

SCOMM

114:12

Alaska State Legislature

Member:

House Finance

Subcommittee Chair:

Transportation

Environmental Conservation

Subcommittee Member:

Fish and Game



Representative William K. Williams

During Session:
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SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 160 an act relating to the length of salmon seine vessels

House Bill 160 was introduced at the urging of seine fishermen here in Southeast. Similar legislation passed the House and Senate in 1994, but was vetoed by Governor Hickel.

HB 160 would remove in statute the 58 foot limit on seiners, and give the Board of Fish the flexibility to modify the vessel length limit through the Board process. I stress that HB 160 alone would not change the current length limit on seine vessels, but would only give that discretion to the Board of Fish.

Further, HB 160 would give the Board the option to set the length limit on seiners on a fishery by fishery basis.

Mr. Chairman, I have introduced this legislation to bring the discussion of seine vessel length to the table. Some I have talked to believe longer vessels would provide more safety, allow for on-board value added processing, and encourage better quality fish entering the market.

Also, a few months ago at the salmon summit, ideas were discussed about possible permit buy-back scenarios. Allowing the Board of Fish to modify seine vessel length could be a tool used in a permit buy-back plan.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for scheduling HB 160 for a hearing today. I look forward to the testimony and will be available for questions.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 160

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction)	Dept. Affected <u>Fish and Game</u>
Title <u>LENGTH OF SALMON SEINE VESSELS</u>	BRU <u>Commercial Fisheries</u>
Sponsor <u>Rep. Williams</u>	Component <u>Headquarters Fisheries Management</u>
Requester <u>House Fisheries</u>	Component Serial No. <u>2171</u>

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
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
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY99) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by Doug Mecum, Director
 Division Commercial Fisheries
 Approved by Commissioner Frank Rue *Frank Rue*
 Agency Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone 465-8100
 Date/Time 4/15/99 10:39 AM
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Subject: [Fwd: 58' limit]

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 1999 10:30:50 -0800

From: Representative Bill Hudson <Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: Alaska State Legislature

To: Liz_Cabrera@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: 58' limit

Date: Mon, 12 Apr 1999 17:00:36 -0700

From: Ray Wadsworth <ray@pinboneout.com>

Organization: TBRs Technology

To: Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us

Bill, Rumor has it that there is a bill to do away with the 58' limit. I hope so. I have a 56' seiner.

I have developed a machine(thanks to ASTF) which fillets salmon and also removes the pinbones. This summer we will be testing it in Southeast on a tender. The idea is to produce frozen at sea salmon fillets of consistent high quality. If this 'showcase' for our machine works, the next step is to build the machine into a seiner, but the boat has to be longer than 58'. Why 58', what a stupid law. The world is changing and if Alaska fisheries can't change too, we will continue to go broke.

Thanks for your time, good luck, Ray

Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 65 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska
P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / Telephone (907) 424-3447 / Fax (907) 424-3430

April 20, 1999

APR 26 1999

Representative Bill Hudson, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol
MS 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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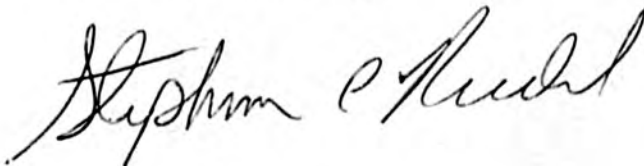
Dear Members,

Cordova District Fishermen United's Seine Division would like to register its opposition to HB 160, an Act relating to the maximum length of salmon seine vessels. Our organization's membership is comprised of commercial fishing families dependent upon the Prince William Sound and Copper River fisheries.

The majority of our seine division membership residing in the Prince William Sound region objects to lifting the ban on salmon seine vessel lengths over 58 feet.

We are also opposed to giving authority for such a critical issue to the current Alaska Board of Fisheries, especially in light of the biases against Prince William Sound that have been expressed by Board member Virgil Umphenour.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Riedel
Seine Division Co-Chair

cc: Senator Georgiana Lincoln
Representative John Harris
Jerry McCune, UFA
USA - Prince William Sound
CRSPA



REPRESENTATIVE ALAN AUSTERMAN Alaska State Legislature

P.O. Box 2368, Kodiak, Alaska 99615 (907) 486-5930 • Session: State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801 465-2487

April 19, 1999

Representative Bill Hudson
Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Room 108
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

Representative Hudson,

I'm unable to attend the House Fisheries Committee meeting on Monday, April 19, 1999, and would appreciate it if you would have the following testimony read into the record.

I am opposed to HB 160. I feel that passage of this bill would open the door to other changes that might eventually destroy the limited entry system as it now stands.

It is my understanding that one of the reasons for lifting the size limits is so that a harvester could get a large enough boat to be a catcher and also have processing capabilities on the same vessel. This would weaken the shore base plants. It is also my understanding that some of the same harvesters have made the statement that this type of investment would lead to the need to do away with registration areas so that these harvesters could go from one opening to another to pay for their investment into processing.

Sorry that I'm unable to attend this meeting as it is a very important issue that could have far reaching impacts. Thank you for taking my testimony into considerations.

Alan Austerman
Representative for District 6