17 (5) such records and reports as necessary to be in conformity with a
18 court order;

19 (6) on request, the report of a person to the person whose fishing
20 activity is the subject of the report, or to a designee of the person whose fishing
21 activity is the subject of the report;

22 (7) on request, annual statistical reports of a fisherman, buyer, or
23 processor to the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the subject of the
24 report, or to a designee of the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the
25 subject of the report;

26 (8) any of the records and reports to the Department of Public Safety
27 for law enforcement purposes;

28 (9) fish tickets, fish ticket information, records required of sport
29 fishing guides, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors and
30 information in those reports to the law enforcement personnel of the National Marine
31 Fisheries Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the

1 purpose of enforcing fishery laws in waters of this state and in waters of the exclusive
2 economic zone adjacent to this state;

3 (10) fish tickets, [AND] fish ticket information, and records required
4 of sport fishing guides regarding halibut to the International Pacific Halibut
5 Commission;

6 (11) any of the records and reports to the child support services agency
7 created in AS 25.27.010, or the child support enforcement agency of another state, for
8 child support purposes authorized under law; and

9 (12) any of the records and reports to the Department of Natural
10 Resources to assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities in
11 regard to sport fishing operations and sport fishing guides within the Kenai River
12 Special Management Area under AS 41.21.500 - 41.21.514.

13 * Sec. 2. The Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Law

TO: Denby Lloyd
Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

DATE: April 18, 2007

FILE NO.: 661-05-0435

THRU:

TEL NO.: 907-269-5232

FAX: 907-279-2834

FROM: Steven A. Daugherty ^{SD.}
Assistant Attorney General
Natural Resources - Anchorage

SUBJECT: House Bill 186

As a result of questions that you have received from legislators and federal officials regarding House Bill 186, you requested advice regarding whether further modification of CSHB 186 (FSH) or other legislation is needed to ensure that ADF&G will be able to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) and Coast Guard with access to sport fishing guide records that may be necessary for management and enforcement within the charter halibut fishery. For the reasons explained below, the answer is "no."

In an amendment to AS 16.05.815(a)(9), section 1 CSHB 186 (FSH) clearly addresses the issue of access to records required of sport fishing guides for law enforcement personnel of the NMFS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). There has been some discussion of whether it is necessary to add the Coast Guard to this section, and we have determined that it is not necessary because this section is not relevant to "on the water" access, but merely to records held by the State. "On the water" access to logbooks can be provided to the Coast Guard by regulation under existing authority of AS 16.40.280, and any after the fact investigation can be referred from the Coast Guard to NOAA enforcement. Therefore no change to CSHB186 (FSH) is needed to provide adequate access for federal enforcement.

Other issues have been raised with regard to the existing language of AS 16.05.815(a)(1), and it has been suggested by federal officials that this section might need to be amended. This section provides for the release, subject to confidentiality restrictions, of:

any of the records and reports to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the professional staff of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council as required for preparation and implementation of the fishery management

plans of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council within the exclusive economic zone;

AS 16.05.815(a)(1). Some concern has been expressed by federal officials that this section's use of the term "fishery management plans" might be too restrictive. Similarly concern has been expressed regarding the phrases "of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council" and "within the exclusive economic zone."

You have asked us to address three specific questions regarding these concerns: (1) Is the State required to construe the term "fishery management plan" narrowly or may it be construed broadly to include any regulation pertaining to a plan for fishery management; (2) Can the statute be construed to allow release of information to the NMFS when it is promulgating a regulation at the request of the NPFMC; and (3) Does the statute only allow release of information regarding fishing that occurs completely within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), or does it allow release of information from state waters that relates to a fishery that occurs in both State waters and within the EEZ?

First, we do not believe that anything in AS 16.05.815(a)(1) requires a narrow construction of the term "fishery management plan." Requiring designation as a "fishery management plan" would put form over substance, and we believe that the term can reasonably be interpreted to allow release of any information related to planning for fishery management.

Second, we believe that the statute can be construed to allow release of information to the NMFS when it is necessary for promulgation of a regulation by the NMFS at the request of the NPFMC. The NMFS is provided with the same access to access to confidential data as the professional staff of the NPFMC under 16.05.815(a)(1), and we believe that nothing in 16.05.815(a)(1) requires an interpretation prohibiting NMFS from using this information, at the request of the NPFMC, where there is not adequate time for adoption and implementation of an action directly by the NPFMC.

Third, we believe that the most reasonable construction of the language regarding the EEZ in AS 16.05.815(a)(1) is that release of information is allowed if the information is needed for development of plans for any fishery that occurs within the EEZ, regardless of whether that fishery occurs solely in the EEZ.

For the foregoing reasons, we believe that existing statutory authority, as modified by the current language of CSHB 186 (FSH), is adequate to provide the NMFS, NPFMC, and Coast Guard with access to sport fishing guide records that may be necessary for management and enforcement within the charter halibut fishery.

Denby Lloyd,
Commissioner, ADF&G

April 18, 2007
Page 3

cc: Tim Barry, Legislative Liaison, ADF&G
Kelly Hepler, Director of Sport Fisheries, ADF&G
Deborah Behr, Legislation and Regulations Attorney
Lance Nelson, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Section 2. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

Intent. (a) It is the intent of the legislature that shared records required of sport fishing guides maintain the strongest level of accountability and protection practicable under the law except when actually used in an enforcement proceeding.

(b) It is the further intent of the legislature that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game exercise its authority to share records of sport fishing guides collected by the department only after ensuring that such sharing is subject to an agreement to ensure accountability and protection, similar to the existing Memorandum of Agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of September 23, 1999, under which unauthorized disclosures may result in penalties under 18 U.S.C. 201-209 and 18 U.S.C. 1905 or under other similar provisions of law.

compliance. The State could further support this by requiring those businesses selling sportfishing licenses to do the same.

b. The recreational charter fishery is highly competitive. While there are some operations in isolated locations, many boats tie up and operate in close proximity to other charter. It is reasonable to expect that those operators who are following the rules would be quick to notice another operator who wasn't following the rules.¹³

c. Charter operators are required to have a current Coast Guard license to operate. One of the conditions of the license requires the operator to comply with all Federal regulations. Charter operators potentially risk losing their Coast Guard license if they violate Federal fisheries regulations. It is reasonable to conclude that because of the nature of the Coast Guard license, inferring a trust and responsibility to the licensee, as well as the double jeopardy implications, charter operators would likely have a higher rate of compliance with GHF options than might otherwise be expected.

Additionally, note that ADF&G currently regulates the recreational harvest of king salmon, rainbow trout, salmon sharks, and other species in certain areas by requiring anglers to record harvests of these species on the back of their fishing licenses immediately upon harvest. This system or a system involving charter stamps could be used to regulate annual harvest limits in Area 2C.

These factors, along with the current system of opportunistic enforcement, may provide a level of compliance sufficient to ensure the GHF options have the desired effect in controlling the fishery.

In addition to the discussion above, NOAA Fisheries provided the following discussion of enforcement issues.

2.7.12 NOAA Fisheries Discussion of Enforcement and Reporting Requirements

Enforcement and reporting requirements

Use of state recordkeeping and reporting tools

State recordkeeping and reporting requirements meet federal information requirements for option 1 and 3. Current state statute and administration policy prevents NOAA OLE from accessing SCVL or angler license information. Federal access to these sources of information would require the following regulatory and administrative changes:

- (1) The State of Alaska legislature would need to amend the State confidentiality statute to allow NOAA OLE and NMFS access to confidential angler and operator information. Without this information, NOAA OLE cannot seize angler license information and logbooks for inspection and evidence, enter logbook and license data in Federal court, or perform post season audits of data to pursue violators (Table 69). NMFS would also need access to angler and charter operator registration and logbook information to provide the necessary program support (e.g., database management). A memorandum of understanding between the State, NOAA OLE, and NMFS would also likely be needed to allow data sharing.

¹³ Charter operators cannot offer a "trip with higher bag or rod limits," as suggested in this excerpt. Those limits are set in regulation and operators would not advertise illegal activity.

- (2) NOAA OLE would need to be deputized by the State of Alaska Commission of Public Safety. NOAA OLE needs the authority to inspect logbooks, angler licenses, or catch cards (Table 69). Without this authority, anglers and charter operators are not obligated to show their license information to a Federal enforcement officer.

Table 69. Summary of NOAA OLE enforcement actions and their applicable State laws.

Enforcement Method	Enforcement Action	Current Federal Authority	State law prohibiting Enforcement Action
At-sea and dockside inspection	Inspect State sport fishing license, or Permanent Identification Card	None	State confidentiality/ NOAA OLE not deputized by State
	Inspect State charter logbooks	None	State confidentiality/ NOAA OLE not deputized by State
	Seize license or logbook as evidence	None	State confidentiality
	Enter licenses or logbooks into Federal court	None	State confidentiality
End of season audit of logbooks	Review logbooks (electronic databases) maintained by the State	None	State confidentiality

Note that implementation of the halibut charter moratorium program will require NMFS RAM Division, NOAA Enforcement, and the Appeals Division to have access to state logbook and business information. The preferred approach to obtaining access to these data is explicit authorization in state statute to allow logbook and business data to be transferred from the State of Alaska to NOAA. ADF&G staff have conveyed that language accomplishing this need has been submitted to the Governor's office and is intended to be reviewed by the legislature during the 2007 session. If these changes to do not meet Federal recordkeeping and reporting requirements, or state recordkeeping and reporting tools do not meet Federal enforcement needs, then Federal recordkeeping and reporting tools would be required.

Trip Limit (Option 1)

The trip limit described in Alternative 2, Option 1 would require NOAA OLE to determine the number of trips taken by a charter vessel for a given day. The regulation for a trip limit would indicate that a charter halibut trip begins on a charter fishing vessel when a halibut is harvested and ends (1) when any halibut is offloaded from that vessel; (2) when any person that was present on that vessel when a halibut was harvested disembarks; or (3) at 23:59 hours, whichever comes first. This language indicated that a trip is focused on the harvesting of halibut and does not include trips where halibut harvest did not occur or clients were being transported between sites. This definition would require NOAA OLE to have onboard documentation of angler-specific trip and harvest information that is linked to the day a trip started and ended. The language used in the final rule would likely be different from the proposed language, but would contain all the important elements in the proposed language, including a trip linked to each day fished and client/halibut offloading being a termination point for a trip.

The ADF&G logbook currently collects this information and is specific to the both the trip and day fished. To provide onsite enforcement of the regulation, NOAA OLE would need the date when the trip started, the date when the trip ended, and information that would identify clients who harvested halibut. The State 2007 logbook will indicate the day a fishing trip occurred. This would provide NOAA OLE with information about the date the trip started, including the number of trips that occurred on a given day, and the date the trip ended. An operator could cheat on the logbook by recording two trips under a single trip; however, the client limit in area 2C would require the total number of clients on any single trip to not exceed six. If six people were recorded in the logbook and not onboard the vessel when checked by

NOAA OLE, the operator would be in violation. Recording multiple trips under the auspices of a single trip would also be detrimental to the logbook information collected by ADF&G.

If the State logbook meets Federal recordkeeping and reporting requirements, additional reporting requirements associated with this regulation would be minimal. Section 2.1 discusses the legal requirements for NOAA OLE to use the State logbook. If the State logbook cannot be used by NOAA OLE or does not meet enforcement needs, a Federal logbook program would be required. A Federal logbook program would require operators/business owners to register with NMFS, obtain a logbook, and meet the reporting requirements. The type of information required annually under a Federal logbook program includes operator contact information, guide contact information, client harvest information, port of offloading, start/stop date for a trip, and vessel identification. A Federal logbook would substantially increase the reporting burden on charter operators because they would be required to meet State and Federal recordkeeping and reporting requirements. Moreover, the types of information recorded in each logbook would largely be duplicative.

Prohibition of retention by skipper or crew (Option 2)

An option to prohibit the retention of halibut by skipper and crew was promulgated by ADF&G in area 2C for 2006 (Emergency Order, EO, # 1-R-01-0631) and areas 3A and 2C for 2007 (EO # 2-R-03-02-07 and 1-R-02-07, respectively). These EO regulations apply to the charter fishery (including species other than halibut) and are enforced by the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety. A Federal regulation prohibiting the retention of halibut by skipper and crew would require NOAA OLE to enforce the regulation.

Enforcement of a regulation prohibiting skipper and crew retention would require enforcement to observation skipper or crew harvest at sea or a vessel returning to the dock with the number of harvested halibut exceeding the collective bag limit for clients. The logbook records skipper and crew harvest; however, obviously skipper and crew would generally not record an illegally harvested halibut. Thus, the logbook would facilitate NOAA OLE's ability to issue a citation only if the number of harvested halibut exceeded the number of anglers that are not skipper or crew. This would not eliminate the ability of anglers to avoid this regulation by designating a person that would otherwise be a skipper or crew as an angler. NOAA OLE could identify guides using their ADF&G guide license (assuming the conditions in Section 2.0 are met); however, crew are not required to be licensed by the State or Federal government and thus do not have any identification information indicating they are crew. Enforcement of this regulation would improve commensurate with increased enforcement staffing levels.

According to ADF&G logbook data from 1999 through 2001, harvests by crew members accounted for between 3.3 percent and 4.5 percent of the annual halibut harvest in Area 2C. ADF&G estimates from November 2006 concluded that the May 24, 2006 Emergency Order that banned skipper and crew harvest of halibut while paying clients were on the vessel saved approximately 86,000 pounds. This estimate results in an approximate harvest reduction of 4 percent using the 2006 SWHS information. Thus, a reduction in catch within that range of the ADF&G estimate for 1999-2000 was realized. This suggests compliance with the skipper and crew reduction is currently occurring in the fishery.

Annual Limit (Option 3)

The annual limit would substantially increase Federal enforcement and administrative costs in Area 2C. In 2006, approximately 87,700 charter clients, distributed over 681 charter vessels, fished from a charter vessel in Area 2C (ADF&G 2006). ADF&G estimates that approximately 7 percent of these clients harvested six or more halibut and approximately 10 percent of the clients harvested five or more halibut.

Given the 2-fish daily bag limit described in status quo, anglers harvesting more than four fish would have fished for at least three days.

Regulations for the proposed annual limit would be directed at anglers fishing for halibut and charter operators offering guided halibut services in Area 2C. The annual limit would apply to anglers paying for charter services to fish for halibut. However, under this interpretation of the annual limit, crew and skipper could continue to harvest halibut and give those halibut to the anglers. The regulation could be promulgated to enforce the annual limit on charter anglers fishing from a vessel in which at least one angler on-board the vessel hired a guide to offer halibut fishing services. Without the inclusion or ban on skipper and crew harvest, this option would allow skipper and crew to retain their bag limit of halibut and give those halibut to clients as a gift.

Enforcement of lodges and multi-day fishing charters presents a unique set of logistical issues for NOAA OLE. Lodges may have a single charter vessel or a group of charter vessels operating in remote areas that are only accessible by airplane or boat. These remote fishing operations increase the enforcement costs for several reasons: (1) travel time to and from the enforcement area is increased; (2) enforcement activities may require several days to adequately cover an area; and (3) angler patterns such as fishing locations, the timing for the departure and arrival of new clients, and daily fishing schedule are poorly understood. It is important that NOAA OLE has adequate staff and enforcement tools to overcome these issues to ensure the annual limit is perceived as credible (i.e., they may get caught if in violation) by anglers.

The credibility of an enforcement effort depends on several factors, including the likelihood of detecting a violation, the swiftness of the enforcement response, and the perception that enforcement actions are real (Iannuzzi 2002). Moreover, deterrence-based enforcement is most successful when a well developed compliance program is designed to identify and correct violations, establish an enforcement presence, collect evidence needed to support enforcement actions, and help target enforcement activities (Rechtschaffen and Markell 2003). In the case of the charter fishery, detection of a violation for the annual limit would be heavily reliant on reporting requirements for charter anglers and operators, and the ability of enforcement to enforce regulations in remote areas. Without sufficient documentation of a violation, cases will not be prosecuted, which may reduce the credibility and effectiveness of the regulation.

These issues were addressed in a June 2006 NOAA OLE memo and during a meeting between NOAA Fisheries, Council Staff, NOAA OLE, ADF&G, and NOAA General Counsel. In the memo and at the meeting, NOAA OLE indicated the following criteria must be met for the annual limit to be enforceable:

- NOAA OLE would need the ability to check for compliance at sea, dockside, and through a post-season audit of angler catch. To meet these needs, a harvest record indicating the number of halibut harvested would be needed for each angler, as well as a vessel-specific record of each angler's catch (serially matched to an angler's catch card) that would be submitted to NOAA OLE on a regular basis throughout the fishing season. A vessel-specific record would be needed to track the charter operators involved with violations. The angler harvest record would be used during dock-side or at-sea enforcement and to provide a record of angler-specific halibut harvest for the charter guide.
- Use of State recordkeeping and reporting tools would require NOAA OLE to obtain the necessary authority to inspect State recordkeeping tools (i.e., charter logbook and sport fishing license). Because of State statutory law, the Federal government cannot obtain charter logbook or angler license information at the resolution necessary for enforcement. Moreover, NOAA OLE is not

authorized by the State to enforce State regulations, and thus cannot require an angler to show his or her license to an enforcement agent.

- NOAA OLE would need the ability to audit charter logbooks at the end of a charter fishing season. This audit would reveal anglers that exceeded the 5-fish annual limit, including anglers who fished on multiple charter vessels.

A detailed discussion paper about the annual limit was presented to the Council at its October 2006 meeting (NMFS 2006). The paper provides a detailed discussion on the types of recordkeeping and reporting tools that could be used and their associated costs.

Type of information required by NOAA OLE

To enforce the annual limit, NOAA OLE would need harvest information for each charter angler, angler contact information, charter guide contact information, and vessel identification information. NOAA OLE would need to know the number of halibut harvested for each charter angler and each charter trip taken by an angler. This would require NOAA OLE to determine the halibut harvested for each angler, the charter operator (guide and business), the number of halibut harvested by each angler, angler contact information, port of landing, and vessel identification number (USCG or Department of Motor Vehicle Registration). The ADF&G sportfish license currently requires an angler's up-to-date information on catches of species that are managed under annual limits. As stated in the GHL proposed rule (2002 FR 3867), adequate monitoring of the annual limit would require that halibut harvested aboard guided recreational vessels be added to this list. The proposed rule also explains that adequate recordkeeping and reporting requirements are imperative to the rule enforceability and, hence, the success of the harvest option.

There are several approaches that could be used to implement an annual limit and satisfy NOAA OLE enforcement requirements. In summary, the recordkeeping and reporting alternatives in the discussion paper are as follows:

- Federal use of the State reporting tools: NMFS and NOAA OLE would work with the State and use the State charter logbook and angler licensing system to meet enforcement requirements.
- Federal recordkeeping and reporting tools: NMFS and NOAA OLE would develop and implement a Federal logbook and angler catch record to meet enforcement requirements. Two methods could be used to implement a Federal logbook:
 - Written logbook: A written logbook similar to the current ADF&G charter logbook would be submitted to NMFS by charter operators. Anglers would use a written catch record.
 - Electronic logbook. Logbook information would be electronically reported to NMFS and NOAA OLE. Anglers would use a written angler catch record.

The discussion paper concludes the most cost-effective and least burdensome method for the public and the least expensive method for NMFS would be to utilize the State logbook and angler license or catch cards. This conclusion was presented to the Council at its December 2006 meeting. For this reason, only the costs associated with using State reporting tools are discussed in the following sections.

Cost estimate for using State reporting tools

Federal use of the State logbook and angler licenses would require additional staff time. Federal staff would be required to coordinate with ADF&G and respond to agency needs. A part time NMFS or NOAA OLE staff person would be required to process and query operator, business, and angler information. This person would also provide assistance to NOAA OLE with the collection of evidence, administrative correspondence, preparation of cases, and maintenance of the database by working closely with NMFS programmers and ADF&G staff as needed. The expected annual cost for a GS-9 part time NMFS staff person is approximately \$50,000.

Programmer time would also be required to build and maintain a secure Federal database. Periodic data transfers would be the simplest database format, with programmer time required to construct and maintain the Federal database and workstation structure. Construction and maintenance of this database would likely be minimal, requiring one to two weeks of programmer time annually. The estimated cost for NMFS programmer time is \$2,500 to \$5,000, annually.

Federal use of State charter and angler recordkeeping and reporting tools would require ADF&G administrative support. To meet Federal data needs, ADF&G would need to provide adequate staff time to query charter operator and angler information, package this information, and send it to NMFS annually. ADF&G staff time would also be required to coordinate with the NMFS and NOAA OLE to develop a transfer methodology (including security concerns) and provide ongoing support to NMFS staff. Moreover, additional ADF&G staff time may be required to respond to NOAA OLE request for scanned logbook pages and angler license information before the information is transferred to a NMFS database. ADF&G would need to respond to requests for scanned logbook pages on a case by case basis.

A secure Internet portal may reduce NMFS programmer time. An Internet portal would allow designated NMFS and NOAA OLE employees to log on to an ADF&G site or sites to access charter logbook and angler data. This option would result in ADF&G incurring programmer costs associated with implementing the portal and necessary query structure. The extent of these costs is largely unknown because the data query and programming structure have yet to be determined. The Internet portal would also likely require a high level of coordination between the agencies and would be more programmer intensive than a periodic data transfer.

If the previously discussed legal and administrative issues are resolved, NMFS and NOAA OLE could use the information from the SCVL, guide and business registration, and angler license database to identify and pursue cases. Once a violation was identified, NOAA OLE would use the serialized angler license number to obtain information (including PID and DVL information) about the individual angler from the ADF&G license database, and the logbook to identify the charter operator and vessel (including the registered business). Anglers and charter operators would be contacted about their violation, and enforcement would take appropriate action.

Federal regulations implementing the annual limit would describe the type of information a charter operator and client are required to record. The State's logbook and angler sport fishing license would be used to fulfill these information needs as outlined in Federal regulation. However, Federal regulations cannot only refer to the completion of the State logbook and angler license as fulfilling Federal reporting requirements. Regulations must describe the type of information to be recorded in the State logbook and indicate the State logbook could be used to meet these information needs. For example, in the commercial fishery, regulations at 50 CFR 697.5 describe information that is to be reported for the commercial fishery.

The State may change its logbook and angler license requirements at any point in time, including a change to the information requirements for charter operators and anglers. These changes may result in

State reporting tools not meeting the information requirements for enforcing the annual limit. Moreover, changes to State law may also prevent NOAA OLE from accessing information essential to enforcement or change the authority granted to NOAA OLE to enforce the annual limit. In either situation, NOAA OLE would not be able to enforce the annual limit using State reporting tools and a Federal logbook program would be necessary.

Minimum size (Options 5 and 8)

Alternative 2, Option 5, would require one halibut to be at least 45, 50, 55, or 60 inches in length as option from the head to tail or under Option 8, both halibut would need to be 32 inches or greater as option from head to tail. Enforcement of this type of regulation would require on-the-water or dockside option of harvested halibut. This management option would not require any additional reporting requirements for charter operators or charter anglers. However, Option 5 would require operators to position fish greater than 43 lb, 60 lb, 82 lb, or under 109 lb in such a way that they could be option. This means that operators would be required to bring their halibut to the side of the vessel or onboard the vessel for measurement. The capture, measuring, and release of large species is not unprecedented in federally and state managed recreational fisheries. For example, certain shark and marlin species on the Atlantic Coast have minimum size requirements that are comparable to the release sizes considered under Option 5. The 2006 Atlantic shark regulations require a 54 inch minimum length limit applied to the allowable harvest of one shark per vessel per day (including mako and porbeagle) and a 99 inch limit minimum size limit on blue marlin. Moreover, in southeast Alaska, charter anglers are required to option Chinook salmon and Lingcod.

Closure dates and one-fish bag limit (Option 4, 6, 7)

The enforcement of closure dates and a one-fish bag limit both require on-the-water or dockside enforcement and both require an enforcement officer to observe a person with an illegal halibut. This would require regular visits by enforcement officers to areas where halibut are landed. These areas include remote areas such as lodges and urbanized areas such as Auke Bay or Sitka. In the case of a closure, enforcement officers would need to check offloading sites throughout the closure period and board vessels to determine the presence of illegally harvested halibut. A one-fish bag limit would require enforcement officer to spot check charter anglers at the dock and inspect vessels to insure all fish are counted. These regulator options would not require additional recordkeeping and reporting than already occurs under the status quo.

Enforcement costs

With the exception of the annual limit (Option 3), NOAA OLE does not have a cost estimate for enforcement of the options described under Alternative 2. It is difficult to derive a cost estimate for these options because of the large number of vessels and anglers distributed over a large, remote geographical area. Enforcement costs would vary with the desired level of enforcement. Under the status quo, enforcement does not have the resources required to provide a credible level of enforcement for the options under Alternative 2. For example, in 2006 NOAA OLE reported boarding only 14 charter trips (out of 20,000 trips); whereas in the IFQ fisher for halibut and sablefish, NOAA OLE inspected 146 trips (out of 7,500 trips). Greater compliance with the proposed action would be obtained if enforcement resources were increased to a level similar to the annual limit. This magnitude of increase would require an additional \$600,000 in enforcement funds which would fund four enforcement officers. This funding increase would allow enforcement officers to inspect a greater proportion of the trips taken annually by charter operators in area 2C.

In addition to an increase in enforcement presence, certain attributes associated with the charter industry may increase compliance with regulations. In a summary of a discussion between representatives from NOAA Fisheries, ADF&G, Alaska Department of Public Safety, and the United States Coast Guard (USCG), several attributes were identified that could increase compliance in the charter fishery (Council 2006):

...there are characteristics of the recreational fishery that suggest a different and lesser level of enforcement may be needed to ensure an adequate level of compliance with the program. Several characteristics of the fishery differentiate it from other fisheries and work to the advantage of regulators.

- a) The recreational charter fishery operates in the public eye. Requiring operators to prominently post GHL control options... onboard charter vessels would help promote compliance. The State could further support by requiring those businesses selling sport fishing licenses to do the same.*
- b) The recreational charter fishery is highly competitive. While there are some operations in isolated locations, many boats tie up and operate in close proximity to other charters. It is reasonable to expect that those operators who are following the rules would be quick to notice another operator who wasn't following the rules.*
- c) ...because of the nature of Coast Guard license requirements, inferring a trust and responsibility to the licensee, as well as the double jeopardy implications, charter operators would likely have a higher rate of compliance with GHL options than might otherwise be expected.*

These points are useful for augmenting enforcement efforts, but all may in part rely on the enforcement effort being perceived as credible by charter operators and the angling public. It is unlikely that point (a) could be mandated due to the additional enforcement required to insure posting occurred on all charter boats, and the logistical and enforcement complexity of insuring vendors post the regulation. However, anglers could be made aware of the regulation by posting the information at port of landing, news releases, websites, and on catch/harvest cards. Point (b) would likely be most effective in areas with multiple charter vessel operators from different lodges in close proximity, or clients with knowledge of the regulation to pressure a guide to comply. Some clients would be operating from remote lodges where few, if any, neighboring lodges exist. Thus, multi-day charters and isolated lodges violating a regulation would likely be unaffected by peer pressure unless clients were aware of the regulation and NOAA OLE was able to detect violations. Finally, point (c) would rely on a charter operator's evaluation of the risk and cost of being caught in violation against potential rewards (e.g., happy client) and a desire to follow regulations. Given the potential sanction associated with being caught and the desire by some guides to inherently follow regulations, many guides/operators would likely not risk the penalty from an infraction or want to break the law.

Charter operator responsibilities

Charter operators (guides) may be held responsible by NOAA OLE if charter anglers exceed their annual halibut limit. Enforcement action may be taken on a charter guide and charter angler if the annual limit is exceeded. The nature of the violation and the final regulations would determine how the enforcement action is carried out. The Halibut Act provides for enforcement action on a charter guide at 773(i)(c) who has charter anglers in violation of the halibut regulations:

If any officer authorized to enforce this subchapter (as provided for in this section) finds that a fishing vessel is operating or has been operated in the commission of an act prohibited by section 773e of this title, such officer may, in accordance with regulations issued jointly by the Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, issue a citation to the owner or operator of such vessel...

The International Halibut Commission (IPHC) regulations specify the regulation at Section 25(18):

The operator of a charter vessel shall be liable for any violations of these regulations committed by a passenger aboard said vessel.

The definition of an operator is specific at Section 3(1)(m):

"Operator", with respect to any vessel, means the owner and/or master or other individual on board and in charge of that vessel.

In addition to the IPHC regulations, the USCG also has the authority to revoke operating licenses if a charter operator fails to comply with all Federal regulations. Thus, violation of the GHL regulation would constitute a violation of Federal regulation, which may result in enforcement action by the USCG.

NOAA OLE would have the authority to take enforcement action on the charter angler or operator depending on the infraction. Charter operators would be solely responsible for charter logbook recordkeeping and reporting requirements, as well as requirements associated with the distribution of angler catch cards. The situation associated with the violation would determine the action taken by NOAA OLE. A detailed discussion about recordkeeping and reporting tools is found in Section 2.0.

2.7.13 Effects on Net Benefits to the Nation

The net benefits to the nation arising out of the action options can accrue from several sources. First, the action options should initially reverse and then slow the open-ended reallocation between commercial and guided sport sectors. This reversal should instill commercial quota holders with greater confidence in the value of their quotas, which will in turn support the market for quota shares and encourage appropriate investment and capitalization in the commercial sector. Further, the reallocation of halibut harvest amounts back to the commercial sector may affect the benefits realized by U.S. consumers through changes in product availability and price. This section summarizes the different effects of the options to allow comparison and conclusions concerning the overall effects of the options on net benefits to the nation.

No Action/Status Quo

If the current management of charter halibut harvests in Area 2C continues, the net benefits to the nation are likely to follow their current trend. The open-ended reallocation to the guided sport sector from the commercial sector will continue and likely grow as guided sport sector harvest has grown in recent years. This reallocation will increase uncertainty for commercial quota holders and could affect benefits realized by U.S. consumers through changes in product availability and price.

For prior analyses the SSC requested that the discussion of the no-action alternative be expanded to include estimates of consumer losses due to reductions in the commercial TAC if charter-based sport fishing overages continued. The analysis combined the overage estimates derived for the ex-vessel revenue losses analysis with a consumer surplus and total revenue model from Herrmann and Criddle

Memorandum

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport, Research and Technical Services Unit

To: Doug Vincent-Lang, Special Assistant
Division of Sport Fish

From: Kirk Brogdon, Analyst Programmer V
Division of Sport Fish

Date: 4/26/2007

Re: Guide licensing and logbook data security and data archiving

Data Security Overview

All electronic data collected from the Guide Licensing and Logbook programs are stored in a secure database that can only be accessed by users that have been authenticated through the network security login process and have been granted explicit permission to do so. Users are further restricted based on database security roles so that no one has access to any item of data unless they have been granted that access specifically by the owner of the database or a database system administrator. This method allows for the flexibility to grant specific users permission to only see selected subsets of data without the capability to make any sort of changes to that data. It also ensures that any sort of confidentiality based business rules can be applied to filter any data requests before processing. It also allows us to immediately change or restrict data access permissions for a specific user at the initial login level.

Jody Simpson

From: Sharon Long
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2007 8:27 AM
To: Jody Simpson
Subject: FW: Fines under 18 usc 1905

Attachments: Fed disclosure of Conf data 18 usc 1905.pdf



Fed disclosure of
Conf data 18...

-----Original Message-----

From: Douglas S Vincent-Lang [mailto:douglas_vincent-lang@fishgame.state.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2007 7:51 AM
To: Sharon Long; 'Tim M Barry'; 'Steven Daugherty'
Subject: FW: Fines under 18 usc 1905

Actual fines for disclosing confidential information.

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Lenhart [mailto:tom_lenhart@law.state.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2007 3:45 PM
To: douglas_vincent-lang@fishgame.state.ak.us;
tim_barry@fishgame.state.ak.us; Steven Daugherty
Subject: Fines under 18 usc 1905

I was able to work through Title 18 regarding the maximum fine for violation of 18 USC 1905.

Pursuant to 18 USC 3559(a)(6), an offense under Title 18 is a Class A misdemeanor if it carries maximum imprisonment of between six months and one year. (Section 1905 is one year max)

Pursuant to 18 USC 3571(b)(5), violations of Title 18 that are Class A misdemeanors that do not result in death are subject to a fine of not more than \$100,000.

>>> Steven Daugherty 04/20 4:18 PM >>>

This is the generally applicable statute for disclosures of confidential information by federal employees. It is specifically cited in our data sharing agreement with the NMFS. I have not yet been able to determine what the potential fines are.

Steven A. Daugherty
Assistant Attorney General
907-269-5287

Westlaw.

Page 1

18 U.S.C.A. § 1905

C

Effective: [See Notes]

United States Code Annotated Currentness

Title 18. Crimes and Criminal Procedure (Refs & Annos)

* Part 1. Crimes (Refs & Annos)

* Chapter 93. Public Officers and Employees (Refs & Annos)

→ § 1905. Disclosure of confidential information generally

Whoever, being an officer or employee of the United States or of any department or agency thereof, any person acting on behalf of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, or agent of the Department of Justice as defined in the Antitrust Civil Process Act (15 U.S.C. 1311-1314), or being an employee of a private sector organization who is or was assigned to an agency under chapter 37 of title 5, publishes, divulges, discloses, or makes known in any manner or to any extent not authorized by law any information coming to him in the course of his employment or official duties or by reason of any examination or investigation made by, or return, report or record made to or filed with, such department or agency or officer or employee thereof, which information concerns or relates to the trade secrets, processes, operations, style of work, or apparatus, or to the identity, confidential statistical data, amount or source of any income, profits, losses, or expenditures of any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association; or permits any income return or copy thereof or any book containing any abstract or particulars thereof to be seen or examined by any person except as provided by law; shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both; and shall be removed from office or employment.

CREDIT(S)

(June 25, 1948, c. 645, 62 Stat. 791; Sept. 12, 1980, Pub.L. 96-349, § 7(b), 94 Stat. 1158; Oct. 28, 1992, Pub.L. 102-550, Title XIII, § 1353, 106 Stat. 3970; Oct. 11, 1996, Pub.L. 104-294, Title VI, § 601(a)(8), 110 Stat. 3498; Dec. 17, 2002, Pub.L. 107-347, Title II, § 209(d)(2), 116 Stat. 2930.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Revision Notes and Legislative Reports

1948 Acts. Based on section 176b of Title 15, U.S.C., 1940 ed., Commerce and Trade; section 216 of Title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed.; section 1335 of Title 19, U.S.C., 1940 ed., Customs Duties (R.S. § 3167; Aug. 27, 1894, c. 349, § 24, 28 Stat. 557; Feb. 26, 1926, c. 27, § 115, 44 Stat. 117; June 17, 1930, c. 497, Title III, § 335, 46 Stat. 701; Jan. 27, 1938, c. 11, § 2, 52 Stat. 8).

Section consolidates section 176b of Title 15, U.S.C., 1940 ed., Commerce and Trade; section 216 of Title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., and section 1335 of Title 19, U.S.C., 1940 ed., Customs Duties.

Words "or of any department or agency thereof" and words "such department or agency" were inserted so as to eliminate any possible ambiguity as to scope of section. (See definition of "department" and "agency" in section 6 of this title.)

References to the offenses as misdemeanors, contained in all of said sections, were omitted in view of definitive

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone 907-586-6652

Fax 907-523-1168

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



E-mail: seafa@gci.net

March 25, 2007

House Resource Committee
Rep. Craig Johnson, Co-Chair
Rep. Carl Gatto, Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support HB 186

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) supports HB 186 that allows data sharing of charter records between ADFG and IPHC and NMFS. Had this data sharing been in place the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) action taken in 2006 for an annual limit for clients on charter vessels in Southeast (2C) would likely be being implemented in 2007 instead it was rescinded because of enforcement issues with the inability to share data. This is why IPHC took an action because the NPFMC could not re-implement a different management measure in time for the 2007 season. The NPFMC at the end of March and at their June meeting will be looking at management measures for Southeast (2C) for 2008, again many of these measures will not work without data sharing between ADFG & NMFS Enforcement. We are attaching several pages of the NPFMC 2C management measures analysis that explain this issue more fully. These measures that can't be implemented without the data sharing in place are the management measures most likely to be the least onerous on the charter industry such as annual limits. The data will also make the implementation of the halibut charter moratorium simpler for all involved. Please pass this legislation so that the NPFMC can take meaningful action that can be implemented.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone 907-586-6652

Fax 907-523-1168

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



E-mail: seafa@gci.net

April 8, 2007

Representative John Harris
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Interdepartmental Mail Stop:3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Rep. Harris,

While we were at the NPFMC meeting, everyone was testifying in support of HB 186 although not many had taken the time to write in support so we set up these petitions. You will see that it is a combination of charter and commercial representatives and companies that signed them.

Please use as appropriate for the committee meetings in the Senate.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy H.", followed by a horizontal line.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

Support HB 186 Confidential Sharing of Sportfish Data

We, the undersigned support HB 186 that allows confidential data sharing of sportfish data between NMFS, NMFS Enforcement and IPHC.

Name/Signature (legible)	Address	Affiliation
Edward R Hansen Edward R Hansen	9369 north Douglas Hwy, Juneau	AK Halibut Fisherman
Rick Bierman Rick Bierman	P.O. Box 210166 CUKA Bay, AK 99821	Juneau Charter Boat Owners Assn.
TIM EVERS	P.O. Box 39547 NINILCHIK, AK. 99631	Deep Creek Charterboat Assoc.
CHROME CORA CROME	P.O. Box 232 Petersburg, AK 99833	Petersburg Vessel Owners Assoc.
John Hansen John Hansen	417 ARROWHEAD ST. SITKA, AK 99835	THE BOAT COMPANY
KEN NEMAN	1424 MISSISSIPPI RD, SITKA, AK 99615	KACD Charter
CHRIS FIALA	Box 3750 KODIAK AK 99617	KACD Charter
Robert D. Alven Robert D. Alven	Rm 282 4015 20 th Ave W., South Haven, MI 49781	FVOD - NAST
REX MURPHY	PO Box 3309 HOMER AK 99603	AK CHARTER ASSN.
GREG SUITER	10 Box 2302 HOMER AK 99603	ALASKA CHARTER ASSN.
James	PO Box 1165 SITKA AK 99835	AK CHARTER ASSN.
Rennan Eude Rennan Eude	Box 576, Wrangell, AK 99929	Commercial Fisherman
JEFF FARVAT	439 Versteiga AVE, SITKA, AK. 99835	Commercial Fisherman
ERIK BAHNSEN	P.O. Box 6362 SITKA, AK 99835	Charter Fisherman
DAN PALUCCI	123 ANNA DR, SITKA AK 99835	COMM. FISH.
ANGELA PRADSON Angela Pradson	1709 H.P.E. #3, SITKA AK 99835	COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN
Angie Williams	PO Box 6455 Sitka AK 99835	ALFA
Rhonda Hubbard	P.O. Box 3302, Seward AK 99664	Commercial Fisherman
Linda Behrke, ALFA	103 Lincoln St 237 SITKA AK 99835	AK Longline Fishermen's Assoc.
John Miller	Box 32425 Juneau, AK. 99903	SE Salmon Fisherman
JOHN JENSEN John E Jensen	Box 601 Petersburg AK 99833	COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN

Support HB 186 Confidential Sharing of Sportfish Data

We, the undersigned support HB 186 that allows confidential data sharing of sportfish data between NMFS, NMFS Enforcement and IPHC.

Name/Signature (legible)	Address	Affiliation
<i>Michelle Johnson</i>	119 Saward Street, Sitka, Juneau 99801	Oscar Alaska
<i>Matthew Thoms</i>	P.O. Box 6243 SITKA, AK 99835	Island View Resort
<i>Simon Swensen</i>	Box 4304 KODIAK, AK 99615	Processor
<i>Michael Martin</i>	BOX 351 NOME, AK 99762	COG/NSEIX
<i>Thomas Johnson</i>	Box 889 KODIAK, AK 99615	Elizabeth F. Isaac
<i>John Miller</i>	P.O. Box 349 Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Eli Jay Mat
<i>John Eiler</i>	2900 FRITE COVE RD Juneau 99801	EV WUNDERBAR
<i>Julianne J. Curran</i>	Box 920541 DUSEN HARBOUR, AK 99872	Grand Adventure Hotel
	Box 232 Petersburg, AK 99833	PETERSONS LAGER PUMPKIN AND

Jody Simpson

From: Tomohaus@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2007 12:00 AM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: (no subject)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Senator Huggins:

I am a charter business operator in Sitka. I encourage you to move HB 186 forward.

Both guided sport and commercial IFQ fishers support passage of HB 186. The State of Alaska has the data, but the federal government manages the fish. We need the two to work together for the best possible solutions to the current halibut allocation situation.

The guided sport fishery faces a potentially crippling regulatory package that will be with us until a long term solution for halibut can be developed, passed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, signed off on in Washington DC, and implemented. The most optimistic time line for implementation of the long term solution is four years.

Regulations directly impact our ability to compete for regionally and globally. A recent McDowell study estimates charter clients in Sitka brought approximately 32 million to the local economy. HB 186 can help open up management options that would generate the savings needed for the commercial fleet, while being less punitive to the charter fleet.

One of the options the council is considering would be an annual limit to halibut charter clients. This would help to meet the goal of reducing harvest while still preserving the charter clients' 2 daily bag limit option in SE Alaska. We need immediate passage of HB 186 in order to preserve this management option.

Please do what you can to assist both the commercial and charter halibut fishing industries, as well as the coastal communities that depend on them, by supporting a bill that makes sense --- HB 186. This **cannot be delayed** as the NPFMC will make its final action decision on regulating SE Alaska guided halibut industry during the first week of June 2007! Please feel free to call if you have any questions or would like to speak about this further.

Tom Ohaus
Angling Unlimited
www.AnglingUnlimited.com
907-747-3736

See what's free at AOL.com.

Jody Sim

From: Tom Gemmell [gemmell@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 9:45 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyda Green; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Kim Elton
Subject: HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Dear Senators,

I support HB 186 and urge immediate approval. Managers need access to data in order to adequately manage and protect the resource.

If federal managers do not have access to guided sport harvest data, they will need to create a federal log book system and this will result in added cost for taxpayers.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Tom Gemmell
3201 Nowell Ave
Juneau, AK 99801-1933

Jody Simpson

From: Matthew Metcalf [mmetcalf@topdog-is.com]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 2:39 AM
To: Sen. Tom Wagoner
Cc: Sen. Lyda Green; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: In support of HB186

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Dear Senators,

I urge you to support and immediately approve HB186 to allow Halibut Charter data sharing between ADF&G and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Fishery managers need access to data to effectively manage the Halibut resource. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Metcalf

Jody Simpson

From: Greg & Cheryl Smith [gcsmith@olympen.com]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 6:21 AM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

I support HB 186 and urge immediate approval. Managers need access to data in order to adequately manage and protect the resource. Greg Smith

Jody Simpson

From: Victoria O'Connell [v.oconnell@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 7:43 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Lyda Green; Sen. Tom Wagoner
Subject: *****SPAM***** HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Dear Senators:

I am emailing to urge you to support HB186 and have it be immediately effective. It is crucial that ADF&G be able to share charter halibut data with NMFS, NOAA enforcement, and the US Coast Guard in order for this important resource to be appropriately managed. The charter season begins in less than 2 weeks so immediate passage and implementation is critical.

Thank you very much,
Tory O'Connell
107 Finn Alley
Sitka, AK 99835

Jody Simpson

From: Audrey [ucida@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 8:18 AM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

I support HB 186 and urge immediate approval. Managers need access to data in order to adequately manage and protect the resource.

Thank you,

Audrey Stephens

Kasilof, Alaska

Jody Simpson

From: scraig@icystraitadventures.com
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 8:18 AM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: HB 186

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

The Honorable Senator Huggins,

I am a charter boat operator and a commercial halibut fisherman.
I support HB 186 and urge immediate approval.
Managers need access to data in order to adequately manage and protect the resource.

Thank you,

Sandra Craig
PO Box 13
Elfin Cove, AK 99825

mail2web.com - Microsoft® Exchange solutions from a leading provider -
<http://link.mail2web.com/Business/Exchange>

Jody Simpson

From: Mac [captainmac@alaskasbestlodge.com]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 1:41 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: Re: Need HB 186 before June NPFMC Meeting
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Thank you Jody. If he has any questions please don't hesitate to call, anytime.

Mac

Larry "Mac" McQuarrie
Halibut Charter Coalition of Alaska
Region 2C Vice-President
P.O. Box 8500
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone 1-907-247-7252
Cell 1-907-617-2790
Fax 1-907-247-7255 --

On 5/4/07 3:29 PM, "Sen. Charlie Huggins" <Senator_Charlie_Huggins@legis.state.ak.us> wrote:

Thank you for contacting Senator Huggins on this important issue. I have printed off your message and provided it to the Senator for his review.

Jody Simpson, Legislative Staff
Office of Senator Charlie Huggins
Phone: (907)465-3878 / Fax: (907)465-3265
Alaska State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Jody_Simpson@legis.state.ak.us

From: Mac [<mailto:captainmac@alaskasbestlodge.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 4:13 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Cc: Bob Candopoulos; John Goodhand; Ken Dole; Ken Larson; Kimbers; Perry Flotre; Robert Ward; Tim Evers; Bob Candopoulos; Ken Dole; Ken Larson; Stan Malcomb; Rick and Karen Bierman; John Goodhand; Tim Evers; Perry Flotre; Sonny and Vicky Campbell; Theresa Weiser; angela@kpunet.net; Bearvalleylodge@starband.net; Bill & Louise Pattison; Brad Saalsaa; Chip Porter; Darell Welk; Don Westlund; fishincapt@pocketmail.com; info@boardwalklodge.com; Info@elcapitanlodge.com; info@SoutheastSportfishing.com; Ivan Leighton; Jay Lloyd; Jerry Newman; Jim Moody; Ken Teune; Kevin Beck; Mike & Carla Szitas; Ron Moyer; Russell Thomas; Sam Dalin; Sonny and Vicky Campbell; Tommy White; wheelhouse@classicalaskacharters.com; art@boardwalklodge.com.; Brad Stuart;

leez@alaskabestfishing.com; sunnahae@aptalaska.net; floatel@aptalaska.net;
sheltercovelodge@hotmail.com

Subject: Need HB 186 before June NPFMC Meeting

Senator Huggins,

My name is Larry ("Mac") McQuarrie. I operate Sportsman's Cove Lodge, on Prince of Wales Island.
<http://www.alaskasbestlodge.com>. We employ 8-10 people year-round and 34 people in-season.

My family and I have been in the lodge/charter business in Alaska since 1984. I have been active in issues concerning charter halibut fishing since 1990 when I was a member of the Conference Board at the IPHC. At the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) I have been involved since 1993 and have served on the Charter Halibut GHF Committee, then the Charter Halibut IFQ Committee, and now on the Charter Halibut Stakeholders Committee.

On March 21st, 2007, I testified at the House Fisheries Committee in support of HB 186. The charter halibut industry is facing very restrictive management measures to maintain the guided halibut catch below a Guideline Harvest Level in 2008. Some options being considered will be difficult, or impossible to implement without the sharing of data in ADF&G charterboat logbooks with federal agencies such as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). HB 186 would allow the sharing of data between State and federal agencies which may be critical to adding additional management tools to the toolbox.

Time is of the essence. At the June 4th meeting of the NPFMC in Sitka, the Council will be taking Final Action on management measures to control the charter fleet within the GHF in 2008.

With HB 186 in place, additional management options will be available that could be less disruptive to the charter fleet and the support industries that rely upon it. If HB 186 is not in place prior to Final Action by the NPFMC management tools that will provide more flexible alternatives may not be available for 2008.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry "Mac" McQuarrie
Halibut Charter Coalition of Alaska
Region 2C Vice-President
P.O. Box 8500
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone 1-907-247-7252
Cell 1-907-617-2790
Fax 1-907-247-7255 --

Jody Simpson

From: Jason Miller [jlmiller1@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 8:57 AM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Senator Huggins,

As an Alaska resident, halibut IFQ holder, and commercial fisherman I support HB 186 and I urge your immediate approval of this bill.

Managers need access to data in order to adequately manage and protect the resource.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Jason L. Miller
PO Box 1473
Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772.2988
jlmiller1@gci.net

Jody Simpson

From: George & Tammy [eliason@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 6:55 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: Hb186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Greetings,

Just a short note to let you know that I support HB 186 and urge immediate approval. Managers need access to data in order to adequately manage and protect the resource. Again, I urge you to support HB186.

George Eliason

Sitka, AK 99835

Jody Simpson

From: Patricia Phillips [pdjep@ptialaska.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 7:21 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyda Green; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Tom Wagoner
Subject: HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

"An Act relating to sharing with certain federal agencies records required of sport fishing guides; and providing for an effective date."

Dear State Senate Resources committee members:

Please support and endorse HB 186. The regulatory divisions absolutely need credible and reliable information to maintain sustainable harvest rates and stock populations that benefit our coastal communities. We need to get a handle on real numbers of the sport fish harvest.

Thank you,

Patricia Phillips
President
Pacific Fishing Inc.
P.O. Box 33
Pelican, Alaska 99832

Jody Simpson

From: Tina McNamee [tina_mcnamee@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 9:30 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: HB 186 - please help pass this bill!
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Dear Senator Huggins:

I am a Sitka resident and owner/operator of a small sportfishing lodge. As you are probably aware, those of us who live in Alaskan coastal communities have witnessed divisiveness among charter and commercial fishermen - especially over the halibut resource. In this case however, both the charter and commercial sectors do agree on one issue that I hope you can get behind ---

We need House Bill 186 to pass for all our benefit. Since the halibut resource is a federally managed fishery, it is imperative that the state be allowed to share data at the federal level so that the resource can be managed more effectively.

Unfortunately, because the halibut charter guideline harvest level was set at an inadequate amount - and not originally linked to moratorium, the charter fleet now faces potentially devastating harvest restrictions in order to decrease our harvest levels until a permanent solution takes place. That permanent solution is at least 4 years out. In the meantime, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) will meet early next month to decide how to restrict SE Alaska's halibut charter fleet - some of the options they are looking at are potential season closures or cutting the bag limits in half! This would certainly cripple our ability to market competitively on both a statewide and global scale. This will drive repeat business and new clientele away from choosing SE Alaska as the place to spend money on a charter fishing trip. A recent McDowell study done estimated charter clients in Sitka brought approximately 32 million to the local economy.

HB 186 can help open up management options that would generate the savings needed for the commercial fleet, while being less punitive to the charter fleet. One of the options the council is considering would be an annual limit to halibut charter clients. This would help to meet the goal of reducing harvest while still preserving the charter clients' 2 daily bag limit option in SE Alaska. This bill must be passed without delay if we are to preserve such positive management options.

Please do what you can to assist both the commercial and charter halibut fishing industries, as well as the coastal communities that depend on them, by supporting a bill that makes sense --- HB 186. This **cannot be delayed** as the NPFMC will make its final action decision on regulating SE Alaska guided halibut industry during the first week of June 2007! Please feel free to call if you have any questions or would like to speak about this further.

Respectfully,

Tina McNamee
IslandView Resort & Charters, LLC
PO Box 6243
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-6544

Connect to the next generation of MSN Messenger [Get it now!](#)

Jody Simpson

From: Jim Herbert [jherbert@seward.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2007 7:24 AM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Dear Senator Huggins:

The sharing of information between our Department of F&G and the NMFS is important to protecting Alaska's resources. I support HB 186 and urge you to approve it.

Thank you.

Jim Herbert
POB 1461
Seward, AK
99664

Jody Simpson

From: Gary Mulligan [gpfishagan@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2007 1:45 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: Support HB186

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

I urge support of HB 186 to ensure that managers have adequate access to data for proper management. Thank you, Gary Mulligan

Jody Simpson

From: ronc@wildblue.net
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2007 6:31 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

I support HB 186 and urge immediate approval.
Managers need access to data in order to adequately manage and protect the resource.
Ron Conatser

Jody Simpson

From: Alan Otness [alanotness@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2007 6:52 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

I support HB 186 and urge you to approve this immediately, and especially before this session ends. Managers need access to real data, not just guesses in order to manage and protect the resource. If fishing guides don't even share catch records with management at present how in the world can the resource have a chance? Commercial fishermen are punished, and can be jailed for going over their quotas. I feel that the guided sport industry should be subject to the same sorts of rules. Over-all quotas are set. Each component of the industry should have to meet them, and NOT exceed them.

Alan D. Otness

Jody Simpson

From: ernie eggleston [sawnlog@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2007 10:18 AM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyda Green; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Senator_Thomas_Wagnor@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: *****SPAM***** support HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

I support HB 186 and urge immediate approval. Managers need access to data in order to adequately manage and protect the resource. The charter fleet needs to diversify like other commercial fisherman have learned to do, like finding clients that don't need as much meat to subsidize their vacations. Thank you for your time.

Ahhh...imagining that irresistible "new car" smell?
Check out [new cars at Yahoo! Autos.](#)

Jody Simpson

From: Anne Williams [amwilli@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2007 2:14 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyda Green; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Tom Wagoner
Subject: Why I support HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Information sharing is important for sound fisheries management. I am an Alaskan citizen and moved here to be involved in the state's fisheries. Fisheries biology is more my field than fisheries policy. The biological community has made important discoveries with the help of collaboration from other scientists. We should not be so secretive with information because it bogs down the processes of needed procedures for management. Transparency should be a good thing. Please support HB 186!

Thanks,
Anne Williams
PO Box 6455
Sitka, AK 99835

Jody Simpson

From: Alfa Fish [alfafish@ptialaska.net]
Sent: Munday, May 07, 2007 10:28 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Lyda Green; Sen. Tom Wagoner
Cc: halibut coalition
Subject: *****SPAM***** HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA), I am writing to urge immediate adoption of HB 186.

In order to adequately protect and manage the resource, crucial data must be available to all involved regulatory bodies. Regulatory agencies in Alaska currently share data on commercial catch; HB 186 will provide managers with comparable access to charter harvest data. Successful passage of HB 186 will ensure timely availability of data without compromising its confidential status.

During the first week of June, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council will be considering management measures for the charter fishery. Many of the measures judged to be most effective and least disruptive to charter operations are not currently enforceable due to data sharing restrictions. HB 186 will correct this situation, providing for effective management and necessary resource protection.

Thank you for your support and expeditious action on HB 186.

Sincerely,

Linda Behnken
(Director, ALFA)

----- Original Message -----

From: Victoria O'Connell
To: [Senator Bert Stedman@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bert_Stedman@legis.state.ak.us) ; [Senator Bill Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bill_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us) ;
[Senator Charlie Huggins@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Charlie_Huggins@legis.state.ak.us) ; [Senator Gary Stevens@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us) ;
[Senator Lesil McGuire@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us) ; [Senator Lyda Green@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us) ;
[Senator Thomas Wagoner@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Thomas_Wagoner@legis.state.ak.us)
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 7:43 AM
Subject: HB 186

Dear Senators:

I am emailing to urge you to support HB186 and have it be immediately effective. It is crucial that ADF&G be able to share charter halibut data with NMFS, NOAA enforcement, and the US Coast Guard in order for this important resource to be appropriately managed. The charter season begins in less than 2 weeks so immediate passage and implementation is critical.

Thank you very much,
Tory O'Connell
107 Finn Alley
Sitka, AK 99835



**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**
201 Katlian Street, Suite 200A, Sitka, AK 99835
Phone: 747-6276 Fax: 747-5807
Email: sitka_lio@legis.state.ak.us

DATE: May 9, 2007

TO: Senate Resources

FAX: 465-3265

2 pages, including cover sheet

FROM: John Murray

MESSAGE: Please add this letter as written testimony for HB 186 in Senate Resources Committee. He is unable to attend this meeting. Thank you.

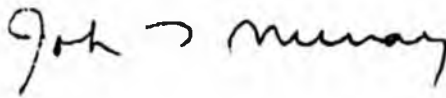
May 9, 2007

Dear Senate Resources:

I support HB 186. I believe the intent of this bill is to allow pertinent information to be accessed by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) from the State of Alaska sport fisheries. It would certainly help NMFS to have timely harvest data.

It is needed for proper management of the resource and to keep sport fisheries from over harvesting their GHJ as has happened in at least the last two years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John L. Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

John L. Murray
F/V Loran
224 Observatory Street
Sitka, AK 99835
747-6212

Jody Simpson

From: Jody Simpson
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2007 2:56 PM
To: 'frank_bailey@admin.state.ak.us'
Subject: Senate Resources Cmte - Friday, April 27 - HB 186(FSH)
Attachments: SRES 4-27 (2).doc; HB0186B.pdf

Mr. Bailey,

Thank you for talking with me this afternoon. As I mentioned, on Friday, April 27, the Senate Resources Committee will continue its discussion of HB 186, "An act relating to the sharing with certain federal agencies records required of sports fishing guides; and providing an effective date." I am attaching a copy of the meeting agenda and a copy of the bill under discussion.

On behalf of the committee, I am inviting a representative from your department to participate in the hearing via teleconference to discuss your department's policies and procedures for securing the confidentiality of data during collection, input, and transmission. The meeting begins at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 27. It is possible that it may be postponed until 4 p.m., but we will let you know in advance if that happens. The teleconference dial-in number is 1-888-295-4546. Let the operator know your representative has been cleared by the committee aide, Sharon Long.

At a previous hearing of this bill, Senator Huggins, who chairs the committee, inquired about the security of the collection and transmission of the data that is mentioned in this bill. As I understand from speaking to Mike Callahan, at this time each department is basically responsible for its own system security and how its data is collected, input, and transmitted. I further understand that there currently exists no real, integrated audit system now. Senator Huggins would like to learn more about how the current IT system protects and secures data during collection, input, and transmission, as well as how the Department's request for \$4.4M to upgrade the system, add a "DMZ" double-security perimeter around the entire, integrated state system, and implement "PKI" technology could enhance your ability to secure data in all departments. (The senator heard a discussion of your departmental request in Senate Finance and is interested in not only ADF&G's data, specifically, but all state data, in general.)

Mr. Callahan suggested that Darrell Davis would be the person to address the committee. However, in speaking with you this afternoon, you thought someone from ADF&G might be the better person to teleconference. Whoever you assign, it would be best to have someone who is able to speak both to the individual department's processes and to the larger, global, integrated state-wide system (\$4.4M request).

We would appreciate knowing the name of the staff person who will be participating as soon as you have it, so that we can get that information on the notes we prepare in advance for the senator.

If you have questions or concerns about this request, please feel free to contact me at the below numbers. Thank you.

Jody Simpson, Legislative Staff

Office of Senator Charlie Huggins
Phone: (907)465-3878 / Fax: (907)465-3265
Alaska State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Jody_Simpson@legis.state.ak.us

4/25/2007

Jody Simpson

From: Douglas S Vincent-Lang [douglas_vincent-lang@fishgame.state.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2007 11:50 AM
To: Jody Simpson; Sharon Long
Cc: frank_bailey@admin.state.ak.us; 'Tim M Barry'
Subject: RE: Senate Resources Cmte - Friday, April 27 - HB 186(FSH)
Attachments: LB Data Security (2).doc

Jody/Sharon

Regarding the questions below, I can address 1 and 3. The memo attached from our head IT person describes the procedures we have in place assure security and accountability of confidential logbook information we have in our possession. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have about it. Regarding the third issue, the amendment I sent to Sharon with the existing state-federal MOU assures that any shared information will be protected and secured.

Regarding the second question, what is being done statewide to better protect confidential information is beyond my control. I suggest you have someone from DOA address that concern.

If there is anything additional you need please feel free to call me at 242-4006.

Doug

From: Bailey, Frank (Dept. of Admin) [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2007 3:08 PM
To: tim_barry@fishgame.state.ak.us
Cc: Brooks, Kevin (Dept. Admin)
Subject: FW: Senate Resources Cmte - Friday, April 27 - HB 186(FSH)

Tim,

Below is what Jody sent me.

The questions she specifically wanted to know are:

1. What is in place now to keep sensitive data safe and secure? (Jody's understanding is that currently there is none)
2. What is the plan for improving this over the long-run? (ETS would have info (Callahan or Davis) in terms of the upcoming DMZ and Security Initiative)
3. How can residents be assured that the data they transmit will be safe in passage of this bill?

I told Jody that our recommendation was that someone from the Department of Fish and Game's IT staff would be best equipped to testify on this issue because the questions should pertain specifically to that Department. I told her that we would get back with her either way. Can you let me know what your plan is and I'll close the loop with Rachael, Kevin and ETS?

Thanks Tim.

FB

From: Jody Simpson [mailto:Jody_Simpson@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2007 2:56 PM

4/26/2007

Jody Simpson

From: Robert Ward [bob@awardcharters.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2007 5:50 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: HB 186
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Dear Senator Huggins,

I am the secretary of the Homer Charter Association located in Homer, Alaska. We are a trade association of halibut and salmon charter service providers with more than 35 members. We have discussed and wish to express our support of the House Bill 186, for sharing the required charter logbook data with the federal government agencies. This simple authorization will assist us in many allocation and resource conservation measures being considered by both the state Department of Fish and Game and the North Pacific fisheries Management Council. This year we are facing draconian measures that are required only due to the lack of information sharing by the AKF&G and the National Marine Fisheries Service. If this bill was passed today the operators of the charters could catch and retain some non federally managed fish for personal consumption, but without this bill we must be managed by a broad brush AKF&G Commissioner Emergency Order that takes away all fish retention privileges. Please schedule this bill for the required hearings and pass this bill with our support. Thank you.

Robert Ward - Secretary Homer Charter Association

A-WARD CHARTERS

P. O. Box 631

Anchor Point, AK. 99556

(907) 235-7014

(907) 399-7014 cell

bob@awardcharters.com

<http://www.awardcharters.com>

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

An AMERICAN Phrase

Proposed Legislation
Sharing Sport Fishing Information with Federal Agencies

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

February, 2007

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has had drafted statutory language to address a gap in current law.

The Department cannot share logbook information from charter fishermen with the National Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This is resulting in increased costs and enforcement difficulties. To correct this, the attached draft state legislation would allow ADF&G to share confidential charter logbook information with the NPFMC and NOAA. Shared information would remain confidential.

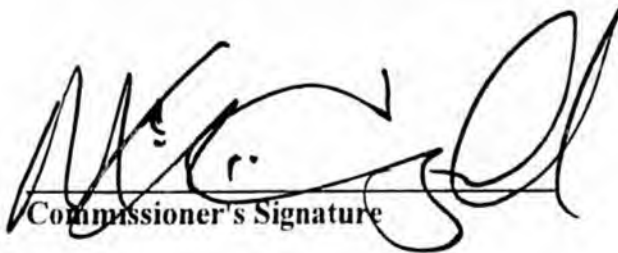
This bill would make two minor amendments to AS 16.05.815, which provides confidentiality to certain reports records required by ADF&G concerning landings of fish, shellfish or fishery products of fishermen, buyers and processors. Among the records that are confidential under this statute are records required of sport fishing under AS 16.40.280 and 5 AAC 75.076. The current statute provides for a number of exceptions allowing these reports and records to be released to specified entities for limited purposes, and the proposed amendments add exceptions allowing records of sport fishing guides to NMFS and NOAA.

In addition to existing exceptions, this bill will authorize limited release of records required of sport fishing guides for two other purposes. Records from guides, including logbooks, could be shared with the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and for enforcement purposes, with law enforcement personnel of NMFS and NOAA. These records can already be shared with NMFS and NPFMC for the purpose of fishery management planning, so the proposed bill expands the list of uses for the data.

2006 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FORM

- **DEPARTMENT:** Fish and Game
- **SUBJECT OF PROPOSED BILL & SUMMARY OF INTENT:** To share marine sport charter logbook data w/NMFS and NOAA. The Department cannot share logbook information with the NPFMC or NOAA. This is resulting in increased cost and enforcement difficulties. To correct this, the Department plans to propose state legislation that would allow it to share confidential charter logbook information with the NPFMC and NOAA. Shared information would remain confidential. This would require a modification to AS 16.05.815.
- **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:** Uncertain, although savings are expected as dual state-federal regulations would not be necessary.
- **WHO WILL SUPPORT THIS BILL:** ADF&G, NPFMC, NOAA, sport fish organizations
- **WHAT OTHER DEPARTMENTS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS PROPOSAL:** The Department of Public Safety, since it would be able to better conduct joint enforcement with the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- **HAVE YOU DISCUSSED THIS PROPOSAL WITH THE COMMISSIONER (S) OF THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS?** It was discussed with staff at Public Safety via our liaison with the Department.
- **IF SO, DO THEY SUPPORT YOUR PROPOSAL?** YES
- **WHICH MUNICIPAL OR PRIVATE GROUPS WILL SUPPORT THE BILL?** Some charter organizations and commercial fisheries organizations.
- **WHICH MUNICIPAL OR PRIVATE GROUPS HAVE YOU ACTUALLY DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL WITH?** It has been discussed with a halibut charter stakeholders group and with various charter organizations across the state. It has also been discussed with the NMFS and NOAA.

- **WHICH MUNICIPAL OR PRIVATE GROUPS WILL WRITE LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL?** Some charter organizations across the state.
- **WHAT CONCERNS, IF ANY, HAVE YOU HEARD OR RECEIVED FROM ANY SOURCE?** That shared information remain confidential to the extent of the law. The proposed language assures this.
- **WHO WILL OPPOSE THE BILL AND WHY WILL THEY OPPOSE IT?**
- **IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE ANY PREVIOUS STATE OR FEDERAL LEGISLATION OR SIMILAR EFFORTS IN OTHER STATES WHICH AFFECT OR RELATE TO THIS PROPOSAL**


Commissioner's Signature

10/20/06
Date

BILL NO.

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION

BY

Introduced:
Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the sharing, with certain federal agencies, of records required of
2 sport fishing guides."

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

4 * Section 1. AS 16.05.815(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, records required by
6 regulations of the department concerning the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery
7 products, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors required
8 by regulation of the department are confidential and may not be released by the
9 department or by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission except as set
10 out in this subsection. The department may release the records and reports set out in
11 this subsection to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. The
12 department and the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release the
13 records and reports set out in this subsection to the recipients identified in this
14 subsection if the recipient, other than a recipient under (5) - (9) of this subsection,

1 agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the records and reports. The department and
2 the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission may release

3 (1) any of the records and reports to the National Marine Fisheries
4 Service and the professional staff of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council as
5 required for preparation and implementation of the fishery management plans of the
6 North Pacific Fishery Management Council within the exclusive economic zone;

7 (2) any of the records and reports to the professional staff of the
8 Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission who are employed in the Alaska Fisheries
9 Information Network project for the purpose of exchanging information with users
10 authorized by the department;

11 (3) any of the records and reports to the Department of Revenue to
12 assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities;

13 (4) records or reports of the total value purchased by each buyer to a
14 municipality that levies and collects a tax on fish, shellfish, or fishery products if the
15 municipality requires records of the landings of fish, shellfish, or fishery products to
16 be submitted to it for purposes of verification of taxes payable;

17 (5) such records and reports as necessary to be in conformity with a
18 court order;

19 (6) on request, the report of a person to the person whose fishing
20 activity is the subject of the report, or to a designee of the person whose fishing
21 activity is the subject of the report;

22 (7) on request, annual statistical reports of a fisherman, buyer, or
23 processor to the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the subject of the
24 report, or to a designee of the fisherman, buyer, or processor whose activity is the
25 subject of the report;

26 (8) any of the records and reports to the Department of Public Safety
27 for law enforcement purposes;

28 (9) fish tickets, fish ticket information, records required of sport
29 fishing guides, and annual statistical reports of fishermen, buyers, and processors and
30 information in those reports to the law enforcement personnel of the National Marine
31 Fisheries Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the

1 purpose of enforcing fishery laws in waters of this state and in waters of the exclusive
2 economic zone adjacent to this state;

3 (10) fish tickets, [AND] fish ticket information, and records required
4 of sport fishing guides regarding halibut to the International Pacific Halibut
5 Commission;

6 (11) any of the records and reports to the child support services agency
7 created in AS 25.27.010, or the child support enforcement agency of another state, for
8 child support purposes authorized under law; and

9 (12) any of the records and reports to the Department of Natural
10 Resources to assist the department in carrying out its statutory responsibilities in
11 regard to sport fishing operations and sport fishing guides within the Kenai River
12 Special Management Area under AS 41.21.500 - 41.21.514.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sen. Charlie Huggins, Chair
Sen. Bert Stedman, Vice Chair
Sen. Lyda Green
Sen. Gary Stevens
Sen. Lesil McGuire
Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Sen. Thomas Wagoner



State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau AK 99801-1182
907-465-3878
Fax: 907-465-3265
800-862-3878

Senate Resources Committee

Butrovich - Room 205

Friday, April 20, 2007

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- **SB 111 -- KODIAK NARROW CAPE PUBLIC USE AREA**
 - Senator Gary Stevens, Sponsor
 - Doug Letch, Legislative Aide to Sen. Stevens

- **SB 80 - OIL & GAS PRODUCTION TAX: EXPENDITURES**
 - John Norman, Commissioner/Chair, AOGCC
 - Commissioner Pat Galvin, Department of Revenue
 - Kevin Banks, Director, Division of Oil & Gas

- **HB 186 - SPORT FISHING GUIDE RECORDS**
 - Tom Wright, Legislative Aide to Speaker John Harris, Sponsor
 - Doug Vincent-Lang, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

1. Gavel In & Call to Order : Note time – members present

**I CALL THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO ORDER ON
MONDAY, APRIL 23. LET THE RECORD REFLECT THAT IT IS
_____ P.M.**

PRESENT ARE:

**Vice-Chairman Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Gary Stevens
-Senator Lyda Green
Senator Bill Wielechowski
Senator Lesil McGuire
Senator Tom Wagoner
& myself, Senator Charlie Huggins**

2. HB 186 – SPORT FISHING GUIDE RECORDS

**Tom Wright, Staff to Speaker Harris (Sponsor of the bill)
Doug Vincent-Lang, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Steve Daugherty, Department of Law**

- a. Ask the speakers to place themselves on the record
- b. Go to public testimony if any are signed up
- c. Close public testimony

3. SB 111 – KODIAK NARROW CAPE PUBLIC USE AREA

**Senator Gary Stevens
Doug Letch, staff to Senator Stevens
Dick Mylius, DNR (teleconference)**

- a. Ask the speakers to place themselves on the record
- b. Go to public testimony if any are signed up
- c. Close public testimony

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: WEDNESDAY'S COMMITTEE MEETING HAS
BEEN CANCELLED.**

5. Meeting adjourned @ _____.

1. GAVEL In & Call to Order: Note time - members present

**I CALL THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
TO ORDER ON FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH. LET THE
RECORD REFLECT THAT IT IS _____ P.M.**

PRESENT ARE:

Vice-Chairman Senator Bert Stedman

Senator Gary Stevens

Senator Lyda Green

Senator Bill Wielechowski - *McQuinn*

& myself, Senator Charlie Huggins

2. HB 186 - SPORT FISHING GUIDE RECORDS

- Tom Wright, Staff to Speaker Harris (Sponsor of Bill)
- Doug Vincent-Lang, AK Dept. of Fish and Game

**3. SB 80 - OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION TAX
EXPENDITURES**

**4. SB 57 MARINE PARKS ADDITIONS/HUNTING
ALLOWED**

5. SJR 4 NATURAL GAS FOR STATE RESIDENTS

6. SB 71 PUBLIC ACCESS TO FISHING STREAMS