

HB

143

<TARGET><BILL>HB 143</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
143</SUBJECT><COMM>SFIN28</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/15/14

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: _____

Finance Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 143(FIN)

HB 143-COMMERCIAL FISHING CREWMEMBER LICENSES

"An Act relating to crewmember fishing licenses; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- adopt previous SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
LWF	✓			4
DFG	✓			3

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>Anna Fairclough</i>	FAIRCLOUGH	✓			
<i>Cliff Bishop</i>	BISHOP	✓			
<i>Michael Hoffmann</i>	HOFFMAN				
<i>Thomas Olson</i>	OLSON				
CO-CHAIR: <i>Pat Kelly</i>	Kelly				
CO-CHAIR: <i>Kim Meyer</i>	Meyer	✓			

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: CSHB 143(FIN)
Fiscal Note Number: 3
(H) Publish Date: 3/27/14

Identifier: HB143CS(FIN)-DFG-DAS-03-27-14
Title: COMMERCIAL FISHING CREWMEMBER
LICENSES
Sponsor: SEATON
Requester: House Finance Committee

Department: Department of Fish and Game
Appropriation: Administration and Support
Allocation: Administrative Services
OMB Component Number: 479

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services	1.4		9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	1.4	0.0	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1005 GF/Prgm	1.4		9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
Total	1.4	0.0	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues	14.3		83.8	83.8	83.8	83.8	83.8	83.8
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 01/01/15

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Reflects changes made in the House Finance Committee.

Prepared By: Sunny Haight, Director Phone: (907)465-5999
Division: Administrative Services Date: 03/27/2014 08:15 AM
Approved By: Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner Date: 03/27/14
Agency: Commissioner's Office

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS #3

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 143(FIN)

Analysis

The House Finance Committee Substitute for HB 143 will limit the number of 7-day commercial crew licenses to one license per person per calendar year. HB 143 will also allow a commercial crewmember who purchased a 7-day license to receive a \$30 refund if they purchase an annual license within the same calendar year.

This analysis is based on actual 2012 commercial crewmember license sales and the current fee structure. In 2012, a total of 24,090 crewmember licenses were sold. 2,317 were non resident 7-day crew licenses and 443 were resident 7-day crew licenses.

In 2012, 542 non resident fishermen purchased two or more 7-day licenses. The 542 fisherman purchasing multiple 7-day licenses totaled 1,344 licenses. Under HB 143 we assume a majority of these fishermen will now purchase an annual license.

We are also estimating 15% of commercial crewmembers who initially purchase a 7-day license and then later decide to purchase an annual license will request a \$30 refund from Fish and Game. 15% of 542 fishermen is 81 refunds of \$30, for a total of \$2430.

2012 Actual Sales	# Sold	Fee	Gross Sales
Annual Resident Crewmember	10,777	\$60	\$646,620
Annual NR Crewmember	10,158	\$250	\$2,539,500
Resident Child Crewmember	378	\$5	\$1,890
NR Child Crewmember	17	\$195	\$3,315
Resident 7-day Crewmember	443	\$30	\$13,290
NR 7-day Crewmember	<u>2,317</u>	\$30	<u>\$69,510</u>
Total	24,090		\$3,274,125

Projected Sales under HB 143	# Sold	Fee	Gross Sales
Annual Resident Crewmember	10,777	\$60	\$646,620
Annual NR Crewmember	10,700	\$250	\$2,675,000
Resident Child Crewmember	378	\$5	\$1,890
NR Child Crewmember	17	\$195	\$3,315
Resident 7-day Crewmember	443	\$30	\$13,290
NR 7-day Crewmember	<u>973</u>	\$30	<u>\$29,190</u>
Total	23,288		\$3,369,305

Difference (Increase)

Annual Non resident Crewmember	\$135,500
Non resident 7-day Crewmember	<u>-\$40,320</u>
Sub Total	\$95,180
Refunds	<u>-\$2,430</u>
Total	\$92,750

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS #3

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 143(FIN)

Analysis Continued

Per statute AS 23.35.060 2(d), the Fishermen's Fund receives 39% of the value of each commercial crew license sold up to a maximum value of \$50. The additional \$95,180 annual revenue in commercial crew license sales would potentially contribute up to \$11,400 additional revenue for the Fishermen's Fund.

Contractual expenditures reflect license vendor compensation for crewmember licenses calculated at 10% of gross sales. $\$95,180 \times 10\% = \$9.5k$.

With an effective date of January 1, 2015, we assume an increase of 15% of revenue and related expenditures for the second half of FY2015. This percentage is based on the 2012 purchasing behavior of our commercial crew members who bought a 7-day crew member license throughout the fishing season.

Any regulations needed to implement the refund will be completed by the effective date of HB 143.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: CSHB 143(FIN)
Fiscal Note Number: 4
(H) Publish Date: 3/28/14

Identifier: HB143CS(FIN)-DOLWD-FF-03-27-14
Title: COMMERCIAL FISHING CREWMEMBER
LICENSES
Sponsor: SEATON
Requester: House Finance

Department: Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Appropriation: Workers' Compensation
Allocation: Fishermen's Fund
OMB Component Number: 343

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2015	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues	1.7		11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Reflects changes made in the House Finance Committee.

Prepared By: <u>Michael Monagle, Director</u>	Phone: <u>(907)465-6059</u>
Division: <u>Workers' Compensation</u>	Date: <u>03/27/2014 09:00 AM</u>
Approved By: <u>Dianne Blumer, Commissioner</u>	Date: <u>03/27/14</u>
Agency: <u>Office of the Commissioner</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS #4

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 143(FIN)

Analysis

The House Finance Committee Substitute for HB 143 will limit the number of 7-day commercial crewmember licenses to one license per person per calendar year. HB 143 will also allow a commercial crewmember who purchased a 7-day crewmember license to receive a refund of the purchase price of the 7-day crewmember license if they subsequently purchase an annual license within the same calendar year.

The Fishermen's Fund receives 39 percent of the revenue collected for each crewmember fishing license sold up to a maximum value of \$50 (whole dollars). Based on license projections provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, annual revenue to the Fishermen's Fund would increase by \$11.4 per year. The Department of Fish and Game projects an increase in revenue of 15 percent for the second half of FY15, which would increase FY15 Fishermen's Fund revenue by \$1.7.

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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON HOUSE DISTRICT 30

Sponsor Statement

CSHB 143 (FIN)

CSHB 143(FIN) limits the purchase of a short-term commercial fishing crewmember license to one per year. This limitation addresses the growing problem of multiple consecutive short-term license purchases.

The 7-day license was created by the Legislature as a way for tourists to experience commercial fishing in Alaska. These short-term crew licenses (also known as dude licenses) have been successful in their original intent, but there is concern that fishing crew members who would otherwise purchase an annual license are instead purchasing numerous consecutive short-term licenses.

As a trend, this decreases license receipt revenue to the state and impacts the Fishermen's Fund (a fund administered by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to assist with the medical costs of accidents incurred during commercial fishing operations). As a group, those purchasing short-term licenses may be less experienced on a commercial vessel, and thus more likely to get injured, placing a burden on the Fishermen's Fund without helping to adequately pay for the program.

CSHB 143 (FIN) specifies that if a person purchases a short-term license and subsequently purchases an annual license in the same year, they are to be reimbursed for the cost of the short-term license.

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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON HOUSE DISTRICT 30

Explanation of Changes HB 143 to CSHB 143(FSH)

- **Non Resident Short Term Fee change**

Current statute establishes the short-term non-resident commercial crew license fee at \$30. The original version of HB 143 established the fee for non-resident short-term commercial crew licenses at \$60. Because the differential between a resident and non-resident annual commercial crew license is subject to variation and changes every three years following review by the Office of Management and Budget and the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, The House Fisheries Committee modified the bill to establish the short term fee at 30\$ plus 1/3 of the difference between a resident and non-resident annual license fee.

- **Effective Date Established**

ADF&G is in the process of sending out commercial crew license books to vendors for the 2013 season. The department requested that the effective date be established at the beginning of the next calendar year to allow for license books to be printed reflecting the change in the fee structure.

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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON HOUSE DISTRICT 30

Changes between CSHB (FSH) and the current version - CSHB 143(FIN)

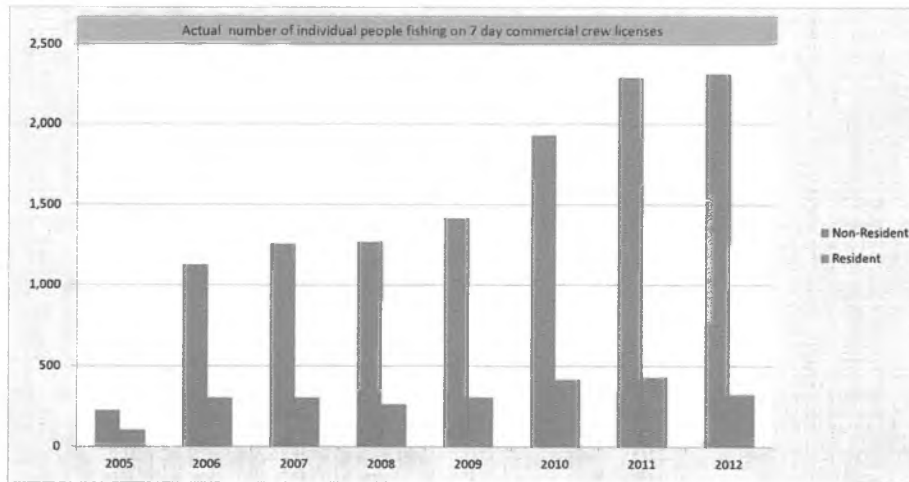
- CSHB 143(FIN) deletes the language applying the Carlson v. State differential to short-term commercial fishing permits. CSHB 143 (FIN) leaves the price of the short-term crew license at the current statutory \$30, but specifies that only one short-term license is allowed per year.
- CSHB 143(FIN) adds a provision allowing reimbursement of the short-term commercial fishing crew license cost if a person elects to purchase an annual commercial fishing crew license during the same license year.
- CSHB 143(FIN) adds a January 1, 2015 effective date.

**STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
7 DAY COMMERCIAL CREWMEMBER LICENSES REPORTED SOLD**

Division of Administrative Services, License Accounting
Prepared February 2013

NON-RESIDENT	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Buys one license	177	588	687	749	712	848	991	973
Buys more than one license	47	541	568	517	704	1,085	1,305	1,344
NR individuals fishing	224	1,129	1,255	1,266	1,416	1,933	2,296	2,317

RESIDENT	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Buys one license	98	296	290	247	294	399	417	307
Buys more than one license	2	7	13	15	10	17	14	17
Res individuals fishing	100	303	303	262	304	416	431	324



License Revenue Activity

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
	PERMITS & LICENSES SOLD										
Resident	9,777	9,497	9,577	9,620	9,335	9,930	9,732	9,393	10,207	12,201	12,662
Non-Resident	9,155	8,649	8,077	7,499	7,192	8,164	7,726	7,061	9,111	9,884	10,217
Duplicate	655	676	589	562	525	670	632	571	727	844	96
Child	350	351	346	398	370	296	331	349	381	413	822
Non-Res Child	39	25	25	55	35	26	29	48	5	0	394
7-Day Res Crewmember License	334	283	351	375	202	1	0	0	0	0	0
7-Day Non-Res Crewmember License	1,466	1,267	1,305	1,201	310	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Licenses	21,776	20,748	20,270	19,710	17,969	19,087	18,450	17,422	20,431	23,342	24,191
Resident CFEC Permit	8,898	8,622	9,090	9,170	9,140	9,802	9,952	9,892	9,257	9,884	10,294
Nonresident CFEC Permit	3,290	3,333	3,358	3,374	3,627	3,184	3,486	3,486	3,316	3,584	3,655
Resident CFEC Permit - Reduced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	354	438	561
Nonresident CFEC Permit - Reduced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	28	35
Total Permits	12,188	11,955	12,448	12,544	12,767	12,986	13,438	13,378	12,940	13,934	14,545
Grand Total	33,964	32,703	32,718	32,254	30,736	32,073	31,888	30,800	33,371	37,276	38,736
	CONTRIBUTIONS DUE FISHERMEN'S FUND										
Resident	\$ 226,781.80	\$ 222,229.80	\$ 224,101.80	\$ 225,108.00	\$ 218,439.00	\$ 232,362.00	\$ 227,728.80	\$ 219,796.20	\$ 238,843.80	\$ 285,503.40	\$ 296,290.80
Non-Resident	\$ 457,750.00	\$ 432,450.00	\$ 403,850.00	\$ 374,950.00	\$ 359,600.00	\$ 408,200.00	\$ 386,300.00	\$ 353,050.00	\$ 455,550.00	\$ 494,200.00	\$ 510,850.00
Duplicate	\$ 1,277.25	\$ 1,318.20	\$ 1,148.55	\$ 1,095.90	\$ 1,023.75	\$ 1,306.50	\$ 1,232.40	\$ 1,113.45	\$ 1,417.65	\$ 1,645.80	\$ 187.20
Child	\$ 682.50	\$ 684.45	\$ 674.70	\$ 776.10	\$ 721.50	\$ 577.20	\$ 645.45	\$ 680.55	\$ 742.95	\$ 805.35	\$ 1,602.90
Non-Res Child	\$ 1,901.25	\$ 1,218.75	\$ 1,218.75	\$ 2,681.25	\$ 1,706.25	\$ 1,267.50	\$ 1,413.75	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 243.75	\$ -	\$ 19,207.50
7-Day Res Crewmember License	\$ 3,907.80	\$ 3,311.10	\$ 4,106.70	\$ 4,387.50	\$ 2,363.40	\$ 11.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7-Day Non-Res Crewmember License	\$ 17,152.20	\$ 14,823.90	\$ 15,268.50	\$ 14,051.70	\$ 3,627.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Licenses	\$ 711,452.80	\$ 676,036.20	\$ 650,369.00	\$ 623,050.45	\$ 587,480.90	\$ 643,713.20	\$ 617,320.40	\$ 576,980.20	\$ 696,798.15	\$ 782,154.55	\$ 828,138.40
Resident CFEC Permit	\$ 208,213.20	\$ 201,754.80	\$ 212,706.00	\$ 214,578.00	\$ 213,876.00	\$ 229,366.80	\$ 232,876.80	\$ 231,472.80	\$ 216,613.80	\$ 231,285.60	\$ 185,292.00
Nonresident CFEC Permit	\$ 164,500.00	\$ 166,650.00	\$ 167,900.00	\$ 168,700.00	\$ 181,350.00	\$ 159,200.00	\$ 174,300.00	\$ 174,300.00	\$ 161,655.00	\$ 174,720.00	\$ 197,370.00
Resident CFEC Permit - Reduced	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,310.00	\$ 6,570.00	\$ 8,415.00
Nonresident CFEC Permit - Reduced	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 585.00	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 1,575.00
Total Permits	\$ 372,713.20	\$ 368,404.80	\$ 380,606.00	\$ 383,278.00	\$ 395,226.00	\$ 388,566.80	\$ 407,176.80	\$ 405,772.80	\$ 384,163.80	\$ 413,835.60	\$ 392,652.00
Grand Total	\$ 1,084,166.00	\$ 1,044,441.00	\$ 1,030,975.00	\$ 1,006,328.45	\$ 982,706.90	\$ 1,032,280.00	\$ 1,024,497.20	\$ 982,753.00	\$ 1,080,961.95	\$ 1,195,990.15	\$ 1,220,790.40

Life long commercial fisherman invites tourists along for the ride

Juneau fisherman says, 'If adventure be in your soul, sign on!'

Posted: June 18, 2011 - 9:23pm



Klas Stolpe / Juneau Empire

F/V Tia Lynn captain Andy Massey gaffs aboard a halibut as deckhand, and step-son, David Hamilton cleans fish and client Richard Mattson watches during Massey's newest business venture. Massey is giving tourists an exciting and unique Alaskan experience by signing them on as crew on day outings while he harvests his commercial quota.

By Klas Stolpe

JUNEAU EMPIRE

It was probably a good thing three of captain Andy Massey's crew did not show up as he cast lines away and the F/V Tia Lynn moved out of Harris Harbor. Like any lifelong commercial fishing captain, and like time and tide, Massey waits for no man and would give them an ear-full of "salty language" if he did.

"I learned early on that if you ask a girl out twice and she comes up with a phony excuse then she doesn't want to go," Massey said. "When I started fishing, if you were late you missed the boat, then you lost your job and the paycheck."

Of course Massey said this all with humor. Not the humor of a 54-year-old man who has been commercial fishing since 1975 at age 17 and been through "hell and high water," but the man who was using his wisdom of the sea to insure he had a retirement life on the horizon.

Raised in the Norwegian settled fishing town of Petersburg, Massey discovered at an early age his calling was on the deck of a commercial long

liner. Old Norwegian Ernest Enge on the F/V Martina gave him his start and he crewed his way along.

The federal government decided that an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) was needed to allow an individual to harvest a percentage of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of halibut and black cod (sablefish). It implemented the IFQ/ITQ program in 1995 to qualifying fishermen, mostly skippers.

A quota was issued to owners or leaseholders of vessels that sold halibut and black cod at any time in 1988-1990. Shares were calculated by the best five years of catches from 1985-90 for cod and 1984-90 for halibut.

Captains banded together to fish, and crew lost jobs. A high of 3,450 distinct vessels landed halibut in 1994 and that shrunk to 1,156 by 2008 (1,404 to 362 for sablefish).

Massey through the years has stayed on a reliable boat, the F/V Westerly, and crews halibut and black cod in the Spring and Fall.

In 1998, for roughly \$300,000, he added to his crew income by buying 23,000 pounds of halibut IFQ and the right to fish it. The plan was for it to become a retirement fishing nest egg to sleepily harvest with a cup of coffee in hand.

“Uncle Sam must have thought I didn’t need to relax,” Massey laughed. “Don’t get me started on the feds in state waters.”

The International Pacific Halibut Commission, which had been shaving off a pound here and a pound there over the years, cut the 2011 halibut quota nearly in half, bankrupting many who bought in to the fishing business in 2005.

“Their story is fish stocks are so depressed that you can only justify 2.3 million for the commercial fleet,” Massey roars. “When it used to be 10.5 peaked out. When I go out there I don’t see any difference. I go through all my logbooks and I get the same catch rate I always had. I think they are full of... well, anyway.”

Massey’s initial investment of 23,000 pounds has dieted off to 4,900. To help offset his investment costs Massey has started the next reality Alaskan adventure: crewing on board a working Alaskan Halibut fishing vessel.

"I needed to do something," Massey said. "I had to spread that poundage out to make it a viable interest, or just get out of it. I have to fish my pounds anyway; I may as well try to make some money at it. I just had to build a better mouse trap."

An Alaska Legislative House Bill that passed in 2005 allowed the purchase of 7-day crew licenses to allow visitors an affordable way to engage in a sort of extreme tourism adventure by actually participating in the fishery as a crewmember. The bill also forbids a wage, thus combating illegal or unethical hiring practices.

By Alaska statute a resident or non-resident can purchase a multiple-day commercial crew license, however, they cannot sport fish from the vessel, nor can commercial vessels allow sport fishing on board.

Massey is marketing a six- to eight-hour day. He will license clients at the boat. Clients sign on as crew and learn to bait, set and haul gear and "experience what it's like fishing with 200 hooks instead of just one."

"I am not letting them grab a gaff or use a knife," Massey said. "I might let them bait a hook or two. If they look like they are dangerous I will relieve them of duty. They will need to understand right off the bat that I am the skipper. The idea is just to give them a little taste of my slice of heaven."

As the Tia Lynn began passing the large docked "sardine cans" full of tourists, Massey was conducting the dude-fishing crew's safety meeting. Crew were educated about survival suits, life rafts, and most, importantly, the VHF, "for when you give me a heart attack," Massey said to laughs.

Massey distributes "oilskins" and the gear baiting begins. This trip would be all watchers, yet Massey explained the ins and outs of the work with patience.

"We are using salmon and squid," Massey said, placing a hook into a piece of salmon his deckhand, and stepson, David Hamilton had cut. "We will be fishing in heavy flea bottom so we don't want the gear to soak too long."

With gear baited and the F/V Tia Lynn reaching a secret fishing spot Massey's fingers traveled over a chart book.

"I have caught fish here, and here, and here," Massey said. "Here I caught a cold."

The crew enjoys the banter of a real, live Alaskan born fisherman.

Four skates, or tubs, of gear, each 150 fathoms (900 feet) long with 50 baited hooks, are set over with buoys and anchors at each end — roughly two-thirds of a mile of fishing on the bottom.

“I set across the tide to catch the fish washing back and forth with the tide,” Massey says. “It’s easier to set with the tide but I like things difficult.”

Massey’s logbook is imprinted with the latitude and longitude of each end, the depth, hook size and spacing, gear type, target species, date and time, crew, and his IFQ number.

“Federal regulations in state water,” Massey mumbles. Halibut, black cod, and various ocean crab in the Bering Sea are federally regulated while herring, salmon, and crab are state burdens. “Don’t get me started.”

With gear fishing the Tia Lynn motors towards whale country. Crew eyes are pressed to the galley windows as they snack on salmon and tanner crab spreads purchased locally.

Killer whales provide a show and move on as a crewmember photographs from the bow sprite. If the gillnet fleet were fishing the crew would watch the action, and if humpbacks were about the skipper would lower an underwater microphone and listen to whale chatter.

Massey drops the anchor near shore and lowers a deepwater camera. The camera’s LED lights provide a 15-foot underwater view of crab and various critters below and shows it live on a TV in the galley.

When gear is hauled and halibut cleaned and iced the Tia Lynn heads to port. Salable by-catch like pacific cod or red snapper, after being weighed and logged, will be given to the Glory Hole.

Massey has to deliver fish in accordance to existing commercial laws. If a crewman wants to buy a specific fish it is marked during icing. When the fish are delivered at the dock the marked fish is taken to Jerry’s Meats for processing, freezing and shipping. Any fish not sold to crew is sold off the dock or to a processor.

With the lines tied fast at dock, hands shaken and crew departed, Massey leans back into his captain’s chair.

“Another thing,” Massey says. “I am getting to the age now where it is tough to do the brutal stuff anymore. You go out there and make a 50,000-pound halibut trip like we did last fall, you just don’t bounce back like you used to. This is an experience cruise, an Alaskan adventure, something they can’t get anywhere else. And it’s not a cattle car operation, its small and homey.”

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