

Ballot Measure No. 1

An Act Providing for the Protection of Wild Salmon and Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Ballot Language

**Ballot Measure No. 1 – 17FSH2
An Act Providing for the Protection of Wild Salmon and Fish
and Wildlife Habitat.**

This act would amend Alaska’s fish habitat permitting law. The act would require the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to apply new standards to permitting activities and development projects that have the potential to harm fish habitat. The act would exempt existing projects, operations, or facilities that have received all state and federal permits until a new permit is needed. The act would create fish and wildlife habitat-protection standards. The standards would address water quality, temperature, streamflow, and more. The act defines “anadromous fish habitat.” The act would allow ADF&G to apply the law to all habitat in Alaska that directly or indirectly supports salmon or other anadromous fish. The act would provide for three types of permits for development in anadromous fish habitat. ADF&G could issue a general permit—a single permit that applies to many people—for certain activities. For other activities that require a permit, the act would establish a two-track permitting system. Minor permits would be issued for activities that have little impact on fish habitat. Major permits would be issued for projects that have the potential to cause significant adverse effects on fish habitat. The act defines “significant adverse effects.” The act would require ADF&G to avoid or minimize adverse effects through mitigation measures and permit conditions. It would provide public notice on all permits and a chance to comment on major permits. The act would create criteria, timeframes, and an appeals process for the permits by interested persons. The act would allow ADF&G to respond to specified conduct with tickets, civil fines, or criminal penalties. The act would repeal two current statutes. One is regarding mitigation from a dam. The other is regarding criminal penalties that are addressed elsewhere.

Should this initiative become law?

Yes No

Legislative Affairs Agency Summary

The Act defines the term “anadromous fish habitat” and sets new standards to protect it. The standards relate to factors such as water quality and flow. The Act requires the Department of Fish and Game to specify which water bodies and areas of the state are this habitat. If the status of some water bodies is not known, the Act provides that the water bodies will be treated as this habitat. The Department of Fish and Game may check a water body and exclude it from that status. The Act requires permits for activities that may affect this habitat. The Act creates three types of permit. A general permit would allow some low impact activities for all persons in an area.