

Alaska State Legislature



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Legislative Council

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House Bill 88 "An Act relating to the composition of the Board of Fisheries."

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 88 changes the composition of the Board of Fisheries from seven to nine members. The additional two members will benefit the Board by adding more diversity of interest, greater breadth of knowledge, and more points of view.

The governor appoints members to the Board on the "basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the Board" (AS 16.05.221). Members are not chosen because they pertain to specific geographical areas or identify as either sport, commercial or subsistence fishermen. However, the fact that the Board is only seven members is in conflict with the expectations of many Alaskans for a representative from their own region. Satisfying these expectations would require a larger board, which HB 88 seeks to accomplish.