

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISC. SHELLFISH  
JANUARY 21-27, 2015

**PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 02.15X.** - Prohibit fishing, around Cache Island, for bottom fish, crab, and shrimp by all users:

We, Mark & Miriam Edwards object to the proposal for the following reasons.

Simply put, the fish stocks and shell fish stocks in and around Naha Bay (including Cache Island) are in good shape. Bottom fish stocks such as halibut and Yellow Eye are not depleted. Shell fish such as shrimp and crab are also regularly caught. In addition there is no significant fishing pressure (commercial, sport, or personal use) to warrant concerns or impose restrictions. Ms. Grogan has not put forward any science to back her proposal.

We live in Naha Bay and operate a small lodge (capacity of just 6). We overlook Naha Bay and Cache Island and testify that there is very little fishing pressure in the Bay and area around Cache Island. We do not fish in the area on a regular basis but can testify that our neighbors in Naha Bay regularly catch halibut and Yellow Eye in and around Naha Bay and Cache Island as well as shrimp and crab.

The statement by Ms. Grogan that "The Ketchikan Gateway Borough set aside all the islands from Clover Pass to Naha Bay as preservation islands where no development is allowed" is not accurate. There is very little private land on these islands under the control of Ketchikan Gateway Borough. Most of the land is Federal Land under the control of the US Forest Service. The forest service has limited guided activities on these islands to avoid conflict with residents not for conservation grounds. The KGB zoning of the small amount of private land on these islands and along the shore between Knudson Cove and Naha Bay is a mixture of rural residential, and cottage industry / future development which allows a wide variety of uses from say private homes, art galleries, commercial fish processing and lodges.

Ms. Grogan states that this is an important eco-system. This is also not accurate. Cache Island is no different than any of the other islands in the area or the shoreline around the Behm Canal and Cleveland Peninsula. There is no special or rare fish habitat, or threaten species around Cache Island that would warrant additional regulations from the rest of the area.

Ms. Grogan quotes the establishment of the Marine Reserve around Sitka. This is a pinnacles surrounded by large fishing pressure. The area was first subjected to high commercial fishing which was limited by one set of regulations and then high charter boat activities. This does not apply to Cache Island. Naha Bay and Cache Island are not subjected to high fishing pressure by either commercial fishing boats or sport fishing from charter boats or self-guided sport fishing or personal use. Anyone who lives in the area can attest to this.

  
