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Fish Hatchery Legislation Moves Fast

(JUNEAU) – A bill to provide a new hatchery in Fairbanks and to renovate and expand fish hatcheries at Ft. Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base passed both the House Fisheries and Resources Committees today. HB 252, sponsored by Representative Jim Holm (R-Fairbanks), would use federal funds as well as a revenue bond package to fund construction and renovation.

The legislation would add a modest surcharge to the price of a sport fishing license to pay off the construction and renovation bonds. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of these increased revenues will be generated from Non-Residents.

“I believe this project will be a huge economic stimulus for the Interior that will benefit Alaskans today and for future generations. Increased hatchery productions will further result in increased tourism for the entire Interior Region, as well as provide educational opportunities for our youth,” said Representative Holm.

HB 252 now moves to the House Finance Committee, of which Representative Holm is a majority member.

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