



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

May 7, 2025

Submitted electronically via: [Senate.Resources@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Resources@akleg.gov)

Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska



RE: Opposition to SB 161, Prohibit Bottom Trawling

Dear Chair Giessel, Vice Chair Wielechowski and Members of the Senate Resources Committee:

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC), please accept for the record this letter in opposition to SB 161, Prohibit Bottom Trawling, and refrain from moving it out of committee. This bill would set a poor precedent for management of our state's crucial fisheries resources by circumventing established regulatory frameworks for state management of our fisheries.

For the record, RDC is a statewide, non-profit professional trade association founded in 1975. Our diverse membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, tourism, forestry, mining, and oil and gas industries and includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to advocate on behalf of these industries and encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources. Part of our legislative priorities are to encourage elected officials and state agencies to defend and promote Alaska's effective and rigorous regulatory process.

Among other things, SB 161 would prohibit the use of trawl or dredge fishing gear in state waters. It is important to note that the State of Alaska has two separate management bodies, the Department of Fish and Game, and Board of Fish, that currently serve to assess the long-term sustainability of our fishery resources through a structured process accessible to all stakeholders. Bypassing existing frameworks through the proposed passage of SB 161



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diminishes the value of thorough and ongoing resource evaluations. Additionally, clarity is needed on how findings and recommendations under Sec. 2 of the study required in SB 161 would be used by the legislature to inform future action, given that the prohibition on the use of trawl and dredge fishing gear in Sec. 1 of SB 161 will have already been enacted should this bill is passed by the legislature. Furthermore, we would like to highlight that this report would likely come at significant financial cost during a time when the state has yet to approve a balanced budget.

SB 161 would circumvent the normal regulatory processes previously established by the legislature, which would diminish stakeholders' ability to interact with decision makers, engagement in appropriate regional areas, and involvement of managers with expertise in the affected industries and communities.

In the interest of fostering a scientifically informed, transparent, and accessible process for long-term sustainability of responsible resource development, RDC respectfully requests that the Senate Resource Committee does not advance SB 161 for further consideration.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Leila Kimbrell

Executive Director

Resource Development Council for Alaska

***Celebrating 50 Years of Responsible Resource Development in Alaska***



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