

RC 256

Proposal 79: AAC 21.350.

#### Closed Waters

RC #190 Committee notes should more accurately reflect sediment expressed by user groups in Committee B.

Main commercial user that spoke on behalf of the current stream mouth demarcation lines is the same individual that developed the current regulatory language that deviates from general provisions of Northern District commercial fishing regulations and is also one of the primary participants in the fishery in question.

Although the ADF&G commentary states that commercial set netters MAY be affected by this proposal, I've been guiding in this area for a number of years, and have yet to see a single commercial set net site in this area.

Action taken on proposal #135 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan and the 1% rule will inevitably lead to additional participation in the west side Cook inlet commercial drift net coho fishery, and therefore stream mouth conservation areas, as requested in Proposal 79 become even more important.

Currently the board is allowing commercial fishing activity inside the intertidal portion of Bachatna Creek, the Kustatan River, and at times Big River throughout ALL portions of the tide.

Only commercial activity we have seen is the drift gillnet fleet concentrated in the intertidal portion of the important coho bearing rivers on the West Side of Cook Inlet: namely: Bachatna Creek, Kustatan River and Big River. Each stream supports an important coho salmon sport fishery.

There are currently no coho salmon escapement goals to monitor the abundance of coho salmon stocks in all of Western Cook Inlet. In absence of any coho salmon goal, I request the Board develop a more precautionary commercial fishery, following the more standard closed waters within one statute mile from stream mouth terminus at mean lower low water used on other Cook Inlet streams.

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