

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BOARD OF FISHERIES

90-03-FB

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The Alaska Board of Fisheries discussed House Bill No. 502 this morning at its regulatory meeting in Anchorage.

The Board has decided not to comment on HB 502 as a whole. The overall merits of the bill are up to the legislature. However, the board unanimously objected to:

"Section 2. AS 16.05.251 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(g) The Board of Fisheries may restrict the operations of fish spotters in a fishery when restrictions are necessary to protect the conservation of a resource.",

if the intent of this new subsection is to restrict the boards authority to manage fish spotters only for conservation reasons. This would be undermining and erode the authority of the Board to manage the resource.

The Board of Fisheries implements regulations to conserve the resource, to provide for orderly fisheries, and to allocate the resource among the various user groups and gear types. The proposed new subsection (g) would eliminate some "tools" the board uses to manage the fisheries and we are strongly opposed to being charged with the responsibility of regulating the fisheries without having the full authority to do so.



Bud Hodson  
Chairman

March 15, 1990