

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Fish & Wildlife Commission

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645

CHAIRPERSON

Peter Probasco

VICE CHAIR

Andy Couch

MSB STAFF

Maggie Brown



BOARD MEMBERS

Tim Hale

Michael Bowles

Marty Van Diest

Gabe Kitter

Bill Gamble

Kendra Zamzow

Ex officio: Jim Sykes

Regular Meeting

May 8, 2025

Meeting Packet - Table of Contents

Pg. = Item:

- 1 = Agenda
- 5 = Draft April 10 Meeting Minutes
- 9 = Senate Bill 161
- 11 = House Bill 191
- 16 = Senate Bill 174
- 21 = House Bill 203

Physical Location of Meeting: Room 203, DSJ Bldg, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer

Remote Participation: See attached agenda on p. 1

Planning and Land Use Department - Planning Division

<http://www.matsugov.us> • planning@matsugov.us

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
AGENDA**

Edna Devries, Mayor

Peter Probasco – Chair
Andy Couch – Vice Chair
Gabriel Kitter
Tim Hale
Bill Gamble
Kendra Zamzow
Michael Bowles
Marty Van Diest
Jim Sykes – Ex officio member

Maggie Brown – Staff



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director
Jason Ortiz, Planning & Land Use Deputy
Director
Vacant, Development Services Manager
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer

*Room 203
Dorothy Swanda Jones Building 350 E.
Dahlia Avenue, Palmer*

**May 8, 2025
REGULAR MEETING
4:00 p.m.**

Ways to participate in MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings:

IN-PERSON:

Assembly Chambers, DSJ Building

REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

Join on your computer:
[Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 213 715 044 561
Passcode: mJ26N5BL

Or call in (audio only):
1-907-290-7880
Phone Conference ID: 123 236 754#

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
 - A. "We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena’ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. March 13, 2025
- VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person*)
- VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS (10 min)
 - A. Staff Report
 - B. Chair’s Report
- IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Waterbody Setback (20 minutes)
 - B. FWC Game Special Meeting (20 Minutes)
 - C. North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (20 Minutes)
 - D. Kenai & Mat-Su Joint Fish Habitat Partnership Symposium Summary (10 Minutes)
- X. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. SB 161 An Act relating to the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state water; and providing for an effective date. – Discussion (10 minutes)
 - B. HB0191A and SB0174A - An Act establishing the Alaska Invasive Species Council in the Department of Fish and Game; relating to management of invasive species; and providing for an effective date. – Discussion (5 minutes)
 - C. HB203 - An Act relating to the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state water; and providing for an effective date. – No discussion, for the information of the commission

- D. Board of Fisheries Appointments: Tom Carpenter, Olivia Irwin – No discussion, for the information of the commission.
- E. 2025 Upper Cook Inlet Drift Fishery – No discussion, for the information of the commission
- XI. MEMBER COMMENTS (10 minutes)
- XII. NEXT MEETING DATE:
 - A. Game Special Meeting May 15, 2025, 4:00-8:00 PM, Lower-Level Conference Room
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
Regular Meeting: April 10, 2025
DSJ Building, Assembly Chambers
Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Peter Probasco
Andy Couch
Gabe Kitter
Time Hale
Bill Gamble
Kendra Zamzow
Michael Bowles
Jim Sykes

Absent:

Marty Van Diest

III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

GK moved to approve the agenda, seconded by AC

AC proposed an amendment to add a discussion for a letter of support for the Kink Tribe's Salmon Rehabilitation Project to the agenda as letter B under New Business, seconded by GK

No objection, motion passed as amended unanimously

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AC moved to approve March 13 minutes, seconded by MB

AC requested to include action items from last meeting

No objection, motion passed as amended unanimously

- VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS (10 min)
 - A. Staff Report
 - B. Chair's Report

- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Borough Waterbody Setback Update (10 minutes)

Discussion on Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Presentation to the Assembly

The Clerk's office will advertise a possible FWC quorum at the presentation

- B. FWC Game Special Meeting – Draft Questions (20 minutes)

GK moved to approach the list of questions and send them to ADF&G, seconded by AC

Questions 6 and 10 are similar and can be combined, add Units 13, 14, 16

No objection, motion passed unanimously

AC point of clarification are we using questions 6 and 10 and including Units 13, 14, 16
PP Yes, we are combining the two and adding Units 13, 14, 16

- C. Kenai & Mat-Su Joint Fish Habitat Partnership Symposium (10 minutes)

AC is working with Stephen to review the presentation, which needs to be submitted by April 16. Maggie will submit it once she gets Andy's presentation.

- D. Juneau Trip Summary (10 minutes)

AC made a motion Request from the FWC for the Borough to create a funding priority sheet to track the cost of projects and types of projects (what is needed in the Mat-Su Borough issues and priorities), seconded by GK

No objection, motion passed as amended unanimously

- E. CAPSIS letter (15 minutes)

MB moved to accept the letter, seconded by JK

Request that the letter be sent to the Director Sport Fish, Director Com Fish, Commissioner, Valley Legislators, the Governor, and all the cc list from the draft letter.

No objection, motion passed as amended unanimously

F. SB 108 - finfish farms and finfish farm products discussion (10 minutes)

AC moved to accept the letter, seconded by GK

Edit the letter to add "...sport, personal, subsistence..." after commercial in the second paragraph
Edit the letter to delete "economic" from the second paragraph

Motion passed with KZ abstaining and PP, AC, GK, TH, BG, MB in favor

G. HB 93 - changing the residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing privileges discussion (5 minutes)

Set aside with no comments

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. North Pacific Fisheries Management Council action (10 minutes)

Meeting June 2-10 Newport, Oregon

AC moved that the NPFMC working group (JS, KZ, PP) draft a letter for the FWC to discuss at the May meeting, seconded by GK

No objection, motion passed as amended unanimously

B. letter of support for the Kink Tribe's Salmon Rehabilitation Project

AC motioned to approve and send the letter, seconded by GK

Vote Count

PP - Yes

AC - Yes

TH - Yes

GK - Yes

BG - Yes

KZ - Yes

MB - abstain

Motion passed with MB abstaining and PP, AC, GK, TH, BG, KZ in favor

PP Chair Privilege – Sue Mauger and Bill Gamble will work together to get the Deshka Land Designation presentation to the Assembly

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

JS asked to add FWC meeting times to the May 8 meeting

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: May 8, 2025, 4:00-6:00 PM

XII. ADJOURNMENT

GK moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by MB.

Meeting adjourned at 6pm

Peter Probasco, FWC Chair

Date

Maggie Brown, Planning Division Staff

Date

DRAFT

34-LS0777\N

SENATE BILL NO. 161

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS CRONK, Yundt

Introduced: 4/9/25

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state water; and
2 providing for an effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 16.10 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 16.10.135. Use of trawl or dredge fishing gear.** A person may not use,
6 employ, or operate any trawl or dredge fishing gear that makes substantial bottom
7 contact with the seafloor while in use, as determined by the department, in the water of
8 the state.

9 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
10 read:

11 **STUDY AND REPORT ON THE EFFECTS OF BOTTOM TRAWLING AND ON**
12 **THE CONDITION OF THE SEAFLOOR.** The Department of Fish and Game shall conduct a
13 comprehensive study of the health of seafloor ecosystems and fish habitat in state water. The
14 department shall submit a report on the results of the department's study under this section to

SB0161A

-1-

SB 161

New Text Underlined [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]

34-LS0777\N

1 the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives on or before January 1,
2 2027, and notify the legislature that the report is available. The report must include

3 (1) information as to how the state's fishery resource and seafloor marine
4 ecosystems have been, and may continue to be, affected by the use of trawl or dredge fishing
5 gear that makes substantial bottom contact with the seafloor while in use;

6 (2) to the extent available, the quantities of fishery resources taken as bycatch
7 by fishers using trawl or dredge fishing gear that makes substantial bottom contact with the
8 seafloor while in use, including the number of fish of each species, taken over the last 10
9 years; and

10 (3) recommendations as to whether the use of trawl or dredge fishing gear that
11 makes substantial bottom contact with the seafloor while in use should be prohibited or
12 otherwise limited for

13 (A) the maximum benefit of the state's people; and

14 (B) the sustained yield of the state's fishery resource.

15 * **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this Act takes effect January 1, 2028.

16 * **Sec. 4.** Except as provided in sec. 3 of this Act, this Act takes effect immediately under
17 AS 01.10.070(c).

34-LS0541\G

HOUSE BILL NO. 191

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES HIMSCHOOT, Bynum, Hannan, Gray

Introduced: 4/14/25

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Alaska Invasive Species Council in the Department of Fish and
2 Game; relating to management of invasive species; and providing for an effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 16.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Article 6. Management of Invasive Species.**

6 **Sec. 16.20.800. Alaska Invasive Species Council.** (a) The Alaska Invasive
7 Species Council is an advisory council established in the department to facilitate
8 efforts by the department, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of
9 Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities,
10 and other natural-resource-related governmental entities operating in the state to
11 manage invasive species in the state by

12 (1) facilitating cooperation between state, federal, tribal, and local
13 agencies and nongovernmental organizations;

14 (2) assisting in coordination of activities to manage invasive species,

HB0191a

-1-

HB 191

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- 1 including those undertaken by local governments and nongovernmental organizations;
- 2 (3) recommending coordinated interagency strategies and policies
- 3 related to management of invasive species, including
- 4 (A) importation, possession, and use of invasive species;
- 5 (B) classification and listing of non-native species; and
- 6 (C) management of pathways associated with transfer of
- 7 invasive species;
- 8 (4) upon request of a state agency, providing guidance on prioritizing
- 9 the state agency's responses to occurrences of invasive species and how funds made
- 10 available under AS 16.20.820 may be best used;
- 11 (5) recommending expenditures from the invasive species response
- 12 fund;
- 13 (6) providing technical information and assistance to persons engaged
- 14 in regional and national invasive species management efforts.
- 15 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, the council consists of
- 16 (1) the following members appointed by the governor to three-year
- 17 terms:
- 18 (A) a representative of the University of Alaska who is
- 19 involved in research relating to, or management of, invasive species;
- 20 (B) a representative of an Alaska tribal entity who is involved
- 21 in management of invasive species;
- 22 (C) a representative of a statewide organization focused on
- 23 prevention, detection, and management of invasive species;
- 24 (D) a representative of an organization involved with
- 25 prevention, detection, and management of marine invasive species in the state;
- 26 (E) a representative involved in invasive species management
- 27 through a soil and water conservation district established under AS 41.10.130,
- 28 a conservation district established by an Alaska Native organization, or an
- 29 organization concerned with the health of watersheds in the state;
- 30 (2) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
- 31 speaker of the house of representatives;

34-LS0541\G

- 1 (3) one member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate;
- 2 (4) the commissioner of each of the following departments or the
- 3 commissioner's designee:

- 4 (A) the Department of Fish and Game;
- 5 (B) the Department of Natural Resources;
- 6 (C) the Department of Environmental Conservation;
- 7 (D) the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

8 (c) The council may, as the council finds necessary, invite additional persons
 9 to be nonvoting advisory members of the council. The council may invite
 10 representatives or members of federal entities, local government organizations, tribal
 11 governments, institutions of higher learning in the state, and other organizations with
 12 expertise relating to invasive species to join the council under this subsection. The
 13 council may prescribe procedures for the participation of persons added to the council
 14 under this subsection.

15 (d) The council shall adopt bylaws to govern its operation. The bylaws must
 16 provide procedures for

- 17 (1) decision making; and
- 18 (2) establishing subcommittees and advisory committees.

19 (e) The council shall elect a chair and vice chair from among the members
 20 appointed under (b)(1) of this section. The council shall meet at least quarterly at the
 21 call of the chair. A majority of the council constitutes a quorum. Meetings and council
 22 votes may be held by audio or video teleconference.

23 (f) Members of the council serve without compensation and are not entitled to
 24 per diem and travel expenses. However, a member appointed under (b)(4) of this
 25 section is entitled to per diem and travel expenses as a state employee.

26 (g) By January 15 of each odd-numbered year, the council shall prepare and
 27 present to the legislature an updated five-year strategic plan that addresses the effects
 28 of invasive species on the state's natural resources and economy, states the council's
 29 suggested priorities for addressing invasive species, and recommends legislation and
 30 funding required to implement the council's priorities. The council shall transmit the
 31 strategic plan to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives

34-LS0541\G

1 and notify the legislature that the plan is available.

2 (h) By January 15 of each year, the council shall prepare and present an
3 annual report on invasive species active in the state, the effects of the activity, and any
4 measures taken to manage invasive species. The report must include other issues and
5 concerns related to invasive species that the council determines are of value to
6 policymakers. The council shall submit the report to the governor, the department, the
7 Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the
8 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and the senate secretary and chief
9 clerk of the house of representatives, and notify the legislature that the report is
10 available.

11 (i) Council members appointed under (b)(1) of this section serve staggered
12 three-year terms and until a successor is appointed. A vacancy on the council shall be
13 filled in the same manner as the original appointment. If a vacancy occurs, the
14 governor shall appoint a member for the unexpired portion of the term within 60 days
15 after the occurrence of the vacancy.

16 **Sec. 16.20.810. Invasive species response fund.** The invasive species
17 response fund is established as an account in the general fund. The fund consists of
18 appropriations made to the fund. Money appropriated to the fund does not lapse. The
19 department may use money appropriated to the fund to manage invasive species,
20 without further appropriation.

21 **Sec. 16.20.850. Definitions.** In AS 16.20.800 - 16.20.850,

- 22 (1) "council" means the Alaska Invasive Species Council;
- 23 (2) "department" means the Department of Fish and Game;
- 24 (3) "invasive species" means a non-native species the introduction of
25 which causes or is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to
26 human health;
- 27 (4) "manage invasive species" means to take actions to prevent or
28 minimize harmful effects of invasive species on the economy, the environment, public
29 health, infrastructure, and cultural heritage;
- 30 (5) "non-native species" includes any biological material capable of
31 propagating a species that is not native to the state or an ecosystem in the state.

34-LS0541\G

1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.20.800, 16.20.810, and 16.20.850 are repealed July 1, 2035.

2 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
3 read:

4 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AND CHAIR AND TIMING AND NUMBER OF
5 MEETINGS REQUIRED IN INITIAL YEAR. (a) Notwithstanding AS 16.20.810(i), added
6 by sec. 1 of this Act, the governor shall appoint the initial members of the Alaska Invasive
7 Species Council required under AS 16.20.800(b)(1) within 60 days after the effective date of
8 this Act. The governor shall appoint the members to staggered terms as follows:

9 (1) two members shall be appointed to three-year terms;

10 (2) two members shall be appointed to two-year terms; and

11 (3) one member shall be appointed to a one-year term.

12 (b) Notwithstanding AS 16.20.800(e), added by sec. 1 of this Act, the Alaska Invasive
13 Species Council shall

14 (1) hold its first meeting within 90 days after the appointment of members
15 under (a) of this section; and

16 (2) meet at least four times in the 12 months following the appointment of
17 members under (a) of this section.

18 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

34-LS0901\A

SENATE BILL NO. 174

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR DUNBAR

Introduced: 4/14/25

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Alaska Invasive Species Council in the Department of Fish and
2 Game; relating to management of invasive species; and providing for an effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 16.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Article 6. Management of Invasive Species.**

6 **Sec. 16.20.800. Alaska Invasive Species Council.** (a) The Alaska Invasive
7 Species Council is an advisory council established in the department to facilitate
8 efforts by the department, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of
9 Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities,
10 and other natural-resource-related governmental entities operating in the state to
11 manage invasive species in the state by

12 (1) facilitating cooperation between state, federal, tribal, and local
13 agencies and nongovernmental organizations;

14 (2) assisting in coordination of activities to manage invasive species,

SB0174A

-1-

SB 174

New Text Underlined [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]

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- 1 including those undertaken by local governments and nongovernmental organizations;
- 2 (3) recommending coordinated interagency strategies and policies
- 3 related to management of invasive species, including
 - 4 (A) importation, possession, and use of invasive species;
 - 5 (B) classification and listing of non-native species; and
 - 6 (C) management of pathways associated with transfer of
 - 7 invasive species;
 - 8 (4) upon request of a state agency, providing guidance on prioritizing
 - 9 the state agency's responses to occurrences of invasive species and how funds made
 - 10 available under AS 16.20.820 may be best used;
 - 11 (5) recommending expenditures from the invasive species response
 - 12 fund;
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 - 23 prevention, detection, and management of invasive species;
 - 24 (D) a representative of an organization involved with
 - 25 prevention, detection, and management of marine invasive species in the state;
 - 26 (E) a representative involved in invasive species management
 - 27 through a soil and water conservation district established under AS 41.10.130,
 - 28 a conservation district established by an Alaska Native organization, or an
 - 29 organization concerned with the health of watersheds in the state;
 - 30 (2) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
 - 31 speaker of the house of representatives;

34-LS0901\A

- 1 (3) one member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate;
- 2 (4) the commissioner of each of the following departments or the
- 3 commissioner's designee:

- 4 (A) the Department of Fish and Game;
- 5 (B) the Department of Natural Resources;
- 6 (C) the Department of Environmental Conservation;
- 7 (D) the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

8 (c) The council may, as the council finds necessary, invite additional persons
 9 to be nonvoting advisory members of the council. The council may invite
 10 representatives or members of federal entities, local government organizations, tribal
 11 governments, institutions of higher learning in the state, and other organizations with
 12 expertise relating to invasive species to join the council under this subsection. The
 13 council may prescribe procedures for the participation of persons added to the council
 14 under this subsection.

15 (d) The council shall adopt bylaws to govern its operation. The bylaws must
 16 provide procedures for

- 17 (1) decision making; and
- 18 (2) establishing subcommittees and advisory committees.

19 (e) The council shall elect a chair and vice chair from among the members
 20 appointed under (b)(1) of this section. The council shall meet at least quarterly at the
 21 call of the chair. A majority of the council constitutes a quorum. Meetings and council
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 25 section is entitled to per diem and travel expenses as a state employee.

26 (g) By January 15 of each odd-numbered year, the council shall prepare and
 27 present to the legislature an updated five-year strategic plan that addresses the effects
 28 of invasive species on the state's natural resources and economy, states the council's
 29 suggested priorities for addressing invasive species, and recommends legislation and
 30 funding required to implement the council's priorities. The council shall transmit the
 31 strategic plan to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives

34-LS0901\A

1 and notify the legislature that the plan is available.

2 (h) By January 15 of each year, the council shall prepare and present an
3 annual report on invasive species active in the state, the effects of the activity, and any
4 measures taken to manage invasive species. The report must include other issues and
5 concerns related to invasive species that the council determines are of value to
6 policymakers. The council shall submit the report to the governor, the department, the
7 Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the
8 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and the senate secretary and chief
9 clerk of the house of representatives, and notify the legislature that the report is
10 available.

11 (i) Council members appointed under (b)(1) of this section serve staggered
12 three-year terms and until a successor is appointed. A vacancy on the council shall be
13 filled in the same manner as the original appointment. If a vacancy occurs, the
14 governor shall appoint a member for the unexpired portion of the term within 60 days
15 after the occurrence of the vacancy.

16 **Sec. 16.20.810. Invasive species response fund.** The invasive species
17 response fund is established as an account in the general fund. The fund consists of
18 appropriations made to the fund. Money appropriated to the fund does not lapse. The
19 department may use money appropriated to the fund to manage invasive species,
20 without further appropriation.

21 **Sec. 16.20.850. Definitions.** In AS 16.20.800 - 16.20.850,

- 22 (1) "council" means the Alaska Invasive Species Council;
- 23 (2) "department" means the Department of Fish and Game;
- 24 (3) "invasive species" means a non-native species the introduction of
25 which causes or is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to
26 human health;
- 27 (4) "manage invasive species" means to take actions to prevent or
28 minimize harmful effects of invasive species on the economy, the environment, public
29 health, infrastructure, and cultural heritage;
- 30 (5) "non-native species" includes any biological material capable of
31 propagating a species that is not native to the state or an ecosystem in the state.

34-LS0901\A

1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.20.800, 16.20.810, and 16.20.850 are repealed July 1, 2035.

2 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
3 read:

4 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AND CHAIR AND TIMING AND NUMBER OF
5 MEETINGS REQUIRED IN INITIAL YEAR. (a) Notwithstanding AS 16.20.810(i), added
6 by sec. 1 of this Act, the governor shall appoint the initial members of the Alaska Invasive
7 Species Council required under AS 16.20.800(b)(1) within 60 days after the effective date of
8 this Act. The governor shall appoint the members to staggered terms as follows:

9 (1) two members shall be appointed to three-year terms;

10 (2) two members shall be appointed to two-year terms; and

11 (3) one member shall be appointed to a one-year term.

12 (b) Notwithstanding AS 16.20.800(e), added by sec. 1 of this Act, the Alaska Invasive
13 Species Council shall

14 (1) hold its first meeting within 90 days after the appointment of members
15 under (a) of this section; and

16 (2) meet at least four times in the 12 months following the appointment of
17 members under (a) of this section.

18 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

34-LS0907\A

HOUSE BILL NO. 203

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCCABE, Foster

Introduced: 4/22/25

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state water; and
2 providing for an effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 16.10 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 16.10.135. Use of trawl or dredge fishing gear.** A person may not use,
6 employ, or operate any trawl or dredge fishing gear that makes substantial bottom
7 contact with the seafloor while in use, as determined by the department, in the water of
8 the state.

9 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
10 read:

11 **STUDY AND REPORT ON THE EFFECTS OF BOTTOM TRAWLING AND ON**
12 **THE CONDITION OF THE SEAFLOOR.** The Department of Fish and Game shall conduct a
13 comprehensive study of the health of seafloor ecosystems and fish habitat in state water. The
14 department shall submit a report on the results of the department's study under this section to

HB0203a

-1-

HB 203

New Text Underlined [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]

34-LS0907\A

1 the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives on or before January 1,
2 2027, and notify the legislature that the report is available. The report must include

3 (1) information as to how the state's fishery resource and seafloor marine
4 ecosystems have been, and may continue to be, affected by the use of trawl or dredge fishing
5 gear that makes substantial bottom contact with the seafloor while in use;

6 (2) to the extent available, the quantities of fishery resources taken as bycatch
7 by fishers using trawl or dredge fishing gear that makes substantial bottom contact with the
8 seafloor while in use, including the number of fish of each species, taken over the last 10
9 years; and

10 (3) recommendations as to whether the use of trawl or dredge fishing gear that
11 makes substantial bottom contact with the seafloor while in use should be prohibited or
12 otherwise limited for

13 (A) the maximum benefit of the state's people; and

14 (B) the sustained yield of the state's fishery resource.

15 * **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this Act takes effect January 1, 2028.

16 * **Sec. 4.** Except as provided in sec. 3 of this Act, this Act takes effect immediately under
17 AS 01.10.070(c).