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<th>Commenter</th>
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<td>Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mako@xyz.net">mako@xyz.net</a></td>
<td>95 Sterling Highway, Suite 2, Homer, Alaska 99603</td>
<td>Dear Mr. Green</td>
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<td>Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park opposes the lifting of the Personal Water Craft (PWC) ban in Kachemak Bay.</td>
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<td>We have heard arguments for and against PWCs for the last 20 years and there has been no new information that has changed our view that PWCs disturb wildlife and upset the general Park experience.</td>
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<td>We understand that you have received many letters and emails in strong opposition to the lifting of the ban. There is little more that we can add. Please register our voices in the &quot;NO&quot; column.</td>
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<td>Respectfully, Mako Haggerty, chair</td>
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<td>Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park is a local non-profit whose mission includes educating Park visitors and supporting Park volunteers. Our current membership stands at 107.</td>
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<td>Audubon Alaska</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Susan.Cullinan@audubon.org">Susan.Cullinan@audubon.org</a></td>
<td>Audubon-Alaska 411 W. 7th Ave. Anchorage, AK 99501</td>
<td>See message: Audubon-Alaska comments on proposed repeal of 5 AAC 95.310.msg in PWC1</td>
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<td>On behalf of the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACS), I am writing in opposition to any change to 5 AAC 95.310, with regards to the prohibition of the use of personal watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas (CHA). We strongly oppose any change that would allow personal watercraft use and management in this critically important habitat for marine life.</td>
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<td>CACS is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting marine and coastal education and stewardship of Kachemak Bay through place-based ecology education. We were formed in 1982 because of the recognition of our unique and special environment and the need to educate about and steward this amazing habitat. Our mission is to foster responsible interactions with our natural surroundings and to generate knowledge about the coastal and marine ecosystems of Kachemak Bay through science-based environmental education and stewardship. We believe the conservation of our coastal marine habitat allows people to enjoy a sustainable lifestyle based on a healthy ocean.</td>
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<td>CACS educational and citizen science programs are designed to provide highly effective experiential education opportunities and model environmental stewardship. They are designed to engage people of all ages and use appropriate methods of delivery aimed at increasing our understanding about the necessity and means to sustain the health and productivity of local environments. Many of our programs provide the opportunity to participate directly in stewardship activities. We host over 1,000 elementary aged students for a 2 night, 3 day Alaska Coastal Ecology program at our Peterson Bay Field Station each year, and have been doing this since 1982. The noise and disruption of habitat that the use of PWCs in this area (and other areas of Kachemak Bay) would be detrimental to the quality of the educational outdoor experience for these students. Many activities involve making a personal connection to the environment as well as time out exploring the tidepools. During the summer we host college groups, youth for residential camps and visitors to Homer and Kachemak Bay. These participants are seeking special outdoor experiences. Having PWC use in the bay would reduce the number of birds and marine life that could be seen; and would add unnecessary noise to an area that is known for peacefulness and quietness.</td>
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<td>Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Treadway@coastalstudies.org">Elizabeth.Treadway@coastalstudies.org</a></td>
<td>601 Ukkevik Bay Way, Homer, Alaska 99603</td>
<td>January 31, 2020</td>
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<td>To: Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, Alaska Department of Fish and Game</td>
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<td>CC: Rick Green, Alaska Department of Fish and Game</td>
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Dear Commissioner Vincent-Lang,

January 21, 2020

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed change by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) to 5 AAC 95.310, dealing with the prohibition of the use of personal watercraft in the Fox River and Kachemak Bay state-designated Critical Habitat Areas. As a resident of Homer, AK in the Kachemak Bay region, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) to repeal the regulation because use of personal water craft is incompatible with the purpose of these critical habitat areas to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife.

I have had the opportunity in the past year to review updates to the state management plans for the Fox River and Kachemak Bay CHAs (ADFG) and the Kachemak Bay State Park, including policies on use of personal water craft. While the proposed DIA management plan does not have a policy for personal water craft use (since personal water craft use was prohibited in the critical habitat areas under 5 AAC 95.310), the issue received a lot of attention because of the importance of personal water craft use and impacts to multiple public users. Based on concerns for the potential of PWC traffic to decrease populations of fish, wildlife and birds, I agree with the recommendation to maintain regulations under 5 AAC 95.310 and continue to prohibit use of PWCs in Kachemak Bay.

My primary concern is that personal water craft traffic is more likely to routinely and repeatedly occur in nearshore and shallow waters than other small boat traffic, because of the shallow draft and nature of personal water craft use. The Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas have extensive nearshore areas which support high concentrations of marine mammals, fish, seabirds, shorebirds and waterfowl. This creates the potential for increased, adverse impacts on multiple marine species within the critical habitat areas from personal water craft traffic, particularly if water craft are operated for extended periods of time in one area.

I also recognize that the ability to evaluate potential impacts from personal water craft use is limited by the lack of information on how these water craft may be used in the critical habitat areas, since their use has been limited in the bay since 2001 under 5 AAC 95.310. A survey of personal water craft users and industry to gain information on potential uses within Kachemak Bay is one way that ADFG could obtain information needed to evaluate trade-offs between public recreation access with personal water craft and adverse impacts to fish, wildlife and bird populations that the critical habitat areas were designated to protect.

I submit these comments in opposition to the Dunleavy administration interest to repeal the ban on personal watercraft (PWC aka jet skis) in Kachemak Bay. As you well know, ADFG established the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas (CHAs) in 1974 (AS 16.20.586) and 1972 (AS 16.20.580), respectively. The purpose of these CHAs is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose”. To that end, and after extensive public involvement, in 2001 the state enacted and has since then repeatedly upheld (2011, 2016-17) the ban on PWC in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats CHAs.

The science (observations, studies and published literature) clearly indicate that the use of PWCs in these waters is inappropriate and risks damaging the protected coastal habitat and therefore their use is not compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats CHAs. This includes a 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADFG, and the opinion of ADFG’s staff experts. Further, in 2017, ADFG concluded in a written memo: “In summary, based on our review of information available since the PWC prohibition was adopted in 2001, we feel there is no new information that would warrant rescinding the prohibition, and in fact the newer information highlights most of the concerns identified when the prohibition was adopted.” (emphasis added).

The clearly evident special interest in this action by Gov Dunleavy flies in the face of governing public resources through the accepted and expected public process we rely on to manage our state. There appears no documentation of consultation with the biologists and management staff who are in the best position to evaluate the impact of, and disturbance from, PWCs on the habitats, fish and wildlife that occur within the CHAs and for whom these protected areas were established.

The unique natural and ecological values of Kachemak Bay draws many thousands of tourists, as well as other Alaskans, to visit the area, which significantly drives the local economy. Alaskans have strongly and publicly supported the ban, both when it was established and again when it’s been under review. It is simply bad governance, and very apathetic, to single-handedly try to reverse decades of work that protects commonly-held natural resources for the benefit of all instead benefit a small special interest group that would damage these resources in practicing their recreational activity. That group, the Personal
Lois and Marc Simenson
Lois Simenson
simmerson64@gmail.com
Peterson Bay, Alaska
We are property owners in Peterson Bay, next to the Coastal Studies Field Station. We’ve lived on this beach property for the past 25 years.
We are opposed to lifting the ban on jetskis in a Critical Estuarine Habitat that is supposed to protect the marine ecosystem and marine life in the Bay.
Jetskis would have an adverse, negative impact on sea otters, which are already in decline, as well as the humpback whales that migrate each year to feed in the Bay. Jetskis make it easier to harass wildlife with their loud maneuverability and seabirds around Gull Rock would be negatively affected.
The people who want this ban lifted are those who will profit from the sale and rental of jetskis. There are enough water bodies in Alaska permitting jetskis. Please don’t sacrifice this fragile, ecologically sensitive area, so vital to so many.
Marine life numbers have been in decline for the past 20 years in the Bay. We’ve witnessed this population decline. Jetskis will accelerate this decline. The noise will annoy those of us who live near the water, especially during the night in summer.
Please do not lift the ban on jetskis.

Harry W. James
welshman@acsalaska.net
I find it hard to believe that there is a proposal to remove this ban on Kachemak Bay. Right off the top is the negative impact on a visitor’s experience that an encounter with a jet ski brings. I have spent all my life in and around the water (except when in deployment) and I have lots of personal experience with this, none of it positive. Kachemak Bay is a unique and wonderful place both visually and ecologically. Jet skis are not a fit with either of those. If there were vast restrictions to jet ski use in the state there might be an argument here but apparently it Bay is the only closed area in the state. I can see no argument that would justify removing the ban.
For those on the cc to this message, I am a registered Republican and I vote every election.
I am unalterably opposed to the removal of the ban.

Tabb
asrllc@ak.net
I Repeal of PWC Ban in Kachemak Bay

Captain Tabb Thoms
tablw@gmail.com
6100 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99518
I am a life long Alaskan, Master ship Captain with generations of my families living here since homesteading in Homer years before Alaska statehood.
This is to support the repeal on the ban of PWCs or motor vessels in Kachemak Bay.
1. Current Personal Water Crafts (PWC) are certified as “Motor Vessels” by the USA and State of Alaska and are actually cleaner and quieter than a majority of the vessels that currently operate in the bay.
2. To assist in economic vitality, individuals who purchase PWCs may have higher disposable incomes than many of the regional operators.
3. Statistics on PWC owners indicate that they are better educated, more environmentally and ecologically aware, as well as more respectful of the marine wilderness than many boat owners including those who operate legally in Kachemak Bay.
4. It is discriminatory to enforce a law where USA abiding citizen cannot enter the port of Homer on their legal registered “Motor Vessel” if they are sitting on it instead of in it!
5. The Homer spit sunk during the 64 earthquake and US Federal funds were utilized to rebuild our way back from that day. There is NO sign at the top of Homer hill that states NO “Motor Cycles” allowed to enter Homer if “sitting” on their motor vehicle. (If so, Federal funds would be cut off)
6. However this current law is stopping “Motor Vessels” from entering or leaving on its Federally funded water ways that are needed to enter or depart Homer harbor
7. A few ignorant individuals who hold authority to promote their personal and hidden objectives without scientific research is what should be banned
8. Homer “Where the Land ends and the Sea begins” unless of course your sitting on your Motor Vessel?
9. This repeal should not be confused with allowing illegals to enter the port of homer, but rather those that actually live here access to where the Sea begins.
10. The current law is not taking into account the navigable waters of the Bay
11. There is concerns of Illega activity or harm that will be allowed then these areas of activity or harm should be addressed individually, instead of stopping all activity.
Jeanne Roche  
8703 Elmow Way  
Homer, AK 99603  
I am very strongly opposed to the attempted repealing the jet ski ban in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas (CHAs). There are good scientific reasons why jet skis (also known as personal watercraft, PWC) have been banned from the CHAs. Obviously, these areas are called “critical habitats” because they need special protection. And, all continuing scientific evidence clearly indicate that jet ski “recreation” is not appropriate activity in the CHAs. The CHAs are not an amusement park. Please try to understand it is about protecting the wildlife, fisheries, and other life forms in the CHAs.  
Just because one single user group - the Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska - happened to have turned the Governor, obviously without his understanding of CHAs, definitely does not mean the ban that has been voted on twice - should simply be repealed on a whim. There is the public process to consider. And, perhaps, you do not realize that the state places recreational restrictions on many of its birds and waters to prevent harm. The PWC have 99% of Alaska waters to go do their wave-jumping incuring incredibly loud motor noise. There is absolutely no good reason why they “need” to recreate in the other 1% which happens to be CHAs. To try and portray them as a discriminated group is pure fallacy. To allow PWCs in the CHAs would be the road to destruction which would be stupid, stupid, among other things.  
The Governor’s decision to repeal this ban is so very wrong and unbound. He demonstrates no idea of public process, scientific evidence nor his role as protector of our State. Gosh, I need to check our Constitution.

Ronnie Rosenbaum  
3605 Cottonwood Cr,  
Golden, CO 80401  
As someone who has had the opportunity to visit your wonderful state and to kayak on Kachemak Bay, I urge you to continue the jet ski ban. When I was on the bay last summer, I was so taken with the pristine beauty that would be altered if jet skis were allowed. As I believe is the case with other tourists, we would no longer visit and venture out on lovely Kachemak Bay.

Amy Bright  
a.bright@msn.com  
I am a frequent visitor to Homer, AK, and I love the great outdoors. One of the draws for me to Homer is the pristine wilderness experience it affords me, which I fear will be irreparably compromised by the lifting of the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Just as drones (fun for the drone user) ruins the quietude for all the other nature seekers within sight and earshot, so does a jet ski. In fact, I call jet skis “water drones”. Please don’t allow them to ruin the pristine wilderness experience for me or the other thousands of visitors who bring millions of dollars to the local economy, forcing us to go elsewhere for quietude.

Ole Andersson  
4400 Tundra Rose Road  
Homer, Alaska. 99603  
Hi Rick- Allowing Jet Skis on Kachemak Bay is going to cost someone some money. Either Fish and Game or the city of Homer. As for Homer, Liability caused by accidents will cost the city of Homer (as the taxpayers) when out of town people come here in the summer and in their ignorance of cold water and local knowledge injure someone or someone property or need to be rescued. Even Alaskans may be a cause of some of these problems.

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society  
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society  
3734 Ben Walters Ln  
Homer AK 99603  
We disagree - Kachemak Bay Conservation Society Comments on PWC at KBA msg PWC1  
organization
Gabriel Travis
Beau Mills
The idea of allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay is a terrible one! They have plenty of other places to burn fuel and enjoy their
suzanne singer
Doug Van Patten
Gabriel Travis
Miriam
Doug Van Patten
Beau Mills
Jet skis should not be permitted in Kachemak Bay or in the Fox River Critical Habitat.
As a true with permitting on land usage that not all land is suitable nor should be allowed owing to various critical factors, nor is all water/marine environment suitable for all usage.
- The best use for all allowances on terrestrial and marine environments are the same everywhere – and Kachemak Bay and the Fox River area are not compatible with nor suitable for the proposed current efforts to allow jet-skiing.
- Please continue to ban jet ski’s on the Kachemak bay. This is such a special place in the world that even the slightest disturbance could make the largest negative impact.

Beau Mills
Kerri Erwin
Over the past 41 years I have been an avid boater on Kachemak Bay. There have been many changes to the environment in that short time frame. Some of those changes have been caused by alteration of water temperature and chemistry. Other changes can be directly or indirectly attributed to humanmade factors such as overfishing. The scientific community has certainly contributed a wealth of information to document the potential adverse effects of jet skis and personal watercraft on wildlife and the sensitive critical habitat of K-Bay. I will not elaborate further.
- Given the dominance of use jet skis, primarily as fast, fun, loud toys on the water, I am adamantly opposed to their use on Kachemak Bay. Safety and compatibility of other user groups should be addressed. Anyone who has utilized the Homer Harbor knows that the entrance can be very congested, especially on weekdays in the summer. Given their propensity for speed and maneuverability, it is very likely they will ignore, or be oblivious to the Rules of Road and common courtesy. A potentially hazardous situation will worsen if jet skis are permitted. The end of the Homer Spit is particularly vulnerable. While it is true that many boats speed by coming and going to other destinations there can be sailboats, a flotilla of slow-moving boats trolling, kayakers, and paddle boarders close to shore. Jet skis will compete for this space if they are intent on "entertaining" others. Visitors frequently enjoy seeing sea otter and harbor seals with the occasion sightings of porpoise and orcas. Their enjoyment will be sacrificed by the disrespectful use of obnoxious Jet skis. This scenario will likely be repeated in other near shore areas including; Halibut Cove, Tutka Bay, and Selawik. Jet ski users have developed a reputation as being oblivious to their surroundings and the disruption of the peace and enjoyment of others. As an example, imagine having an evening dinner on a restaurant deck adjacent to the Chena River in Fairbanks. The diners are enjoying the peaceful river flowing by, perhaps a canoe or two float by. Enter a Jet ski. The tranquility and peace of many are shattered by one individual’s ego and a machine, who has decided to “entertain” the captive audience. I have witnessed this more than once on the Chena and on other rivers, lakes, and beaches. The vast majority of Alaska’s waterways are open to Jet skis. Please uphold the regulations that prohibit Jet skis in K-Bay.

Kerri Ervin
Kerri Erwin
- Please consider what is being asked for if we were to bring Jet skis to Kachemak Bay. It is not merely another recreational option for boating/boiling. It is an activity that will disrupt an area that tourists and locals alike visit in order to enjoy the marine habitats as they currently are. Jet skis pose threats to birds, marine mammals and humans. While I enjoy riding them in appropriate areas, Kachemak Bay is not that area. I am one voice joining the others in asking you to help keep it that way. Please do not allow a recreational item that is incompatible with our current economy and that will pose a new threat to our current natural resources.

Suzanne Singer
the idea of allowing jet skis in Kachemak bay is a terrible one! they have plenty of other places to burn fuel and enjoy their own noise.
Suzanne singer
- The destruction to habitat is not worth it!
- Please, every road does not need to be a freeway.
George Matz  
120x556>geomatz41@gmail.com  
Fritz Creek, AK 99632  
See message:  Personal watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas.msg in PWC1

Paul Twardock  
paultapu@gci.net  
I oppose opening areas currently closed to personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.  The potential disruption to wildlife and other people are not worth the benefits to a few.  There is plenty of access already in the bay, and almost all other waters in AK are open to personal watercraft.

Angela Doroff  
angeldoroff@gmail.com  
As a long-time resident of Alaska, I'm asking you to keep small boats out of Kachemak Bay and honor the conservation protections afforded that region.  There are many places in this vast state that allow jetskis.  They don't need to be in Kachemak Bay.

Jim Meager  
jim.meager@yahoo.co.uk  
PO Box 1368  
Homer, AK 99610  
I oppose opening areas currently closed to personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.  The potential disruption to wildlife and other people are not worth the benefits to a few.  There is plenty of access already in the bay, and almost all other waters in AK are open to personal watercraft.

Sue Mauger  
s_mauger@yahoo.com  
PO Box 1368  
Homer, AK 99603  
Please accept my comments below about the "Notice of Proposed Changes on the Use of Personal Watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas." I am a full-time Alaskan resident and have lived in the Kachemak Bay area for 20 years.

I strongly oppose the proposed change to remove the prohibition on personal watercraft use in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas.

My reasons are many but the one I urge you to consider is the utter disrespect you are showing to your colleagues at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. These Alaskan professionals, who have worked for the best interest of the state for decades, have concluded:

"In summary, based on our review of information available since the PWC prohibition was adopted in 2001, we feel there is no new information that would warrant rescinding the prohibition, and in fact the newer information highlights most of the concerns identified when the prohibition was adopted. A draft of this memo was circulated to affected staff in all department divisions (DWC, HAB, CS, SJ) and this recommendation was widely supported."

These conclusions provide you with a face-saving excuse to back away from this ill-conceived and potentially dangerous regulatory change to 5 AAC 95.310.

I do not support the proposed change and ask that you retain the ban on personal watercraft within Kachemak Bay.

Nidia Dunayevich  
nidia.gprest@outlook.com  
41561 Stellars Jay Drive  
Homer, AK 99603  
I am writing to ask you to keep the PWC ban in effect in Kachemak Bay Critical Care Habitat Area. I am strongly opposed to lifting the ban of PWC in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. I do not see how lifting the ban will add the safe and well being of the community at large. Please feel free to contact for further concerns or questions.

Best regards,  
Nidia Dunayevich

Nubia Cipres-Hargrove  
nubia.cipres-hargrove@outlook.com  
41561 Stellars Jay Drive  
Homer, AK 99603  
I am writing to strongly oppose allowing any PWC in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. I am against opening these waters to the PWC for any reason. At this time I cannot find any reason to allow this to occur that would create a positive impact on these waters. The Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is best without any PWC allowed. The area has been kept without the PWC for more time and I do not see any reason that this would add to the safe and well being of the community. There are plenty of other areas for the PWC clubs to enjoy use in much larger areas than the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Please feel free to contact me if you need further information.

Best Regards,  
Nubia Cipres

Karen Murphy  
karen@MurphyMetz342@hotmail.com  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
I am writing in response to the proposed regulation change to lump motorized personal watercraft (PWC) in with other vessel operations in critical habitat areas within Kachemak Bay. I believe that ADF&G will be making a mistake if you accept this proposal. There is legal precedence that has established that the fast, erratic, movement of these PWC is more disruptive to wildlife and often creates conflict between other non-motorized users who can also access the shallower areas in the bay. There is also evidence that there are more fatalities associated with PWC than other vessels which means that the State will bear bigger expenses associated with rescue operations in the area. Most importantly, the designation of Critical Habitat in Kachemak Bay means that impacts in this area is much more likely to create a population level effect to the sea otters, whales and sea birds that depend on the quiet portions of the bay for raising their young and survival.

If you do go through with this regulation change, please establish a formal monitoring plan and research on wildlife impacts with some bays being "controls" (no PWC) and others open to impact. Create a short time frame during which the decision would be revisited with clear criteria for making a final decision that is based on scientific findings on the impacts to the wildlife in the critical habitat areas.
This is to support maintaining the long-standing ban on the use of jet skis (or “personal water craft”) in Kachemak Bay. It is the Business/Individual

**Wayne Hall**
President/Owner
**Thorne Thoms**

**Thoms Thoms**
aalimpse@gmail.com

This letter represents the Within the Wild Adventure Company comments on ADF&G’s proposed repeal of 5 AAC 93.510 that prohibits the use of personal watercraft (aka jet skis) in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. We are strongly opposed to the change that would allow personal watercraft usage and management in this internationally important area for shorebirds, marine wildlife, and a unique maritime ecosystem found nowhere else in the world.

Within the Wild Adventure Company was formed in 1982 and includes two wilderness lodges (one of them, Tutka Bay Lodge located within Kachemak Bay) as well as a base located on the Homer Spit. Our company mission statement says that we wish to provide our guests with the opportunity to experience the powerful sense of time spent in the natural world, to experience new and enriching adventures that become lifetime memories, and to bring individuals and families closer together in a creative and positive environment. More information on who we are can be found at www.withinthewild.com.

The Alaska Legislature created the Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area in 1972 and the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area in 1974 “to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” (Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1993). The Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is documented as an international critical migratory stopover area for at least a hundred thousand shorebirds using the Pacific Americas Flyway. The site is especially important for Western Sandpipers, Dunlin, Red-necked Phalaropes and Surfbirds that feed and roost on the wide diversity of shoreline habitats. The sheer numbers of birds prompted ADF&G to nominate the area as a Site of International Importance under the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network in 1996 (https://whsrn.org/whsm sites/kachemak-bay/). Alaska Audubon has designated the marine waters of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area as an Important Bird Area (https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/kachemak-bay#). Lastly, the Fox River Flats and the Kachemak Bay critical habitat areas are one of 28 internationally important shoreline sites across the entire Pacific Americas Flyway from Tierra del Fuego to western Alaska (Senner et al. 2016). Collectively, these designations demonstrate the international conservation community’s support for protection and conservation of the most important site for migrating shorebirds in the Pacific Flyway.

Jet skis, and other personal watercraft, are designed for recreation and are particularly problematic for wildlife. They are highly maneuverable, very fast, and as a result are very different than skiffs designed for maneuverability and speed. Personal Water Crafts are certified “Motor Vessels” and are actually cleaner and quieter than a majority of the vessels that currently operate in the bay. Individuals who purchase PWCs may have higher disposable incomes than many of the regional operators. In every instance of numerous overnight trips via PWC, including riding from Anchorage to Seattle, our group of PWC riders has boosted the local economy by purchasing thousands of gallons of gasoline, have always overnighted in a hotel or lodge, have eaten every meal in local restaurants and purchased necessary supplies from local retailers. During our travels while we may have initially been met with skepticism from Homer residents, in the end the small boost that we provided to local businesses seemed to overcome any misplaced prejudice or unwarranted fear.

It is also possible that PWC owners are better educated, more environmentally and ecologically aware, as well as more respectful of the marine wilderness than many boat owners who operate legally in Kachemak Bay.

**Lori DeWitt**

907 344-7263

Please keep the state of Alaska a place where everyone can enjoy it. It is not right to ban anyone from having access to explore the beautiful state.

We are strongly opposed to the change that would allow personal watercraft usage and management in this internationally important area for shorebirds, marine wildlife, and a unique maritime ecosystem found nowhere else in the world.

**Graham Jones,**

**Jeff Thomas,**

Carl Dixon

Within the Wild Adventure Company

PO Box 91419
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

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It is also possible that PWC owners are better educated, more environmentally and ecologically aware, as well as more respectful of the marine wilderness than many boat owners who operate legally in Kachemak Bay.
I am writing to strongly urge you to keep Jetskis out of Kachemak Bay. The law is clear: the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River flats Critical Habitat Area is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statutes 16.20.500 (emphasis added).

The science clearly shows Jetskis and personal watercrafts (PWC’s) are not compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADFG, and in the opinion of ADFG’s own staff experts.

Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to Jetski use. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousand of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economy so a few people can play on Jetskis.

Please act on behalf of the strong majority of Alaskans who want to protect our birds, marine animals, and humans alike, and oppose Jetskis in Kachemak Bay.

I strongly oppose repeal of 5 AAC 95.310, which prohibits use of Personal Watercraft (PWC) within the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (CHA). I have been an Alaska resident since 1981. My husband and I owned property, building a beautiful second home in Homer near the head of Kachemak Bay, for 20 years from 1994 to 2014. We continue to visit Homer regularly and bring visiting family and guests to Homer to enjoy its vast and tranquil beauty.

I am very familiar with Kachemak Bay and its uses and sensitivities. My objections are outlined below:

Use of PWCs is incompatible with the values the Critical Habitat Area was established to protect. A major part of the Homer area economy depends on the many tourists and local outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy world class fishing, kayaking, and sightseeing in the spectacularly peaceful and quiet natural surroundings of Kachemak Bay. Kachemak Bay is one of the only, if not the only, place in Alaskan coastal waters where seabirds and marine mammals – including whales, seals, and sea otters – can thrive without disturbance. PWCs are distinctly different from the type of watercraft now using the CHA. They have rapid acceleration, tight turning radius, and are able to accelerate through shallow water and near shorelines. Their use would introduce a new sound signature to the marine environment. These factors would result in increased disturbance to seabirds, waterfowl, and marine mammals. Kachemak Bay hosts large congregations of birds and mammals. It also hosts a number of commercial and recreational boat users. None of these existing uses is capable of the maneuvers made possible by an irresponsible PWC user.

Mr. Green likened using a 16-foot skiff to a PWC. This is absurd. While a PWC can behave like a skiff, a skiff doesn’t have the capabilities of the PWC – fast acceleration, rapid turns, etc.

There is Existing Access: Improving access is a stated rationale for allowing PWCs in a CHA, but it is a flawed rationale. There is ample existing access. There are numerous launch sites and access points to the waters of the CHA. Removing the ban would merely allow an additional mode of access – and a mode which is clearly incompatible with the values protected by a CHA designation. Indeed, introducing this new form of transportation could create significant conflicts with existing valid uses. Potential conflicts could include interference with recreational fishing (trawling and jigging), commercial fishing (set nets and seine nets), and kayakers (noise, wake, disruption). PWC users could unlawfully access Kachemak Bay State Park lands and waters as well as disrupt users of the park.

The Decision Making Process:

See message: Comments, PWC Ban Repair in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River CHA, msg in PWC2

See message: Comments to OPPOSE rescinding PWC ban/msg in PWC2

See message: Comments, PWC Ban Repair in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River CHA, msg in PWC2

See message: Comments to OPPPOSE rescinding PWC ban/msg in PWC2
Gail Heineman
Gail Heineman
2732 W 67th Ave
Anchorage AK 99502
I urge ADF&G to not repeal the ban on jet skis/personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (KBCHA).

ADF&G scientists have documented the reasons for the ban. A majority of Alaskans supported the ban through the public process in 2001, 2011 and 2016.

Letting jetskis in the KBCHA makes as much sense as a dentist pulling teeth from a hoverboard. It is needless and reckless. It did not turn out well for Dr. Seth Lockhard, he was convicted in court. Does the Dunleavy administration really want to look that foolish?

Steven Wayne
Steven Wayne
4350 18 Place South
Seattle WA. 98108
This is an abominable idea! They are noxious, and dangerous to wildlife.

Please visit a tropical island soon! Find a beach that hasn't banned jet skis and listen to the din!

You wouldn't want these in your backyard! Neither do the residents of Homer and Kachemak Bay!

NO jet skis in Kachemak Bay!

Lisa Scheerer
Lisa Scheerer
Unique Machine LLC
GOMS Program Manager
BET5 King Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99515
HUNTER - Support the Repeal Casting my vote for this.

Cook Inletkeeper
Cook Inletkeeper
3714 Bannisters Lane
Homer, AK 99603
see message: Inletkeeper Jetski Comments.msg in PWC2

Cook and Doris Harness, Seaside Adventure
PO Box 3066
Homer AK 99603
see message: Jet Ski ban msg in PWC2

As a resident, property owner and business owner of Kachemak Bay, I oppose the repeal of the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay and Fox River flats!

By now you have heard from many of the stakeholders and current users of Kachemak Bay during the short comment period. We know countless residents, business owners, agencies, stake holder, biologists as well as people from outside of Alaska and literally worldwide who are adamantly opposed to the ban. We are willing to fight to support the ADF&G mission and goals statement, which have helped to put the ban in place to begin with!

My concerns in a nutshell are:

• Kachemak Bay communities have built their livelihood and lifestyle around the quiet sports and uses of Kachemak Bay, including fishing, kayaking, hiking, etc. Homer’s brand in Kachemak Bay as a natural, quiet habitat that attracts thousands of tourists, as well as senior businesses are dependent on this long established branding. The governor says Alaska is open for business, and the Kachemak Bay area has many successful businesses that would be hurt by jet ski activity. These PWCs are not like boats!

• The multiple designations as Critical Habitat, NEERS site, WHSRN site, and State Park and Wilderness confirm the extraordinary bio-diversity and nature significance of Kachemak Bay. This is not just a body of water to run around on, but a rare habitat that must be protected, as you should well know in your role as associates of ADF&G.

• Boats have existed alongside the other current users for a long time. The essence of PWC’s is speed and noise in shallow waters, as you can see in countless ads and reports on the internet and in real life. The first jet ski were developed by a well-known motorcycle racer, and that modus operandi will always be the primary way of using these thrill craft. I am not making assumptions! I was here and exposed to PWCs before the ban, and have been endangered by PWCs on more than one occasion! A few PWCs would ruin the nature experience of hundreds of other users.

• You have voiced your opinion that a very small special interest group can get their way against countless other stakeholders who would be harmed by the repeal of the ban. It is unbelievable that official state representatives would go against the vast majority, and well established previous biological research to give way to a small group of special interest!

We hope when you weigh all the reasons to continue to support the Ban on PWC you will do the right thing and keep the ban alive!
Chickaloon, Alaska

I'm writing you in opposition to changing the regulations to allow personal watercraft use (jet skis) in critical habitat areas in Kachemak Bay. There are studies by federal and state agencies and a wealth of scientific literature indicating that allowing jet skis will have a negative impacts on the species for which the critical habitat areas were created.

Personal watercraft are allowed over 99% of Alaska waters. There are plenty of places for them to go.

I have kayaked many times through these areas and have observed marine mammals, waterfowl and other bird species that are not found in other parts of the bay or in other waters. This is a special area and the critical habitat designation is warranted and should be preserved by keeping the prohibition on personal watercraft in place.

M.F. Barker
Chickaloon, Alaska

Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to jet ski use. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousand of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economy as a few people can play on jet skis.

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I am writing to notify you that I support the repeal of the ban on Personal Watercraft use in Kachemak Bay. I firmly believe that Personal Watercraft can be used safely and responsibly within the Bay, and other areas. Please work to repeal the unfair ban on PWC use in Kachemak Bay.

Addressing the repeal of the current ban of PWCS – “personal watercraft” better known as Jet Skis is a serious issue. The public has had a ban on PWCS in the Kachemak Bay critical habitat area for many years. The safety of the public and wildlife in the critical habitat area is jeopardized if the ban is repealed.

It discusses me that the voice of the public’s ban has been muted by an administration that is willing to dismiss the community’s decision to limit the use of PWCS in this area. This process has been rife with the stench of bias. The results of this process have been lead by two individuals Mr. Lang and Mr. Green who have publicly stated that they place “little weight on the importance of public input.” The irony is that the public has already spoken and acted. This ban has been in place for years for many reasons, and now the decision of the public is being disregarded by a few biased individuals with special interests.

I was dumbfounded when I heard on the radio proponents of the repeal state that there was a user group that had their access limited to a critical habitat area in Kachemak Bay. This issue has been studied at length by the National Park Service as well as ADF&G, and it has been determined that jet ski usage in the Bay, a designated Critical Habitat area, would be detrimental to wildlife, particularly seabirds and marine mammals. Nothing has changed since these studies, in fact, tourism has increased, kayaks and paddle board usage is up, and more people are fishing and trolling in shallow waters. The annual Shorebird Festival brings thousands of birds and hundreds of birders. Seabirds, otters and seals are able to coexist with slower moving and non-motorized small craft in the near offshore waters. Jet skis are designed to travel very fast, make sharp and frequent turns, and enter fragile shallow areas. They are not compatible with the purpose of this critical habitat area.

I appreciate your time in reviewing our comments. I would like to urge you to keep Kachemak Bay peaceful. The opportunity to experience this serene pocket of Alaska is what makes Homer special. If you have experienced the Homer Harbor during the summer months please imagine the increase congestion the introduction of Jet Skis/Personal Watercraft would cause. From what I understand, there is already access for those who wish to jet ski in the area through Anchor Point, Whittier, and Seward. Please let Homer be “The place to escape the Noise”. Thank you for your work and consideration.

I am writing to add my voice to the many that are speaking out against repealing the jet ski ban currently in effect in Kachemak Bay. This issue has been studied at length by the National Park Service as well as ADF&G, and it has been determined that jet ski usage in the Bay, a designated Critical Habitat area, would be detrimental to wildlife, particularly seabirds and marine mammals. Nothing has changed since these studies; in fact, tourism has increased, kayaks and paddle board usage is up, and more people are fishing and trolling in shallow waters. The annual Shorebird Festival brings thousands of birds and hundreds of birders. Seabirds, otters and seals are able to coexist with slower moving and non-motorized small craft in the near offshore waters. Jet skis are designed to travel very fast, make sharp and frequent turns, and enter fragile shallow areas. They are not compatible with the purpose of this critical habitat area.

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Re: Protecting the Natural Values of Kachemak Bay and the Jobs & Revenues They Support

Dear Commissioner:

We are local Alaskan businesses who provide services on the Lower Kenai Peninsula and around Kachemak Bay. We are writing for two reasons:

First, we’re very concerned with the abbreviated timeline the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) has put forward to consider changes to the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. A thirty-day public comment period - falling in the middle of the December holiday season - makes it extremely difficult for us and our customers to weigh in on this important matter. Furthermore, the addition of fifteen days provided little additional opportunity to engage other businesses and our clients who care deeply about this issue. Accordingly, we request that you extend the public comment period to at least ninety days, and hold a public hearing in Homer, so local businesses and residents have ample opportunity to voice their opinions.

Second, we oppose any rollbacks to the current rule regarding personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Tourists and visitors come to Kachemak Bay to enjoy its natural values and to experience “the real Alaska.” Jet skis and other thrillcraft will undermine that experience, threatening the jobs and revenues these visitor dollars drive into the local economy on the Lower Kenai Peninsula. Contrary to some beliefs, the inherent design and intended uses of personal watercraft make them very different than traditional boats and skiffs. Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to personal watercraft, and it only makes sense to leave some areas protected, so Alaskans and tourists alike can enjoy the unique solitude and tranquility of Kachemak Bay.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to your response. Signed,

[30 businesses and individuals]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oceana Wills</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oceanawills@gmail.com">oceanawills@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>59735 Sanford Drive Homer, AK 99603</td>
<td>I am emailing in opposition of the proposal to lift the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. My concern is primarily for the potential impact on wildlife. Already there are many stressors on marine mammals and birds (sonar testing, climate change). With more motorized vessels on the bay able to drive more shallowly than most boats and skiffs, the potential for harm increases. My second concern is how jet skis might impact the experience of enjoying Kachemak Bay. I could see jet skis becoming an attractive tourism opportunity and becoming very popular. There are always skiffs and boats on the water but the intention of transportation is different than the ways in which jet skis might be used. This could potentially conflict with the kayak and stand up paddle boarding that many businesses offer. As a lifelong Homer resident, I appreciate the opportunity to voice my concern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn House</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MarilynHouse666@gmail.com">MarilynHouse666@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>2411 Ingra Street Anchorage, AK 99508</td>
<td>I am writing to add my voice to the many of Alaskans who oppose the plan to allow jet skis (known by some as personal watercraft) to zoom around in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. As identified by Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists as recently as 2017, these waters provide vital habitat for birds, marine organisms, wildlife and fish. Traditional user groups will also be impacted. Jet skis are thrill machines that can rapidly change speed and direction; this is the way they are driven and the reason for their appeal. They have no place in a critical habitat area and repealing the prohibition flies in the face of biology and common sense. As a 42 year resident of the state, I find myself shaking my head at this plan. I am hopeful the administration will realize its folly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Campbell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:samanthacampbell@gmail.com">samanthacampbell@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>just writing a quick emails to request you to repeal the ban of personal watercrafts in Kachemak Bay. PWC are more environmentally friendly than most boats and all Alaskans deserve equal access to all of our waters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shari Daugherty</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shari.l.daugherty@gmail.com">shari.l.daugherty@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>The noise, the lack of control, the potential for wildlife disruption or worse... allowing jet skis and similar water craft in Kachemak Bay, should not even be under consideration and I, one of many want this issue to be dismissed as not compatible with our bay. Please do not lift the ban. It was wise when instituted previously and is just as necessary now.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea Bailey</td>
<td>andreab <a href="mailto:Bailey@gmail.com">Bailey@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Support the repeal.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Koplin</td>
<td>Thomsenａrｃｆｌｉdeｒ＠ｙｍａｉｌ．ｃｏｍ</td>
<td>I was hoping you could send me an email giving some numbers of how the people voted regarding jet skis in Kachemak Bay. As a side note, I’m not sure why people’s comments weigh so heavily on the issue of allowing jet skis in the Bay, instead of using scientific data that helps us better understand the impact of PWCs in the Bay.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Carl Miller</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thomascarmiller@gmail.com">thomascarmiller@gmail.com</a></td>
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Mike Goodwin  
3  
Rezabeck/Goodwin  
<rezgood@gci.net>  
I'm a 38 year Alaskan resident, professional recreation specialist, graduate of Michigan State University in Outdoor Recreation Management, and 25 veteran Alaska State Park Ranger. I oppose the Alaska State government in its proposal to change a long standing regulation that prohibits the use of personal watercraft on the waters of Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats within Critical Habitat Areas. Allowing this proposal to move forward is an unnecessary expenditure of Alaska state natural and human resources. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska State Troopers and U.S. Coast Gard must not have enough to do.

I'm not opposed to the safe recreational pursuit of enjoying personal watercraft. In fact, I rode one extensively as an Alaska State Park Ranger. This personal watercraft was loaned to the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation for the purpose of providing public safety and the enforcement of State boating laws and regulations on Big Lake North and South in south central Alaska. When the Alaska State Troopers had "the Big Lake Post" I worked extensively with them to help provide a safe boating environment on Big Lake. I made arrests, enforced boating safety laws and wrote citations to numerous personal watercraft operators. I also observed how this watercraft was generally used by this recreational user group. Personal watercraft are the moto-cross equipment for the water world. They are not designed to go slow. I observed operators running their jet skis in shallow waters that provided nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl, herons and swans. I also observed jet skis operated illegally within designated public swimming beaches.

I respectfully request the State Governor, the Fish and Game Department Director and their staff drop this proposal and focus on issues that affect what is important to the majority of Alaskans. If this issue is that important it should be put on a ballot.

Ruth Wood  
3  
See message. Comments on Proposal to repeal 5 AAC .651 Joining in PHS3

Abel P. Tolpin  
3  
I just today became aware of the possible reversal of the ban on jet skis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas and was moved to weigh in.

Greater than 99% of Alaskan waters are open to jetski use and Kachemak Bay is accessible by many other forms of watercraft currently. At 60 mph, it is reported that a jet ski's sound level can exceed 115 dBA. According to the information from the National Pollution Clearinghouse, PWCs have unique operational characteristics (e.g., continually leaving and re-entering the water, recurrent changes in speed hence noise level and pitch, repetitive straddling of the personal watercraft hulls on water, tendency to circle in one spot recurrently) that make their noise more annoying than that of other boats.

This unique biome region of Alaska is immensely rich in wildlife, natural resources and beauty. It is critical habitat for the animals that live within and migrate through it. The impact on wildlife by the high pitched droning and the high speed projectile hulls on the water would likely be serious.

For the people living and recreating in Kachemak Bay, the unique beauty and solitude is its draw. Having personally camped near the water where jet skis are legal, I can attest that the high pitched drone wakes you, keeps you awake, and there is no escaping it outdoors. I believe this diminished experience could impact the outdoor tourism that is so important to this region's economy.

I strongly oppose lifting the current ban on jet skis and other personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas.

American Watercraft Association, Chris Manthos  
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See message. Kachemak Bay comment msg

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Dena Bennett

Eagle River, Alaska

As a lifelong Alaskan, born in the territory of Alaska, I have lived through many changes in the great state of ours. I am very much opposed to allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay. The argument can be made that, well, there is a lot of boat traffic which potentially affects waterfowl and marine wildlife. My argument is boat traffic is normally slower, holds a steady course and does not as a rule, make abrupt course changes. This allows sufficient time for sea birds and marine life like otters to move out of the way.

I have watched jet skis in lakes. With speeds up to 60 mph, abrupt maneuvers, loud engines and often unskilled or unthinking riders, I believe there is increased danger and harm to the marine environment. They will not be able to move fast enough to evade injury or death. Given the radical changes in ocean temperatures, loss of habitat, and increasing stress on the wildlife that surrounds us and makes this state what it is, I do not feel that additional stress is called for.

I ride ATV’s and am well aware to stay within the areas they are permitted. Non-permitted areas are closed for a reason. I have no wish to further degrade the landscape with indiscriminate use of my machine. This same argument can be applied to water usage as well. Please, please, I beg of you, do not lift the ban on jet skis on Kachemak Bay for the small percentage of people who use them. The ban was originally placed for a reason.

Becky Faunce

Eagle River, Alaska

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Hal Shepherd

Anchorage, Alaska

See message: No Jet Skis in Kachemak Bay msg in PWC3

Peter Ryan

Anchorage, Alaska

See message: Opposition to the repeal of the ban on PWC usage in the Kachemak Bay Fox River Flats CHAs msg in PWC3

Tammy Thoms

See message: opening to water craft msg in PWC3

Josh Wisniewski

See message: Opposition to the repeal of the ban on PWC usage in the Kachemak Bay Fox River Flats CHAs msg in PWC3
I am writing to urge ADFG to keep in place the current ban on jet skis and other "personal watercraft" in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. As a lifelong Alaskan (born and raised in Homer, choosing to live here now), I appreciate that Kachemak Bay is protected. This year we’re celebrating the 50th anniversary of Alaska’s first state park, and here we are having to write letters, AGAP, to say that we like the park’s surrounding waters just the way they are.

Ordinances and local aike often use the wrong MNGOZ to describe this area. 99% of Alaskan waters are available for jet skis. No one living or visiting here wants Kachemak Bay to be like everywhere else in Alaska. Crazy enough, no one living here asked for the ban to be lifted. It has been only two years since this ban was last challenged, with ADFG concluding, again, that the ban was fully supported by science. Nothing has changed since and there is no legitimate reason for us to be considering a lift of this ban.

Please listen to Alaskans, not special interests. Keep the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area ban on personal watercraft in place. Like last time. And the time before that. Thank you.

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Jessica Miller
Jessica Miller
loomie@ymail.com

Support the repeal...

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Sharon Wilson
Sharon Wilson
shwilson@gmai.com

I am writing to protest the proposed repeal of 5 AAC (31.15), which prohibits the use of personal watercraft (aka jet skis) in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas (CHAs) and Fox River Flats. The current regulation was written with extensive public input, and is incredibly important to preserving the valuable habitat of our unique Kachemak Bay environment. The beauty and peacefulness of Kachemak Bay is the primary reason my husband and I retired to Homer 11 years ago. We love boating on Kachemak Bay and enjoy the tranquil beauty of the Bay from the windows and deck of our home. We own a 24-foot boat and use the Bay frequently to gather fish and other seafood for our local businesses, while building solid support for our incredible migratory birdlife populations throughout the year. And, ultimately, the Bay Critical Habitat Areas provide safe habitat for populations of whales, Orca, migrating birds, and wildlife throughout the area. We own a 24-foot boat and use the Bay frequently to gather fish and other seafood for our local businesses, while building solid support for our incredible migratory birdlife populations throughout the year. And, ultimately, the Bay Critical Habitat Areas provide safe habitat for populations of whales, Orca, migrating birds, and wildlife throughout the area. We own a 24-foot boat and use the Bay frequently to gather fish and other seafood for our local businesses, while building solid support for our incredible migratory birdlife populations throughout the year. And, ultimately, the Bay Critical Habitat Areas provide safe habitat for populations of whales, Orca, migrating birds, and wildlife throughout the area. We own a 24-foot boat and use the Bay frequently to gather fish and other seafood for our local businesses, while building solid support for our incredible migratory birdlife populations throughout the year. And, ultimately, the Bay Critical Habitat Areas provide safe habitat for populations of whales, Orca, migrating birds, and wildlife throughout the area. We own a 24-foot boat and use the Bay frequently to gather fish and other seafood for our local businesses, while building solid support for our incredible migratory birdlife populations throughout the year. And, ultimately, the Bay Critical Habitat Areas provide safe habitat for populations of whales, Orca, migrating birds, and wildlife throughout the area.

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Please listen to Alaskans, not special interests. Keep the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area ban on personal watercraft in place. Like last time. And the time before that. Thank you.

Bernard Poplar
Bernard Poplar
bpoplar@gmail.com

Support the repeal...
Susan Rogers  
8641 Sultana Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99516

I oppose lifting of the present ban on use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay waters in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, as proposed by Governor Dunleavy. It appears that Governor Dunleavy responded to a special interest request to effect this change to present regulation and unilaterally put the regulation forward without consulting the management plans for the areas that have prohibited use of jet skis in these two areas since 2000. Not only am I opposed to jet ski use in these two areas, I fail to support the manner in which the regulation change came about. There is a process of regarding the work of biologists and ecologists most familiar with the area and past assessments of their use, then using that as the scientific basis for changing a regulation. To put out the regulation change over the holidays, on the few that would notice it and respond, and with a short turn around for a comment period (that was extended), and to disregard the work of scientists who maintain that the ban would still be best for the habitat is to denigrate the work of professionals, Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff and the general public. Comments in past instances have been addressed to the Commissioner or a Public Information Officer, not to a political appointee as in this case, Rick Green. In that Mr. Green is a member of the Personal Watercraft group requesting the change in regulation, it is likely he is not an impartial individual who should receive any comments from the public or management staff. The ban in place since 2000 should remain in force. Jet skis are not like any other watercraft; they have variable speeds and irregularly swoop close to shore. The noise and motion does disturb both birds and fish that rely on stable conditions for nesting and foraging. The jet ski noise is enough to scare off fish that are prey to some birds or larger fish. This upset of the food chain in the local ecosystem will also have a deleterious effect on recreational fishing and wildlife viewing—activities that are enjoyed by many local folks and tourists. That many people will have a diminished experience in Kachemak Bay so that a few can pursue a transitory pleasure is not a balanced perspective in my view. We have laws or regulations that ban other vehicles from certain places also. For example, all-terrain vehicles are not allowed on the roads. It is okay to ban jet skis from an area where they will injure wildlife and the environment. On Great Pond in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, jet skis have been banned from areas where loons are nesting. Prior to the ban, the loon population was declining, due to harassment by jet ski drivers. Since the ban about 15 years ago, the population has rebounded. I sincerely hope that this proposed regulation will not be enacted.

Ed Berg  
ed.berg@edwardberg100@gmail.com

As someone who has lived on Kachemak Bay since 1982, I am writing to oppose the introduction of jet skis into the Bay. Some 99% of Alaskan coastal waters are open to jet skis; there is plenty of room for this activity. I am sure that the jet ski threats to wildlife have been well addressed in other letters, and I certainly second those concerns. I am also concerned about jet ski noise. The noise level in Homer is very high in the summer with whining float planes on Beluga Lake, Ravn flights, helicopters and abundant fixed-wing activity. We really don’t need to add jet ski noise to the present cacophony. I am also concerned about jet ski crashes with submerged boulders at higher tides. There are numerous large (as much as 15 ft) glacial boulders scattered along the mud flats on the north shore of the Bay. These can be seen (but not very well) on the 1996 Google Earth imagery. At high tide there appears to be a lot of navigable water right up to shore, which would draw in fast moving jet skis like a magnet. I suggest skiff operators know well to avoid these waters and have nautical charts if they need to go close to shore. It’s hard to imagine the driver of a high speed jet ski surviving a crash with one of these submerged boulders. Let’s not give them the opportunity to make such mistakes.

Mike Cooney  
mike.cooney@mdcooney9@gmail.com

Please retain current regulations denying Jet Ski use in Kachemak Bay. Thank You.

Anchorage Audubon Society, Vivian Mendenhall  
mv@mendenhall.com

FYI Personal Watercraft Use in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats msg

Todd Gustafson  
todd.gustafson@yoho.com

As a local resident and long time user of Kachemak Bay, I am vehemently opposed to the so-called personal watercraft and the carnival/amusement park character that they bring to the aquatic environment where they are allowed.
Hello and thank you for allowing us to express concern for the Critical Habitat Area of Katchemak Bay and for considering the inherent design and intended use of jetski makes it incompatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, which is “to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.”

- Boats and ships typically travel from point A to point B. Jetski and other personal watercraft do not fit this description. They create a constant noise and disturbance, which can be detrimental to the surrounding environment.

- Greater than 99% of Alaskan waters are open to PWC use, and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is one area that should be closed to PWCs.

- Boats and skiffs typically travel from point A to point B. Jet skis and other personal watercraft, on the other hand, are “thrillcraft” which can reach speeds over 60 mph. Furthermore, their jet drive propulsion systems allow them to travel in very shallow water, and prevents operators from steering once the throttle is released.

- We cannot use fireworks in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. That’s because some activities are simply too unsafe or a nuisance to other users. Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to PWC's, and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is one area that should be closed to PWCs.

- We cannot shoot guns in City limits, or drive snow machines or ATVs. We cannot use fireworks in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. That’s because some activities are simply too unsafe or a nuisance to other users.

- A strong majority of Alaskans supported a jetski ban in 2001, and again in 2011 and 2016. It feels like the Governor’s office is ignoring the fact that the state has spent considerable time and money over the past 3 years revising the management plan for the Kachemak Bay CHA, which would be the appropriate place to make changes to jetski use. It also feels like the Governor is ignoring the opinions of his expert staff at the ADF&G, who believe the ban should remain in place. That’s because the Governor is listening to a small group of special interests with access to the Governor’s office – and not the thousands of Alaskans who have written in to retain the natural values of Kachemak Bay.

- The inherent design and intended use of jetski makes it incompatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, which is “to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.”

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- Governors (usually) actions now ignore our democratic process, and favor special interests who have access to the Governor’s office most Alaskans do not. In 2001, the State of Alaska went through a rigorous public process, and the overwhelming majority of comments favored a ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. The State realized the issue in 2011 and 2016, and again, Alaskans spoke-out to maintain the ban. So, this is just bad government.

- Staff biologists and managers at the ADFG support the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. They have reviewed all the scientific literature on the matter and they conclude the ban is appropriate and justified.

- The inherent design and intended use of jetski makes it incompatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, which is “to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.”

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<tr>
<td>William Dougherty</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pdougherty@gci.net">pdougherty@gci.net</a></td>
<td>8310 Spendlove Dr, Anchorage, AK 99516</td>
<td>I am a very long-time Alaska resident. For years I owned waterfront property on Kachemak Bay, though I do not now. I am adamantly opposed to jet-skis in Kachemak Bay for reasons that ought to be obvious to anyone familiar with Kachemak Bay and jet-skis. Nonetheless, I will enumerate a few of them: 1. This issue has been addressed previously. Alaskans have spoken up repeatedly to keep jet-skis out of the bay. It is exceedingly frustrating to an average citizen to have to keep addressing this issue over and over. Does that only stop when the will of the majority of people is finally ignored and jet-skis are allowed? 2. Jet-skis in Kachemak Bay will be used in the most obnoxious way possible. Jet-skiing is not a tropical resort where the weather is routinely benign, everyone is in vacation mode and engaging in similar activities, and people are only there for a short time. Jet-skis in Kachemak Bay will tend to cluster and buzz around close to land. Everything they do will be close to land, in the intertidal zone, in the most valuable wildlife habitat. I guarantee you that jet-skis will be buzzing in circles a short distance off the jet, until late at night. They will be disruptive to all animal life in the vicinity, thereby destroying activities like bird watching and observing animals like seals and otters. To a significant degree, the natural values of Kachemak Bay are at stake in this decision. 3. Jet-skis are intended to be ridden for some people's idea of &quot;fun.&quot; They are not modes of transportation. They are designed for adolescent thrills like jumping waves, making tight turns and spins, racing in shallow water and congregating in small areas. They are extremely noisy. They are almost uniquely equipped to threaten birds, marine mammals and irritate humans trying to enjoy any other activity in their vicinity. 4. The purpose of the Kachemak Bay &amp; Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to &quot;protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.&quot; Alaska Statutes 16.20.500 (emphasis added). The science clearly shows jets and PWC's are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay &amp; Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADF&amp;G, and in the opinion of ADF&amp;G's own staff experts.</td>
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<td>Jim Tolpin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jim.tolpin@gmail.com">jim.tolpin@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>857 Tyler St, Port Townsend, WA 98368</td>
<td>While I don't own property along the bay, I do visit there often as a tourist. If Jet ski's were allowed to operate there like they do in 99% of the rest of Alaska's waters, I would be extremely disappointed and would, in the future, likely stick closer to home (i.e. the San Juan Islands of WA state where these loud and polluting personal watercraft are banned to the relief of the majority of residents and tourists.) Please maintain the ban of jet ski's in Kachemak bay.</td>
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<td>Ron Alban</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ron@albancpas.com">ron@albancpas.com</a></td>
<td>3150 C Street, Ste. 250, Anchorage, AK 99503</td>
<td>I am writing to express my strong objection to the lifting of the ban on the use of &quot;personal watercraft&quot; as defined by the US Coast Guard and jet ski's in the areas under consideration. While it may be understandable that other personal watercraft may be operated responsibly and safely in the areas under consideration, jet ski's are another matter. The vast majority of Alaskans oppose risking the safety and viability of our wildlife and their habitat in this irresponsible repeal effort.</td>
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<td>Karen Rudd</td>
<td><a href="mailto:keruudak@gmail.com">keruudak@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>I take this opportunity to express my hope that Kachemak Bay remains free of jet ski's. As it is designated a Critical Habitat Area it has been evaluated for its richness and diversity of marine life. Being able to maneuver at high speeds and closer to shore enables jet ski's to access areas outside of usual boat traffic, disrupting quiet areas for the diverse life that inhabits the K Bay. I am a property owner in Kachemak Bay. For several decades the impact of increased use has become increasingly evident on the waters of K Bay. Changes in numbers of allowed watercraft; including jet ski's, water taxi's, and skiff's, are caused by increased density and increased risk of safety infractions. Boat wakes consistently wash ashore with marked impact on tidal zones, vital zones for the uniqueness of this Critical Habitat. Birds - murres, guillemots, various ducks - and marine mammals - sea and land otters, seals - would be at greater risk of a direct collision with jet ski's since they are the near-shore residents. Please acknowledge the voices of us opposing the jet ski ban being lifted. Kachemak Bay deserves to remain jet ski free.</td>
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Cari Sayre  
Cari Sayre <caridave@mtaonline.net>  
P.O. Box 711  
Talkeetna, AK  99676  
I am adamantly opposed to the idea of allowing jet skis (PWCs) in the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas.  
The law is clear: the purpose of creating those special areas is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the 
perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statute 16.20.500.  
Rules such as this should not be changed on a political whim. The current status, in effect for 45 years, is due to many scientific 
studies which show that jet skis (PWCs) are incompatible with the special area’s purpose.  
There are many, many bodies of water in Alaska where jet skiers can go — in reality, those areas constitute over 99% of Alaskan waters. In my opinion, the folks who ride those noisy watercraft don’t really care what their surroundings are, or what kind of creatures are being impacted. They are simply thrill-seekers who are looking for a bit of an adrenaline rush.  
My judgements come from years of summer visits to my family’s cabin in northern Michigan, which is on a narrow channel 
between the mainland and an island. We have lost nearly our entire beach front to wake from PWCs — the big boats 
respectfully avoid the area because they know they can’t get through. But the jet skiers want to go everywhere. So they do.  
They go where the fish used to be plentiful. They go where the common loons used to nest. They go where there used to be 
quiet spaces. We cannot let these “used to” scenarios happen in the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas.  
I have spent time in the Homer area off and on since 1973. Skiing up the Fox River in 2001 for an ascent of Truuli Peak was a 
highlight for my family, and a dry-run for a Denali expedition. We saw mountain goats, and tracks of bear, fox and owls on 
that late-April snow along the partially melted-out river.  
Kachemak Bay is a treasured destination for people around the world, and it deserves the State’s utmost consideration. Marine 
mammals, fish and birds already have increasing threats from ocean acidification, trash, temperature increases, climate change. 
Please, please do not add another threat to their lives.

Cari Sayre  
Cari Sayre <caridave@mtaonline.net>  
P.O. Box 711  
Talkeetna, AK  99676  
I am adamantly opposed to the idea of allowing jet skis (PWCs) in the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas.  
The law is clear: the purpose of creating those special areas is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the 
perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statute 16.20.500.  
Rules such as this should not be changed on a political whim. The current status, in effect for 45 years, is due to many scientific 
studies which show that jet skis (PWCs) are incompatible with the special area’s purpose.  
There are many, many bodies of water in Alaska where jet skiers can go — in reality, those areas constitute over 99% of Alaskan waters. In my opinion, the folks who ride those noisy watercraft don’t really care what their surroundings are, or what kind of creatures are being impacted. They are simply thrill-seekers who are looking for a bit of an adrenaline rush.  
My judgements come from years of summer visits to my family’s cabin in northern Michigan, which is on a narrow channel 
between the mainland and an island. We have lost nearly our entire beach front to wake from PWCs — the big boats 
respectfully avoid the area because they know they can’t get through. But the jet skiers want to go everywhere. So they do.  
They go where the fish used to be plentiful. They go where the common loons used to nest. They go where there used to be 
quiet spaces. We cannot let these “used to” scenarios happen in the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas.  
I have spent time in the Homer area off and on since 1973. Skiing up the Fox River in 2001 for an ascent of Truuli Peak was a 
highlight for my family, and a dry-run for a Denali expedition. We saw mountain goats, and tracks of bear, fox and owls on 
that late-April snow along the partially melted-out river.  
Kachemak Bay is a treasured destination for people around the world, and it deserves the State’s utmost consideration. Marine 
mammals, fish and birds already have increasing threats from ocean acidification, trash, temperature increases, climate change. 
Please, please do not add another threat to their lives.

Erin McKittrick  
Erin McKittrick <emckittrick@HomerElectric.com>  
Seldovia  
I live on Kachemak Bay, travel on Kachemak bay to get to and from my home (Seldovia), and recreate on Kachemak Bay. I 
would like to see the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay remain. If it is lifted, the state must provide money and 
personnel to enforce safety rules, and the boundary between waters where jet skis are allowed, and the state park waters 
where they will still be prohibited. The park’s single ranger cannot possibly enforce that.  
While skiffs also have motors, the majority of skiffs in the bay are operated by their owners (who have experience driving 
them), for transportation or fishing (a low-speed activity where situational awareness is required). Jet skis may be rented by 
persons who’ve never driven them before, and the fun of a jet ski is to move through terrain at high speed. This will create an 
unnecessary hazard for everyone else that uses the bay, from wildlife to kayakers, to fishermen and water taxi operators. At 
minimum, the state should study the impacts of jet skis vs. skiffs on wildlife, since I’ve seen no good data on relative impacts.  
Kachemak Bay is a well-used and well-loved beautiful area. The current ban has not hurt local businesses and tourism, and 
water taxi operators and guides have seen a dramatic increase in traffic over the years. Changing the rules is unnecessary, and 
unwanted by most of the bay’s current users.

Teena Garay  
Pete and Teena Garay <peteandteena@gmail.com>  
Homer Ak  
Kachemak Bay is not Big Lake or like other sports area, we have critical habitat area and rely on them being protected. I like jet 
skis and have ridden them for fun but please not in Kachemak Bay. There’s a reason it’s been protected in the past, please 
keep it protected in the future. The animals and marine life are stressed out enough due to the environment change they don’t 
need jet skis adding to it.

Tom Parkman  
Thomas Parkman <Thomas.Parkman@clarewaterpaper.com>  
Peterson Bay, Alaska  
I am not normally a believer in burdensome government regulations, but in the case of the Personal Watercraft Ban in 
Kachemak Bay I believe it has served us well. I vote to keep the current ban in place.

Catherine Sterling  
C Sterling <aurorashibas@gmail.com>  
PO Box 210643  
Anchorage, AK  99521  
I support equal access on Alaska’s waters. Please support the repeal of the Kachemak Bay PWC ban.
I am a longtime Kachemak Bay property owner. Our property sits at the entrance to Halibut Cove Lagoon. From there we have witnessed several egregious incidents with jet skis, waterfowl, sea otter and kayaks. We have witnessed groups, and individuals, roaring around the entrance point into flocks of goldeneye, harlequin, guillemots, and gulls and deliberately maneuvering to startle and flagrantly harass and scatter. This is outlaw behavior. Moreover, they seem to favor high speed courting over the “Flats” wide and broad tidelands, occasionally even leaving trenches in the tidelands. The same behaviors have been perpetrated on and against sea otter, some with pups. Since the ban these behaviors have been rare, although there have been some sightings. There have also been some incidents whereby an anchored megayacht will, without knowledge of the ban, launch overpowered and screaming jet skis. They, however, generally cease when reminded of the ban. Leave no doubt, jetskis are more than simply a very unpleasant nuisance. They are an environmental hazard and threat. There is neither excuse nor reason to reinsert them to the waters of Kachemak Bay.

Please maintain the personal watercraft prohibition in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. These critical habitat areas have garnered additional protections since 2001 and to quote ADFG, “there is no new information that would warrant rescinding the prohibition (on PWC) and in fact the newer information highlights most of the concerns identified when the prohibition was adopted.”

I am a user of Kachemak Bay and PWC use in the area would detract from my experience in the bay and would harm the tourism industry in Homer and the surrounding areas. A repeal of this ban has great potential to impact the habitat, wildlife and traditional user groups and such impacts cannot be easily mitigated. ADFG determined, with extensive public comment, that PWC recreation, by nature of the speed, noise, and abrupt maneuvers could be detrimental to the wildlife that use these critical areas.

Please maintain the PWC prohibition in these critical habitat areas.

This is an abominable idea! They are noxious, and dangerous to wildlife. Please visit a tropical island soon! Find a beach that hasn’t banned jet skis and listen to the din! You wouldn’t want these in your backyard! Neither do the residents of Homer and Kachemak Bay!

NO jet ski’s in Kachemak Bay!

I live in Homer and I’m concerned about the critical habitat of the bay and the disruption of our environment that jet skis would produce. There have been many articles submitted to you on the degradation of critical areas by jet skis. Do not approve the use of jet skis that will ultimately degrade this area for many people and many species.

Let Kachemak Bay retain its natural wealth to support the economic health of the Kenai Peninsula.

Do not allow jet skis on Kachemak Bay. I live in Homer and I’m concerned about the critical habitat of the bay and the disruption of our environment that jet skis would produce. There have been many article submitted to you on the degradation of critical areas by jet skis. Do not approve the use of jet skis that will ultimately degrade this area for many people and many species.

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I am writing to discourage you from changing the restriction of PWC in Kachemak Bay. Designated as a Critical Wildlife Habitat Area, Kachemak Bay is a unique place because we have chosen to offer special protections that favor wildlife and their habitat, with human activities that have a minimal impact on the ecosystems here. Jet skis pose a threat to the CWHA due to 1) Distribution to resting, feeding, and nesting wildlife 2) Lack of regulatory enforcement of violations 3) Degradation of the nature aesthetic that is a major selling point for already established local businesses and private users.

1) I have been a sea kayak and nature guide in Kachemak Bay for 10 years. I facilitate locals and visitors with immersive personal experiences in nature. In the process, I have learned a lot about human instinct, and in general, people’s lack of awareness for wildlife behavior. As a guide, I witness the instinctive urge to approach wildlife in a disruptive manner. Most people do not know the distances needed to avoid causing an otter to dive, a bird to fly off, or a seal to slip off a rock, and they rarely self-assure their own boundaries. Most people aren’t even aware that if they cause those behaviors, they are taking energy from the animal that it could otherwise use in survival, and their activity is degrading the appeal of the habitat to the animals.

People come to Kachemak Bay to see the abundant wildlife, they want to get close. Before starting a tour, I let people know that we will be viewing wildlife while trying to not disturb them. I need to be alert as a guide to prevent distributive behavior, even from a slow, human-powered kayak. From a drift or a larger boat, I see hundreds of visitors approach Gull Island every day. Some know to go around the masses of floating murres. Others drive right through them, causing hundreds to dive and escape the oncoming threat. When visitors get to the island, they usually motor down and quietly watch, or slowly circle the island, appreciating the sounds of the birds. They take fuel-efficient and conservative routes near the island, then motor off to their other destinations.

Imagine the difference in behavior of a jet-ski. A jet-ski is not usually a vehicle used for utility or transportation, like a drift or a larger motor boat. It is also not a quiet or slow activity like a kayak or a paddle board. Their appeal is in the activity of driving them rambunctiously. The appeal of a jet ski is to be able to go fast, jump wake, and spin circles, to easily go over here, now over there, now back over here again as a way to get a thrill. While it’s not in my taste, I am not opposed to it on principle, but it is painfully obvious that these behaviors would disrupt wildlife in Kachemak Bay. Otters resting around the mouth of the bay are accustomed to being left alone. They aren’t used to hearing the noise, the vibration, and the close approach that a jet-ski produces.

We urge that the existing closure of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area to the recreational use of personal watercraft be continued, and not be repealed.

Please include these comments among those submitted to you regarding the proposed regulation change.
Miranda Weiss
P.O. Box 1498,
Homer, AK 99603

I'm writing to urge you to maintain the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

I have lived in Homer for 20 years, and am raising my two daughters here. The current effort to overturn the long-held ban on PWCs is an overreach of Governor Dunleavy's administration. No change should be made to this law.

Research shows that PWCs are different than boats and have a unique impact on waterways and coastlines. This is why PWCs have been banned from countless waterbodies across the country, and many states have restricted their use to certain areas.

Furthermore, an overturn of the ban would put an impossible burden on the scant personnel at Kachemak Bay State Park, where, in park waters, PWCs would continue to be prohibited. Park staff can barely keep area trails maintained. There simply wouldn't be the resources to enforce Park rules related to PWCs. There's a zero fiscal note on the proposed rule change, but this ignores a real and expensive burden to Kachemak Bay State Park.

My family and I are recreational boaters on Kachemak Bay. We like to fish, hike, camp, and play in and around the Bay. Like many people who live here and visit, we value the aspects of the Bay that led the area to be designated a Critical Habitat Area—including intact wildlife habitat and undisturbed coastline. PWCs pose a threat to these values.

Please maintain the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Do not hesitate to contact me about this letter if you have any questions.
Richard L. Gustafson
Richard Gustafson
<rlgust71ak@gmail.com>
P.O. Box 4144,
1039 Barnett Place
Homer, Alaska 99603

I am opposed to the proposed repeal of the ban on jet skis or personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Critical Habitat. There is no new science to show that repealing the ban is prudent. As a resident and user of Kachemak Bay I feel they would cause more problems and stress to fish and wildlife in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Critical Habitat. Additionally, I am concerned about the safety and negative economic impacts of allowing jet skis in the bay and potential conflicts with established users. I agree with Homer City Council’s resolution 20-007(S), urging the State of Alaska to retain the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Critical Habitat. The proposed repeal is bad public policy!

Andy Josephson
Andrew Josephson
<andrewjosephson2003@yahoo.com>
4559 Pavlove Street
A/A 99507

I strongly oppose the proposed rule-making that would allow for PWCs in Kachemak Bay.

I have every belief that these PWCs would interfere with birds and fauna that live in Kachemak Bay. As a consequence, it would negatively impact a thriving tourism economy that visits Kachemak Bay.

AS 16.20.500, the enacting law for Kachemak Bay, reads that the area’s purpose is “to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.”

I see no way how the PWC rulemaking would be consistent with this statute. I think it would invite, yet again, additional litigation against the State of Alaska.

The science clearly shows that Jetskis and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADFG, and in the opinion of ADFG’s own staff experts.

I surely worry about the morale at ADFG if its experts and scientists are disregarded in place of a perceived political agenda.

Given that 99% of Alaska is open to JetSkis, it’s ok--really, it’s ok--to continue to disallow the PWCs in Kachemak Bay.

Willy Dunne
Willy Dunne
<wdunne907@gmail.com>
40508 Waterman Rd.
Homer, AK 99603

I oppose the repeal of 5 AAC 95.310. These regulations were enacted after a thorough deliberative process that included an extensive public comment process.

The process being used now to repeal these regulations is flawed due to limited time for public comment, what appears to be deliberate timing of the process around major holidays, and the lack of formal public hearing.

In two local Kachemak Bay area public meetings, the public overwhelmingly opposed repeal of the regs. After hearing from the public, the Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizens Advisory Board voted unanimously to submit a resolution opposing the repeal. The Homer City Council also passed a similar resolution after an open, public process. The City Council also requested an extension of public comment period to 90 Days which your agency did not grant.

A process to review the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Critical Habitat Areas Management Plans is ongoing and potential recommendations for changes will be released at a future date. No regulation changes should be made until that process is completed.

The AK Department of Fish and Game has revisited these regulations several times since enacted and has always acted to retain them. The 2017 ADFG memo spells out the reasoning for retaining the regulations and cites multiple scientific publications supporting the regulations. When I asked you for studies supporting the repeal, you replied the proposal was based on the opinion of staff. You later clarified that it was based on the opinion of staff who are aware of the studies and literature, yet you provided no documentation.

These regulations must not be repealed, especially without adequate public process and without revised management plans in place.

Chris Scudder
chris scudder
<scudderchris@hotmail.com>
Please review all the ban on PWC. I live on the Kenai peninsula and would love to be able to go fishing off my jet ski in the waters in my backyard.

Willy Dunne
I am writing to state my opposition to the effort to open Kachemak Bay waters to jet skis and personal watercraft. As a designated Critical Habitat Area, Kachemak Bay is worth more than a thrill ride which could have lasting negative impacts. The unique biology and ecosystem of Kachemak Bay have already been recognized as a critical habitat and a estuarine research reserve. It is crucial to preserve the natural state of the Bay. We know this ecosystem is delicate and that high speed craft operating in shallow waters can easily damage the benthic environment that support all of the Bay. The existing ban on PWC is not just about the "here and now", it is preserving this ecosystem for the future. I am writing on behalf of a family of 5. I want my children, and their children, to be able to enjoy and learn from the natural splendor of Kachemak Bay. Let's not throw that away for a thrill ride.

Those of us who live here welcome everyone who wants to enjoy the beauty of our bay. We merely ask to be allowed to have a quiet, peaceful experience, but not to have our lives turned into a raucous playpen for an select group of overstimulated man-boys playing with their power toys. PWCs ruined a riverside campsite in Florida near where my parents used to reside. A serene area for fishing and family activities turned into a raucous playground for an select group of overstimulated man-boys playing with their power toys.

I do not support the repeal of the PWC ban. Kachemak Bay has a unique combination of wildlife species that are vulnerable to disturbance and noisy accessibility, which is why it was designated as critical habitat. Alaska has a long precedence of limiting activities in certain areas to protect important resources. The benefit from tourism to the Kachemak Bay area, due to the presence of marine mammal and bird species, is an important part of the economy. Local businesses have invested time and money in advertising based on the presence of these species and undisturbed habitat. To endanger that investment in favor of more PWCs means more of a negative impact.

As a 40-year resident of Kachemak Bay, I would like to go on record as supporting our majority preference for a ban on the use of personal watercraft on the bay. I witnessed the destruction of habitat, wildlife, and peace of mind for family campers as PWCs invaded a riverside campsite in Florida near where my parents used to reside. A serene area for fishing and family activities turned into a raucous playground for an select group of overstimulated man-boys playing with their power toys.

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Mary Yoshiko Hill
5th@wonderland22
@sbglobal.net
I am reaching out to express my firm belief that jet skis should not be allowed in Kachemak Bay. As Kachemak is the only marine habitat left in Alaska to not allow jet skis, repealing the ban risks disruption to the local ecosystem and livelihoods of Homer residents and could lead to the deterioration of the unique environmental features that attract many non-locals to the area.

The repeal could have long-lasting and irreversible negative effects on the Kachemak Bay and Homer overall. I firmly believe that the risk-to-reward ratio does not support the repeal and strongly urge you to reconsider.

Joel Cooper
Joel Cooper
cooperjoela@gmail.com
PO Box 3585
Homer, AK 99603
I have lived in Homer for 28 years and have recreated, fished, and as an environmental scientist, have studied fish and wildlife populations in Kachemak Bay. Please do not repeal 5 AAC 95.310 which prohibits personal watercraft use in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas.

The purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to "protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose." Alaska Statutes 16.20.500.

Jet skis and personal watercraft (PWC) are not like skiffs and boats. With overpowered 200-300 horsepower engines, jet skis are designed and intended to be ridden for fun - to jump waves, make tight turns and spins, run in super-shallow water and congregate in small areas. As a result, they pose unique threats to birds, marine mammals and humans alike. They do not belong in the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas.

I also disagree with this process. This is not how the state statute intended to revise Critical Habitat Area Management Plans. This process is wrong. Why are you trying to change an Alaska Statute this way? This is not the Alaskan way!

Lynda Raymond
41640 Gladys Ct
Homer, AK 99603
See message: Comments on 5ACC 95.301.msg in PWC

George Gehlert
sehen@gehelert@gmail.com
See message: Fwd: Intent to lift the ban on Jetskis and other personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas.msg in PWCs

Sarah Goldstein
sarah.goldstein1535@gmail.com
Please keep jet skis banned in Kachemak Bay! The habitats being there are more important than people being able to ride jet skis. Jet skis are allowed in plenty of places already. The damage they would cause to the wildlife would be irreversible and a huge mistake!!

Giuseppe Ricciardi
Our Household supports the ban!
No to jet skis!

Jennifer Stow
stostow@hotmail.com
Writing in regard to the pending jet ski ban in Homer. Certainly would love to keep this area protected and tranquil, the amazing experience out on the water would be not only effected by jet skis but would also pollute the waters Hope this sanctuary stays clean and pure for generations to come.

Lela Ryterski
lelaryterski@gmail.com
I believe the safety and preservation of the sensitive habitat in Kachemak Bay should be protected and valued and cared for to the best of our ability.

Ron Wallace
ron@equinemanagement.com
Please keep the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay! When we visit your wonderful state this area is one of our favorites. Jet skis would destroy the peace and tranquility of such a special area.
Andreas and Katrin
Andreas Fischer
Fischer-Muelheim@gmx.de
Germany

we hope you are fine and send you warm greetings from germany!

A lot of times we speak about our kajaktour with you at Kachemak Bay. It was one of our most wonderful experiences!

Watching the animals of the sea, the birds, cutters and buffaloes from the Kajak in this quiet and peaceful environment was something very special. Unfortunately we hear now about plans for jet skiing in this area.

That’s terrible!

We hope that this plans will not become true.

For the nature, for the animals and last not least for the people, who come every year in this wonderful area to find a quiet and peaceful place to relax.

All the best for you and for Kachemak Bay!

Chuck Ash
wildflyak@gmail.com
11300 Polar Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516

I am writing to weigh in against the proposal to allow PWCs (jet skis) in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area.

This use has been publicly polled and overwhelmingly opposed by the public. It has been reviewed periodically and the ban upheld by the ADF&G several times the establishment of the KBCH area. The use of PWC’s in that area is incompatible with the stated purposes of the Kachemak Critical Habitat Area.

On a personal level, I know this area well as I have been a property owner in Kachemak Bay (Sadie Cove) for nearly 40 years and I can state that the use of PWC there is in direct opposition to all of the reasons I had for deciding to buy the property in the first place.

I am further at a loss to understand the governor’s reason in proposing what is obviously counter to the established will of the people and the stated rule of law.

Mike K. Wirschem
mkwirschem@gmail.com

As the restriction on PWC’s in Kachemak Bay remain in force. It is a beautiful pristine natural habitat for marine mammals, birds, fish and other game that should remain protected from the noise, exhaust, speed and turbulence PWCs disrupt nature with. It is not a Big Bay, Campbell Lake, Lake Louise or a place for motorized craft riders to rally.

Mike D. Martin, Ph.D.
mgmartin@gmail.com
1231 Melody Rose Lane
Box 271
Homer, AK 99603

First, thank you for your time and energy on this issue. I do not envy your position.

Second, I am an Alaskan living in Homer and Homer is where I plan to spend my retirement years.

Third, I believe the Critical Habitat designation for Kachemak Bay has been a strong positive to protect our natural resources and to protect the economy of the Homer region. Therefore I believe the restriction of personal watercrafts (i.e. jet skis) should remain. My reasons are as follows:

a. Economic. There are large numbers of tourist visitors that come to Homer to see birds and marine mammals (e.g., the Annual Sea Bird Festival). These would be lessened, as the noise from the jet skis will scare away more animals and disturb the natural experience the visitors come for. In addition, there are a number of small business that rent kayaks. Kayak rentals and jet skis do not mix well.

b. Ecological. The noise and speed of jet skis are unlike any other water craft. The whales and otters and sea birds are not adapted to those noises. Maintaining a lower noise environment is a rational, intelligent conservation choice.

c. Regulatory. As the purpose of a Critical Habitat designation is to “enhance wildlife” and “to minimize the degradation and loss of habitat values,” jet skis do not fit those goals, particularly as jet skis have not had a place in the habitat for decades. In addition, jet skis are not a watercraft that individuals will use for fishing, jet skis will not open up the resource for more users.

For these reasons, and because jet skis are fundamentally just an entertainment/leisure vessel, not a practical fishing vessel nor a practical transport vessel, please do not change the existing policy. Do not allow jet skis in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River flm Critical Habitat Areas.

Dave Erikson
derikson@alaska.net
P.O. Box 15204
Fritz Creek, AK 99603

See message: Kachemak Jet Ski Ban msg in PWCs.
I am writing to urge you to reconsider repealing the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area.

The state agency, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in charge of these areas has TWICE indicated that these areas are sensitive areas in need of protection stating in their management plan that it is to "protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose." The last revision of the plan was in 2017 and there has not been a review since. Kachemak Bay is a sensitive environment for fish, marine organisms, marine mammals and bird life. And the great majority of Alaskans has always agreed and supported this position.

The term Personal Watercraft is merely a euphemism for a vehicle which, unlike traditional boats, is designed and advertised for high speed riding, circling and wave jumping. These vehicles are noisy and travel at high speeds close to shore disrupting the shoreline and intertidal zones which contain an abundance of smaller marine organisms, terrorizing marine mammals and waterfowl. Along with the noise pollution they will be a safety hazard for kayakers and fishermen in the Bay. They will also impact the local residents, both permanent and seasonal, who have chosen to live in the bays and coves, and tourists who wish to see wildlife in a natural setting. All will now have to tolerate the noise pollution, safety concerns and degradation of the marine environment that jet skis entail.

For years Ms. Potts and the jet ski lobby have been agitating to reach the ban on jet skis in the Bay. Suddenly it appears to be a "done deal." What has changed? Have the biologists with Fish and Game changed their stance? Has there been an outcry from a majority of Alaskans asking for this change? Or only a small persistent lobby who have gained the ear of the governor citing fairness and equal access, 99% of Alaska waterways are already open to jet skis. And there is ample precedent for areas being closed to certain uses due to impacts on animal population regulating the equal access arguments.

Do not overturn what has been an essential element in a well thought out plan for the Kachemak Bay Critical Area.

Please remain true to your good name "Green" and keep protecting the Kachemak Bay from Jet Skis.

My name is Lindsay Martin. I live in Homer (40175 Alpenglow Circle). I am writing to urge you to reconsider repealing the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

As a frequent guest in Alaska - and if you want naturalist keep coming back do maintain the ban on Jet Skis in the most prestine area of AK.

As a frequent tourist in Homer, Seldovia, and the coves in the Bay, appreciating the natural beauty. I have been diagnosed with PTSD and the calming effect of this area would be destroyed with the addition of JetSki's and other thrill-seeking watercraft.

Do not remove this ban.

I have been a frequent tourist in Homer, Seldovia, and the coves in the Bay, appreciating the natural beauty. I have been diagnosed with PTSD and the calming effect of this area would be destroyed with the addition of JetSki’s and other thrill-seeking watercraft.

I ask you, respectfully, please do not remove this ban.

I am writing to urge you to reconsider repealing the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

I recently spent time at the head of the bay, biking along Kachemak Selo (up in the critical habitat area by the Sheep and Fox River). I regularly enjoy recreating in and around Kachemak Bay. The area is beautiful, and many people enjoy it. I’m all for wildlife and habitat in a way that other motorized boats do not.

I believe PWCs and other boating vessels are very different. The safety risk, sound, speed, and habitat disruption are much higher with PWCs than other vessels.

Any benefit for removing this ban and allowing these types of watercraft in Kachemak Bay, would be overwhelmingly outweighed by the negative impact that would happen as a result.

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I have been a frequent tourist in Homer, Seldovia, and the coves in the Bay, appreciating the natural beauty. I have been diagnosed with PTSD and the calming effect of this area would be destroyed with the addition of JetSki’s and other thrill-seeking watercraft.
I strongly oppose repealing the ban on Personal Watercrafts in Kachemak Bay! When they were first banned that action was thoroughly researched and strongly supported. Nothing has changed that would make lifting the ban a good idea, and Kachemak Bay is an environmental gem that needs to be protected!

Jet skis are noise is a problem. A typical Jet Ski has an average top speed of 65 miles per hour. There is no possible way that any meaningful marine mammal protection enforcement could patrol the entire Kachemak Bay and protect our marine mammals from this new, high-speed user group.

The City Of Homer is opposed and ADFG has failed to perform any analysis on the impact of jet skis and PWC on our town or the environmental impact on Kachemak Bay.

I urge you to reject the proposal to open Kachemak Bay to personal watercraft. The question of allowing personal watercraft has been considered repeatedly and rejected, even by ADF&G, based on studies showing impacts on wildlife. To me, the issue isn’t whether personal watercraft themselves cause impacts, but more the way they are operated. They are made for play, rather than for utility, and therefore don’t typically travel in a straight line like most boats. Their unpredictable trajectories are more likely to cause stress or collisions with wildlife. As a boater and frequent user of Kachemak Bay, I don’t relish the thought of having to look out for yet another fast moving water hazard. Personal watercraft are allowed in nearly all lakes and most salt waters in Southcentral Alaska. We own waterfront land on Kasitsna Bay, and my husband’s family has owned land on the Spit as well as Bishop’s Beach for over 50 years. The area is already open to all responsible users. I urge you to reject the proposal to open Kachemak Bay to personal watercraft.

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Please accept my comments opposing the repeal of 5 AAC 95.310, which bans personal use watercraft from the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. Based on my experience fishing and boating around southcentral Alaska over the past 30 years, personal use watercraft are not a compatible use in these critical habitat areas.

I have been and am still a frequent visitor to Kachemak Bay and have also spent a lot of time boating and fishing in Resurrection Bay and out of Whittier in Passage Canal. The waters of Kachemak Bay are home to a variety of marine plants, fish, birds and marine animals that live and shelter in this area. That is why the area was designated as a critical habitat area.

I have watched as personal watercraft became more and more common in Resurrection Bay and Passage Canal and have witnessed their erratic and wildlife disturbing use. Personal use watercraft are much faster, change direction very quickly, and are loud, kick up a big wake and are commonly operated in the shallow near-shore waters of tight patterns. Unlike the boats we share these waters with which are normally just transecting through the area, jet skis are usually recreating in protected near-shore waters. Their use is most often at extreme speeds and unpredictable patterns. I have personally ridden on and driven jet skis and wave runners in other locations and certainly enjoyed their abilities, however, the same abilities that provide a thrilling ride are not compatible with critical wildlife habitat areas. These personal watercraft characteristics (ability to operate in near-shore shallows, noise, speed, wake, and maneuverability) make them far more damaging and disruptive to the wildlife than other motorized watercraft. I also witnessed the addition of fuel supplies strapped to these PWC to allow their riders to go further. The fuel supplies are vulnerable to coming loose and spilling into the water.

The legislation passed statute, AS 16.20.500, which directs the Department of Fish and Game to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose. The Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat areas are, by statute, especially crucial areas. Personal use watercraft were banned many years ago because the Department found that their use was not compatible with the statute’s primary purpose of protecting the habitat. There is no new, nor existing data/information that suggests use of personal use watercraft is compatible with protecting critical habitat. My personal observations have been that they are certainly NOT compatible with critical habitat.

I support the repeal of the personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay. The pwc operators should have access restored. I have spent warm summer days on Big Lake and on Alaskan salt water. To think that Kachemak Bay would become a great big watercraft area is quite a stretch. I firmly believe that a responsible use of the Bay is compatible with the interests of conservation. I have spent time on the water with federal, state and local. The use of personal watercraft are a breach of that respect.

I support the repeal of the personal watercraft ban and I also think that a more responsible use of the Bay is compatible with the interests of conservation. I have watched as personal watercraft became more and more common in Resurrection Bay and Passage Canal and have witnessed the addition of fuel supplies strap. I also witnessed the addition of fuel supplies strapped to these PWC to allow their riders to go further. The fuel supplies are vulnerable to coming loose and spilling into the water.

The issue is equal access to Alaska for Alaskans. Both sides on this issue share respect for the Bay. I am hopeful both sides can come to an agreement and respect each others use.

As a lifelong Alaskan of sixty years, I strongly oppose any change in current regulations that would allow the use of personal watercraft (jet skis) in Kachemak Bay. The jet ski operators would have access restored.

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I would like to add my voice to the many other voices who have been speaking in opposition to the use of watercraft in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat. It is the pristine beauty and natural state of the area that makes it so special and which would be most threatened by the use of jet skis. Jet skis have the ability to travel in the most sensitive areas and do irrevocable damage to the wildlife and their habitat. They don’t belong in this special area.

I urge you to keep the Jetski ban in place. People visit Alaska because it is the last, great frontier. When the natural beauty is allowed to be spoiled by loud, damaging watercraft in sensitive areas, Alaska starts to look more like any other place in the lower 48 and that would be a real shame.

I am hopeful both sides can come to an agreement and respect each others use.

I urge you to keep the Jetski ban. People visit Alaska because it is the last, great frontier. When the natural beauty is allowed to be spoiled by loud, damaging watercraft in sensitive areas, Alaska starts to look more like any other place in the lower 48 and that would be a real shame.
Joe Schultz
joe@josewattalearnig.com
Golden, CO
I’m writing because I think it’s critically important to keep personal watercraft like jet skis and wave runners out of Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. The wildlife that call this area home deserve to be there unharmed by these pleasure-only vehicles.

I visited the area in a sea kayak and saw firsthand how dolphins, whales and sea otters peacefully play and frolic in the waters of Kachemak Bay. I believe it would be a crime against nature to introduce these noisy and dangerous vehicles into this critical habitat. There are plenty of places one can go in this world to speed around on a jet ski or wave runner. The Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area should never be one of them. It would ruin the habitat for the animals that dwell there and for generations of humans who go there to observe these animals in their natural state.

I urgently implore you to continue to ban jet skis and wave runners in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area.

Bret Haering
bfhaering@netscape.net
Halibut Cove
As a Kachemak Bay Property owner, I want to thank you and the Governor for the opportunity to Comment:

In the interest of fair play, I think that part of the Critical Habitat Area should be made available to operators of jet skis/personal watercraft with certain allowances and restrictions:

For the sake of added safety, an area open to the use of these crafts should be near shore, and reasonably close to Homer Harbor with a narrow and direct access corridor between the two locations. The area of allowed use should not within 2 miles of any Private Property, Established beach camping site, Popular use beaches, Set-net sites, or oyster/manuel aquaculture farming sites.

Wendy Noomah
wendy.noomah@gmail.com
Homer
Lifting the ban on jet skis (PWC) is a stupid idea. The consequences will be wasted state money on lawsuits, loss of tourist business, bad blood between Alaskans, confrontations between jet ski users and other people trying to enjoy the Bay(some possibly violent), more people ready to sign the recall Dunleavy petition, not to mention the harassment and death of seabirds, shorebirds and marine mammals. Leave the PWC ban in place!

Susan Phillips
Cushing
No way.  Count this as a NO vote, comment.  We live on Kachemak Bay and by common sense know that disturbances of wetlands, nesting areas, calm kayak coves, whales breaching, and more . . . will occur by recreation watercraft known as jetski. One more way, Governor Dunleavy and his appointees are trying to avoid the protection of the environment.

Kneeland Taylor
kneelandtaylor@ak.net
425 G Street, Suite 610
Anchorage, AK 99501
See message: JET SKIS IN KACHEMAK BAY.msg in PWC6

Dennis Poirier
dpoirier907@gmail.com
Little Tutka Bay
I have property in little Tutka Bay 10 miles from Homer. I am opposed to opening Kachemak Bay for use of personal watercraft.
I am writing you today to give you input on keeping the jetski ban in Kachemak Bay. I believe that usage of natural areas and resources has to be a balance of science and protection of the environment as well as allowing for enjoyment by residents and guests. Keeping the ban on Kachemak Bay has been reviewed a number of times and based on science it has been decided that the best protection is to keep the ban. There are numerous ways for all Alaskan residents and guests to enjoy the many wonders of Kachemak Bay without excluding anyone. There is no real justification. The tourism that bolsters our economy depends on a healthy bay. Thrillcraft are exceedingly noisy and intrusive. Does the State actually think that would be a good thing?

I am deeply concerned about your proposal to open Critical Habitat in the bay to jet ski users. This ignores biologists past and present, ignores ample public testimony, and threatens the birds, marine life and all that this habitat supports. There is no real justification. The tourism that bolsters our economy depends on a healthy bay. Thrillcraft are exceedingly noisy and intrusive. Please show that you respect Alaska and its people by dropping this proposal.

Does the State actually think that would be a good thing?

If the authorities are nevertheless determined to blindly forge ahead and revoke the current restriction, at least they should consider allowing it to remain in selected areas such as Halibut Cove and possibly other settlements where the adverse impact would be significant and promote hard feelings.

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Alder Snow

Dear Mr. Green, Rep. Stutes, Rep. Vance, and Senator Stevens,

I am writing to you as an out-of-state US citizen who has made frequent trips to Alaska and I will certainly make future visits. Please keep the ban on jet skis/p/personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay critical habitat area. I understand that you are probably looking more for local input from Alaskans on this (as you should), and I’m sure you are receiving that input from both sides of the issue. I think I represent at least one common type of tourist who come to Alaska. During my last trip, we headed in Kachemak Bay critical habitat area and spent several days in Homer. I was a truly amazing visit and we just convinced friends to go there this summer. Having personal watercraft, especially jet skis, in the area that we kayaked would’ve changed our experience so much negatively (not just from the noise but more importantly the wildlife - we saw so much that would negatively impacted by personal watercraft!). There should be places where jet skis are allowed and there are many but Kachemak Bay critical habitat area is not one of them.

Please maintain the ban on PVC’s in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area.

Rachel Guenther

Rachel Guenther

Minneapolis, MN

We loved our vacation to Alaska and Kachemak Bay in 2018. We still definitely be back. We loved the beautiful clear waters in the bay and enjoyed lunch on the beach and kayaking. We also love jet skis. We’ve jet skied in the ocean off the coast of Costa Rica, and in lakes in Minnesota. Please please don’t allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay. They are tons of fun, but they are loud and disrupt the wildlife, which is what people come to Alaska to see. Keep Kachemak bay pristine, beautiful and quiet. And let the jet ski party happen in other parts of Alaska.

Please NO jet skis on KACHEMAK BAY. Please.

Cherish Hakel

Cherish Hakel

Anchorage, AK

I am a current property owner and have spent most of each summer since 1983 at the head of the Bay near Bear Island. Kachemak Bay water is cold, the wind is very unpredictable, and there is a twice daily tidal change that would make using jet skis very dangerous. It would be very difficult to keep track of people who are using jet skis on the bay in case of an emergency. The tidal change and general wave pattern as the water moves up and down the bay makes it a difficult body of water to cross by knowledgable skippers in good boats-- much less the average weekend jet skier who knows little about Bay emergency. The tidal change and general wave pattern as the water moves up and down the bay makes it a difficult body of water to cross by knowledgable skippers in good boats-- much less the average weekend jet skier who knows little about Bay emergency. The tidal change and general wave pattern as the water moves up and down the bay makes it a difficult body of water to cross by knowledgable skippers in good boats-- much less the average weekend jet skier who knows little about Bay emergency.

I am sure there are others who are writing concerning the serious habitat effects of jet ski noise and air pollution. To me the water like Kachemak Bay makes no sense.

I am writing to oppose the pending proposal to allow jet skis into Kachemak Bay.

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I am sure there are others who are writing concerning the serious habitat effects of jet ski noise and air pollution. To me the water like Kachemak Bay makes no sense.
Mike O'Meara
Michael O'Meara
mikeo@horizonsatellite.com
Homer/Anchor Point Alaska

I am opposed to the use of jet skis (PWC's) in the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. In past efforts to open the critical habitat I've offered detailed comments outlining the many reasons jet skis should remain prohibited. I'm tired of having to repeat myself every few years so will make this short.

The reason the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas were created was to "protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose." Extensive scientific study from many different sources has shown jet skis & PWC's are NOT compatible with this purpose.

There is no shortage of places for people to ride jet skis. To my knowledge all Alaskan waters outside of Kachemak Bay are open.

Jet skis are designed to be ridden for thrills and maximum speed.

Kachemak Bay brings thousand of tourists from outside and within Alaska, often because they seek to get away from such activity. Most want to enjoy the beauty, fishing, and less frenetic experience available here. Our local economy thrives on this. We do not wish to give this up so the Governor can pander to the politically powerful Jet ski industry.

Rest assured that if the state attempts to move forward with the foolish plan to open the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas to Jet ski people of the area will appose it in court.

Susan Houlihan
Homer, AK 99603

See message: Comments on repeal of 5 AAC 95.310.msg in PWC7

Brian Martin
Brian Martin
bmart06@gmail.com

I'm writing to strongly encourage you to continue the ban on jet skis and PWC's in the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. I have lived in Alaska since 1995 and I love Alaska for it's wilderness and people. I have lived along Kachemak Bay since 1999. Having spent considerable time in Kachemak Bay and marveled at the beauty of that ecosystem I was horrified to learn that jet skis might soon be allowed in such a naturally diverse and beautiful quiet place. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW JET SKIS IN THIS GORGEOUS PARADISE!

Jenifer Lidster
jmlidster@gmail.com

In 1987 Dick Dolto I hope you two are well, safe, healthy and happy. I'm sorry to hear about the jet skis, I hope you guys find success in your endeavor, and a happy season!

Hello, my name is Brian Martin, and I think the ban on jet skis in the little Kachemak bay is a necessary decision to make, for the sake of preserving the gift of nature in the serenity and sanctity it deserves, especially when such spots like Kachemak are becoming fewer and fewer. Thank you!

Erik Pullman
epullman@kbaytech.com

Hi Rick! Hi Dorla! I hope you are well, safe, healthy and happy. I'm sorry to hear about the jet skis, I hope you guys find success in your endeavor, and a happy season!

I had the pleasure of spending a summer in Kachemak Bay with Rick and Dorla a couple of years ago. It is such a beautiful and serene area and is the home to an abundance of wildlife animals. While I was there, I had the opportunity to observe countless sea lions, sealions, sea otters, eagles, owls, seagulls, whales, and many more animals that did not even exist! It would be a huge disturbance to the wildlife and the bay to allow jet skis in the area. The negative impacts that jet skis cause would be detrimental to the animal until their habitats and would be a major loss to one of the most beautiful places in the state.

Laura Chamberlin
lchamberlin@manomet.org

I had the pleasure of spending a summer in Kachemak Bay with Rick and Dorla a couple of years ago. It is such a beautiful and serene area and is the home to an abundance of wildlife animals. While I was there, I had the opportunity to observe countless sea lions, sealions, sea otters, eagles, owls, seagulls, whales, and many more animals that did not even exist! It would be a huge disturbance to the wildlife and the bay to allow jet skis in the area. The negative impacts that jet skis cause would be detrimental to the animal until their habitats and would be a major loss to one of the most beautiful places in the state.

Jenifer Lidster
jmlidster@gmail.com

Many jet skiers and PWC enthusiasts believe that the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay would be a huge mistake. They argue that jet skis are a popular activity and that the ban on jet skis would negatively impact the local tourism industry.

However, I strongly disagree with this viewpoint. The ban on jet skis is necessary to protect the natural beauty and wildlife of Kachemak Bay. Jet skis cause excessive noise and disturbance, perturbing wildlife, and disrupting the serene environment.

Wildlife in Kachemak Bay are already threatened by factors such as oil spills, climate change, and habitat loss. The addition of jet skis would exacerbate these problems and lead to further declines in wildlife populations.

Furthermore, the ban on jet skis is not a dangerous or unreasonable restriction. There are numerous alternative recreational activities available in Kachemak Bay, such as kayaking, paddleboarding, and fishing, which do not pose the same threats to wildlife.

The ban on jet skis is supported by the vast majority of residents in Homer, Alaska. A recent survey conducted by the Homer Chamber of Commerce found that 85% of respondents support the ban on jet skis.

I urge you to uphold the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay and protect the natural beauty and wildlife of this pristine area for future generations to enjoy.

Please take action to protect Kachemak Bay from the harmful effects of jet skis.
Matt Smith
M Smith
<mwsadc@gmail.com>
59595 East End Road
Homer, AK 99603

Kendra Zamzow
Kendra Zamzow
<kzamzow@gmail.com>
Chickaloon, AK

Anastasia J. Kunz
Anastasia Kunz
<anastasiakunz@gmail.com>

Kyle Rudzinski
Kyle Rudzinski
<krudzinski22@gmail.com>

Mark Schollenberger
Mark Schollenberger
<msberger@horizonalellite.com>

Erica Wolfson
Erica Wolfson
<ericawolfsong@gmail.com>

Mary Hamilton
Mary Hamilton
<mrhaytham@gmail.com>

Will Runnoe
Will Runnoe
<will83530@gmail.com>

See message: Comments OPPOSING repeal of 5 AAC 95.310/msg in PW7.

I am writing to show my support for keeping Kachemak Bay free of jet skis and personal watercraft. The Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat is meant for fish and wildlife viewing, and there are many many waters available for this type of recreation.

I am contacting you to ask that you consider not repealing the ban on jetskis and other personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay. As a biologist, I am keenly aware of the harmful impacts that high-speed personal watercraft can have on valuable wildlife. This wildlife has both intrinsic and economic value, and forbidding the resource to allow jetskis in this area is irresponsible.

While my primary concern is maintaining a pristine habitat that follows the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area legislation, it is important to note that the aesthetic value of the Kachemak Bay will also be negatively affected. In order to preserve this important habitat, please keep the current ban on jetskis in this area. There are other areas where this recreational activity is acceptable, but not in Kachemak Bay.


Hello , I'm writing in response to the proposed lifting of the jet ski ban in Kachemack Bay critical habitat area. For the record, I am opposed to lifting the ban. Kachemack Bay is a critical habitat area for good reason...to protect marine and terrestrial wildlife from any from of harassment. Jet skis pose both a noise, and physical, threat to marine life near shore, and off shore, given the reckless nature of how these "toys" are used.

Citizens of Alaska, and tourists, come to Kachemack Bay for solitude. Jet skis zipping back and forth in the Bay would impact that solitude. It's one thing to run a boat from point A to B, and another thing to be recklessly zipping back and forth for the fun of it. Jet skis in the bay would create navigational hazards, especially in the mouth of the harbor, one of the busiest and roughest part of the bay. Current boat traffic, wind, waves and tidal currents are a recipe for accidents to happen if jet skis were allowed near the harbor.

There would be an enforcement conflict if jet skis were allowed in the Bay, and restricted from Kachemack Bay State Park waters, it would create a huge enforcement problem to keep people from entering the Parks waters, where they would impact wildlife, and people, within the shores of the Park.

Jet skis can enjoy 99% of the State's waterways. They do not belong in Kachemack Bay. I am opposed to allowing jet ski in Kachemack Bay.

Hello Respected Officials.... I visited Kachemak Bay last summer for one of the most peaceful and beautiful days of my vacation and maybe even life, I urge you to please keep it that way. NO JET SKIS . Please. keep the ban up there's plenty of other places for those noisy polluting things.

Please keep jet skis out of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Please retain the natural environment of the area. There are plenty other places to jet ski.

Mrs Runnoe
2712019
<al818191@gmail.com>
4540 Mannfield Homer, AK 99603

I live in Homer and thoroughly enjoy Kachemak Bay and all it has to offer. It is a unique aquatic environment and is blessed with exceptional beauty, not just from and individuals viewpoint but from a wide range of diverse environments that can’t be seen.

The Bay is already stressed with boat traffic and I don’t see any reason to add to the stress. The boat traffic is mostly for fishing and commercial uses that benefit our economy. Jet skis will provide very little impact upon our economy and will further stress our diverse environment not to mention causing endue marine traffic hazards.

I live in places where jet skis are allowed and it ain’t a pretty picture. Most of the jet ski owners are just there for thrills not to mention harassing people who are fishing, kayaking and sailing.

My family is totally opposed to this proposal and I’m appalled it’s even being brought up again.
Nancy Munro
Nancy Munro
nancymunro27@gmail.com

I do not support lifting the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. The reasons for banning jet skis in these critical habitat areas were well articulated many years ago when the ban was enacted, and none of the facts behind those arguments have changed. I do understand that a very small number of people have either a personal interest in running jet skis in the Bay or a financial interest in promoting that activity. I don’t think that justifies the proposed policy change, and, frankly, smacks of a commercial interest buying the Governor’s support for such a change.

John Page
John Page
TopakekJohnner@gmail.com

Please relax the jet ski ban.

Bridget Maryott
Bridget Maryott
discoverymom2@gmail.com

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposal to repeal the current ban on jet skis and other personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Homer, Seldovia and Halibut Cove have built many sustainable businesses that cater to visitors coming to the area for our pristine environment and wildlife. Jet Skis are not conducive to this environment and they are already allowed in 99% of Alaskan waters. Please respect our way of life.

Uhlen Sparkland
Uhlen Sparkland
uhlenjune@gmail.com

I am opposed to allowing jetskis into Kachemak Bay.

Claudia Duffield
Claudia Duffield
cd434@alaska.com

Please do not permit jet-skiing in this precious habitat. Such use would be extremely harmful to the Homer habitat for all wildlife there. There are plenty of other places in Alaska where that use is less harmful.

Rick Sinnott
Bob Sinnottrickjsinnott@gmail.com

Chugiak, Alaska

See message: Kachemak Bay CHA jet ski ban.msg in PWC7.

Sarah Beachender
Sandand w
beachender@squiggle dod.de

I am writing to ask that you do not allow jet skis into Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. We recently visited the area as part of vacation travel. The experience was amazing and the presence of jet skis would ruin the experience entirely. We planned to go back, but would not under those circumstances. We also worry about the ecological impact of jet skis on native wildlife.

Mark Contos
Mark Contos
mcontos@adelphia.net

KACHMABAY

Just last year my family spent a memorable day kayaking in the beautiful Kachemak Bay. The beauty of this place - from the lovely scenery to the abundant wildlife - would be diminished by the addition of jet skis. I do hope you will be able to keep the jet ski ban in place.

Jim Herbert
Jim Herbert
jherbert8000@gmail.com

Homer, AK

I am a Homer area resident and wish to express my support for the status quo: not allowing jet ski use in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area.

It is obvious to me that the state and municipalities can have many reasons to regulate what and how vehicles of many types can be used. For example, using motorized watercraft of limited horsepower on portions of the Kenai River while not allowing motorized boats at all on other portions. Moose hunters can not use motorized vehicles at certain times in certain places. On a December 2019 visit to Florida, on the 5 occasions I saw people riding jet skis, they were all turning in tight circles and wake jumping at high speeds. A conversation with a US Coast Guard person in Key West suggested that “hot rodding” behavior by this type of watercraft was a problem for the CG as well as other boaters. I personally have seen some, but not all, jet skis operate recklessly out of Whittier and Seward. Perhaps a small number give the rest a bad name. Nonetheless, law enforcement by state and federal agencies is scant on Kachemak Bay.

Regardless, I feel certain that the high speeds and at times erratic activities of these water craft are disruptive to birds and sea mammals as well other species are not. At almost all times of year there are various species of birds in the shallows waters near the Homer Spit where I assume many jet ski operators would operate. Many folks just find them annoying the way a dirt bike would be if encountered on a mountain biking trail.

I believe there is ample opportunity for jet skis to operate out of Anchor Point, Deep Creek, and other beaches in our immediate area. Whittier, Seward, Anchorage, and many lakes are available as well. It seems fair and appropriate to allow an area designated as a Critical Habitat to prohibit their use.

Please preserve the status quo and ban jet ski from Kachemak Bay.

William W Wood
Bill Wood
curveman@mtaonline.net

Wasilla, AK

See message: Kachemak Bay jet ski activities.msg in PWC7.

"..."
Gareth Chesley
Gareth Chesley
gareth.chesley@gmail.com
See message: Kachemak Bay Jetski Public Comment.msg in PWC7

Joel Wheeler
wheelergeneral@gmail.com
I am an Alaskan boat owner who has regularly enjoyed the serenity of Kachemak Bay for the last 28 years. It is with respect that I submit my opposition to the proposed changes to the restrictions of personal watercraft use at Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. To lift restrictions that have been in place for years and subject the residents of the area to the unrestricted use of PWC would surely disrupt more than just the wildlife that find sanctuary in these Critical Habitat Areas. The ability for PWC to travel at high speeds in shallow water threaten the peacefulness of the area. When restrictions are lifted, people flock to these places and these critical habitats are not meant for that kind of traffic. I lived on Kachemak Bay in the 90’s and remember when kayak tour groups would trespass onto private property to relieve themselves and leave piles of toilet paper above the tide line in the trees and just off private trails. This will surely happen again. There is also no short supply of places to ride PWC outside of Kachemak Bay. Please do not allow the use of PWC in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. I thank you for your time and look forward to a decision that truly makes the most sense for the area.

Bob McCard
bmccard@alaska.net
I am writing you to keep the ban on Jet Skis in Kachemak Bay, Homer, Alaska. Jet Skis are a detriment to wildlife and habitat. Jet Skis not only can damage habitat, but the sound of the machines can be harmful to wildlife. Please keep the ban in place.

Su Niedringhaus
Su<zeemoo@earthlink.net>
Golden, Colorado
One of our favorite parts of a 30 day visit to Alaska a couple of years ago was a kayak trip through the pristine Kachemak Bay. The wildlife and quiet beauty enchanted our family. We’ve already sent other friends there who’ve enjoyed it as much as we did. Please don’t let Jet Skis into this beautiful area. There are plenty of places to recreate, not so many places to spend a day close to nature.

Nona Hall
tagittagit678@icloud.com
We have kayaked in Kachemak Bay several times. What makes it so appealing and why we continue to rave about our experiences is that the bay is quiet, the water is calm, and it allows us to see and feel God’s presence in the wildlife and vegetation in this peaceful, beautiful place. Please keep it peaceful for visitors, for the wildlife, and for safety on the water. It would be a shame if this is spoiled by Jet Skis. We definitely would not return.

Angie Hamill
angie.hamill.ak@gmail.com
I am completely against allowing Jet Skis to operate in Kachemak Bay. The thought of the possibility is even wrong. Please don’t be swayed by special interests in the personal watercraft industry nor swayed by a politician who only has his self-preserving interest in mind. Listen to the public, protect Kachemak Bay and the special ecosystem it is. Please, NO JET SKIS.

Felicia Riedel
f_riedel@hotmail.com
Kenny Lake
While I don’t live near Kachemak Bay, I’ve lived in Kenny Lake a long time and am a homesteader’s daughter. In our late 60’s, my husband and I have used snow machines & 4-wheelers for fun, but responsibly, and for work, but now we count on them for hauling wood, etc. They are noisy and stinky, Jet skis even more so, but Jet Skis are mainly for fun and not work. They should only be in very specific recreational areas, areas that people don’t rely on for food or livelihood through tourism like the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat. We have Jet Skis on some of our small lakes around here, and they look like a blast. But they are hard on animals and not what people want to experience if they’ve paid to go to a wild place in Alaska. Tourists can stay in town to smell noxious fumes and hear irritating sounds. Kachemak Bay isn’t my home, but I would hope other Alaskans would stick up for me in a similar situation.

Kathy Sarns
kathysarns@gmail.com
Homer
We moved (ourselves and our business) from Anchorage to Homer in 2008 and bought a home near the ocean - because it is quiet. If Jet Skis are allowed to ruin Kachemak Bay we will not stay here in Homer.

Just like cigarettes, it just takes ONE Jet Ski to adversely affect everyone and everything around, with noise pollution and disrupting wildlife with it’s fast & unpredictable movements.

The law is clear: the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to: "protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose." Alaska Statutes 16.20.500


NO no no to Jet Skis in Kachemak Bay, Alaska.
DO NOT OPEN KACHEMAK BAY TO JET SKIS

I'm writing you to voice my strong displeasure over discussions to repeal the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. I own 16 acres with a small cabin and over 200' of shoreline in Bear Cove where we have no roads or electricity. The undeveloped condition of Bear Cove makes it a paradise for hunters and fishermen, and for those of us who enjoy breathing in the quiet and protected waters of the cove, and watching wildlife such as migratory waterfowl, sea otters, eagles, orcas, sea lions, and humback whales that come into the cove to feed and rest. To have these noisy thrillcraft (jet ski) in Bear Cove would be a travesty and would infringe upon the right of the numerous other human and non-human visitors to the area to enjoy the waters in and around Bear Cove.

To say that keeping jet skis out of Kachemak Bay prevents a user group from enjoying the waters of the bay is beyond silly and defies logic. Nobody is telling these people that they can't buy a boat and come here. Many people do. But the nature of jet skis and their users is that they drive fast, circle about, leap-jump over the many large waves that are created by their high-powered machines, and generally make a nuisance of themselves for everyone in the vicinity. I know because for many years I lived near a lake where jet skis were allowed and they were an obscene nuisance for everyone but themselves, which did not concern them, of course. The loud noise they made echoed around the hills of the lake so there was no way for man or beast to escape the noise, and they don't troll about or linger the way fishermen and hunters do. They stay put ... and go round and round and round.

Jet ski use is already allowed in most waters of Alaska. Jet ski owners can take their thrillcraft to those other places. Why are we even revisiting this nonsensical proposal to defile our beautiful Kachemak Bay when it was decided not to have them here years ago?

I implore you: do not repeal the ban on jet skis in our lovely Critical Habitat Area. They don't belong here.
I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed repeal of the jet ski ban in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Allowing jet skis into this area will be harmful to the wildlife, residents, and small businesses that call this area home. As a Critical Habitat Area, Kachemak Bay CHA is designated by the Alaska Legislature to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” As the scientists at the ADFG have repeatedly concluded, a jet ski ban is appropriate and justified. There are many other recreational activities that are welcome in Kachemak Bay CHA, such as sea kayaking. I have worked in this area for the past two summers kayaking. From this experience, I have seen firsthand how crucial the wildlife is to small businesses in both tourism and fishing. Protecting this area from jet skis means protecting small businesses. 

Carol Meares
Carol Meares
carolmeares@icloud.com
3459 Main St.
Unit 2
Homer AK 99603

See message: Comments opposing repeal of 5 AAC 95.310.msg in PWC8

Darlene Holmberg
Darlene Holmberg
Aniak Light & Power
aniaklnp@arctic.net
Greetings, this is in regards to salmon habitat protection. There are many assaults upon our fish and wildlife habitats that we can’t stop or mitigate, climate change being the foremost. There are a few that we can control or eliminate. Please take steps to reduce threats from recreational activities such as thrill craft traffic in areas known to be inhabited by fish, wildlife and birds. People who enjoy pristine and quiet and take pains to get there should not have to be in conflict with those riding for fun with nowhere in particular to go. If I want to go to my fish camp for the weekend to fish or relax, I should only use others with like sentiment, and the thrill seekers can do their thing closer to the town, where there is already lots of water traffic that is expected and not loathed. Most of the kids are doing their watercraft fun in view of the town, which also increases their safety, should they experience a mishap. There is no reason to allow the thrill rider to be in quiet neighborhoods or lakes or far from town, certainly not where fish and birds congregate to feed or rest. Please strengthen protections for vulnerable and critical habitats and occupants (migratory or otherwise), before there’s nothing left to protect. Thank you.

Barbara Harris
Owner / VP Marketing, Team CC
Barbara Harris
barbara@teamcc.com
Emailing: PWC ban20200120.pdf.msg  MOVED SCANNED LETTERS TO FOLDER WITH HARD COPIES OF SAME FORM LETTER

Kim H Madden
Kim Madden
57khmadden@gmail.com
As a property owner on the Bay I oppose Jet ski use in the Bay. Kachemak Bay is considered a critical habitat area and allowing jet ski use in the Bay definitely puts more demand on the habitat of this beautiful area. I’m not sure why you are even thinking about allowing jet ski use in the Bay. Have there been a change in the designation of our Bay? When the first otter fatality, first human injury, first buzzard that is gone because you allowed jet ski use to be on the Bay, will that fall on you. The idea that you have to cater to another user group because they want it is not always reasonable because of the costs involved. The relationship between the land and the people is essential for our continued sustainability. There are many places in Alaska you can use jet ski; let’s keep our Bay safe and not contribute to every whim people have so they can recreate. Please allow us to use protect our resources, both human, animal, and the environmental treasures we still have.

Jill Somerville
jemervile@gci.net
8256 Keegan St., Unit A
Juneau, Ak 99802
See message: FW: Personal Watercraft in Kachemak Bay.msg in PWC8

Kate Finn
hundredthmonk21@gmail.com
POBox 3364
Homer AK 99603
See message: Fwd: Continue the BAN on Jet-skis and PWC in Kachemak Bay.msg in PWC8

Forwarded from Doug Vincent-Lang’s personal email to DVL and RG ADF&G emails - check for duplicates

Alex L Koplin
bubba@horizonservice.com
Homer
I am a resident of Kachemak City. I am opposed to having jet ski use in the Bay. Kachemak Bay is considered a critical habitat area and allowing jet ski use in the Bay definitely puts more demand on the habitat of this beautiful area. I’m not sure why you are even thinking about allowing jet ski use in the Bay. Have there been a change in the designation of our Bay? When the first otter fatality, first human injury, first buzzard that is gone because you allowed jet ski use to be on the Bay, will that fall on you. Please allow us to use protect our resources, both human, animal, and the environmental treasures we still have.

Kachemak Bay CHA protects and preserves habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose. As the scientists at the ADFG have repeatedly concluded, a jet ski ban is appropriate and justified. There are many other recreational activities that are welcome in Kachemak Bay CHA, such as sea kayaking.
I was shocked to learn that lifting the ban on high-powered watercraft was under consideration. Jetskis and personal watercraft (PWC) are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statutes 16.20.500 (emphasis added).

The science clearly shows jetskis and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADF&G, and in the opinion of ADF&G’s own staff experts.

I am hoping that Alaska Department of Fish and Game can uphold the critical habitat areas designation and jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. I grew up in Homer and now live in Maryland both near the Delaware Bay and Potomac River. It seems that the peacefulness of every bay or river I am on can be interrupted within seconds by the loud buzz of jet skis and make it much less appealing to plan a trip to. Homer’s main industries are commercial fishing and tourism. Jet ski use conflicts with both of these important sources of livelihood. I believe that visitors come to the area to experience something different. After all there is probably a lake near where people are traveling from that is thousands of dollars cheaper to get to, yet people come up to Kachemak bay for once in a life time trips. Further, many of my friends and I come back every summer to spend time in Homer on and around the water – I believe that making the bay just as any body of water is in the lower 48 is will reduce the impacts for folks to want to return and reduce the long term vitality of the area.

I urge you not to change the prohibitions on personal watercraft use in the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to Jetski use. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousand of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economic success so a few people can play on Jetskis.

Keep Jet Skis out of KACHEMAK Bay and FRITZ CREEK CRITICAL HABITAT.

Excuse me, but you have been appointed to a group who is tasked with protecting HABITATS and ECOSYSTEMS for FISH and WILDLIFE.....NOT to open CRITICAL HABITATS to RECREATIONISTS with motors. The law is clear: the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statutes 16.20.500 (emphasis added).

I am opposed to permitting jetskis in Kachemak Bay because of damage to wildlife in the Bay. The law is clear: the purpose of Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statutes 16.20.500 (emphasis added).
The nagging question keeps coming up WHY why change what has been established in Kachemak Bay, and dismiss the known data, jet skis are thrill craft, and they have their function and place, but not in Kachemak Bay!!! We have been in the Eco tourist business for 37 yrs. My husband and I started our Eco business from scratch, and we have watched the industry grow in leaps and bounds. We are assured with massive growth of modern technology and growing global economies, people want to escape the business of their lives and they are even trying to download apps on how to disconnect, so I believe I can fairly attest after 17 yrs in the industry QUIET is the new norm, and I do believe we have an important say on this issue! Let the ban remain!!

This is Scott Burbank and Susan Aramovich,

We are recently retired after operating a tourist business in Kachemak Bay for 37 years (St. Augustine’s Kayak Tours). We have lived on the bay for 41 years and have a loving attachment to it.

It has been wonderful to live in a region where the community has honored and recognized the specialness of place.

We would very much like to see the ban on jet skis maintained now and in the future in recognition of the many economic benefits and otherwise that having one place protected allot to all of us.

To people who wish to have their access and freedom to practice this activity available to them, I would point out that Alaska has 36,000 miles of coastline and many additional miles of lakes and rivers where they can freely enjoy their activity. We are only asking for a small portion of Alaska waterways and wildlife corridors be protected.

Thanks for taking into consideration our point of view on this controversial matter.

Homer, AK

I am writing to voice my strong opinion that jet skis don’t belong to the fragile and unique environment of Kachemak Bay. Because jet skis can travel at a very fast speed, are unpredictable because of their maneuverability, and are very noisy, they will have a very negative impact on the marine creatures that depend on the waters of Kachemak Bay for survival. Pleasure craft that solely exist to provide speed thrills for their riders do not belong in the fishing and tourism industry that exists in Homer and its environs. The salmon, whales, birds and other wildlife don’t need the stress of speeding boats charging into shallow areas, screaming and jumping over waves, or driving circles around them. Tourists come to Homer to enjoy a pleasant wildlife viewing experience and scenic culture that doesn’t include small, speeding boats making noise and scaring the wildlife.

Allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay is like allowing race cars to go one hundred miles around slow moving cars on a scenic road. Everyone understands why very fast race cars aren’t allowed to race on city streets. There is a majority of other places in Alaska jet skis are allowed. Studies by Fish and Game and other government agencies’ EIS have come to the conclusion that jet skis will be harmful to the sensitive marine environment of Kachemak Bay. This idea has popped up several times in Homer over the years, and has been strongly rejected by the residents of Homer. Their opinions and wishes should be listened to. Of course this will make the small number of jet skiers who want to operate in Kachemak Bay unhappy; but you know what?—you can’t make everyone happy and if you try, no one will be happy.

Homer, AK

It is appalling that one would even consider bringing jet ski traffic into Kachemak Bay (Homer, Alaska). These quiet and pristine waters are the home of many creatures including varieties of whales and dolphins, as well as sea otters, fish, etc. Through careful management, the bay continues to be a quiet and tranquil area, which is why residents and travelers enjoy the beauty of this area, and not the noise and chaos of jet ski traffic. The overwhelming horsepower causes them to be detrimental to the marine life and the peacefulness. It has been scientifically shown that jet skis and personal watercraft are not compatible with the Kachemak and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat report. This is a recreation area with a different focus. Please keep this type of recreation in the proper areas and not where it has already been established as not appropriate.

Homer, AK

I am strongly opposed to changing the regulations to allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Homer, AK

I agree that jet skis do not belong in Kachemak Bay. These waters are too quiet and too pristine.

Homer, AK

It is important that we do not allow jet skis to enter Kachemak Bay.

Homer, AK

Jet skis are not compatible with this pristine environment.

Homer, AK

Stop the damage that jet skis cause to our marine life.

Homer, AK
I would like to express my thoughts to you on a very divisive issue. There are emotions on either side of the Jet Ski issue that tend to cloud the objectivity of our opinions. The opponents of jet skis declare that hard scientific fact demonstrates the potential negative impact of jet skis on wildlife but fail to provide the evidence sufficient to convince me. Many are tempted to simply check their "science" up to hyperbole at best.

Those in favor of lifting the ban declare that jet skis are no worse than any other vessel and it is unfair to limit a single user group. They believe that the rumor that a few rich and influential people complained because they were harassed by jet skiers while enjoying the quiet solitude of kayaking in the coves across the bay. In your position you may know more about both the science rumor and the conspiracy rumor. Whatever the case I would urge you to carefully consider real evidence and history on this issue.

I think that most Alaskans feel strongly that a particular user group should not be excluded from an area without seriously considered reasonable cause. Likewise Alaskans put a high value on our environment and its resources. It is true that jet skis can be annoying and that the activity does not mix well with some other activities in the bay. Perhaps we should focus on the behavior of users rather than the machinery they use. It is unfortunate that the abuses of a few have again restricted the privileges of all.

It is unfortunate that we like spoiled siblings are putting pressure on your office to decide who you are going to make angry by making a decision that may be of very little consequence outside of politics.

May God give you wisdom,
Erin Borowski  
Erin Borowski  
erininanak@gci.net  
I understand from your interview with KBBI that you don’t see a substantial difference in personal watercraft vs other small watercraft like skiffs. If this is indeed your understanding, it is clear that you have never watched teenagers playing on jet skis. While a jet ski may be used to get from place to place, the main reason all the people I know who own them is for the thrill of the ride. They go fast, they turn sharply, they catch air when jumped over other boat wakes. They aren’t used for quiet, reflective time on the water and they can’t really be used to transport any gear - they are ridden for the joy ride they offer. I have had lots of fun over the years riding jet skis and watching my boys ride them. I also enjoy ocean boating and kayaking. There are lots of places to have fun on a PWC, the idea of allowing their use in the critical habitat areas of Kachemak Bay is beyond understanding to me. Please consider this comment as a big “No thank you!” to lifting the ban currently in place.

Robert Standish  
Robert’s Cabins  
robertscabin@gmail.com  
PO Box 1106  
Kenai, AK 99611  
I am opposed to lifting the ban on jet skis (Personal Watercraft) in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. This area was designated as Critical Habitat by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game several years ago. This designation was made by habitat biologists who recognize the uniqueness of an ecosystem area to the flora and fauna that need special protection to ensure survival of the unique area. Jet ski use in the critical habitat area is not compatible with the biological marine organisms and wildlife found in this unique ecosystem. Jet skis would disrupt the current biological status of this critical area. Jet skis travel near shore with high speed and rapidly changing directions; thus having a high potential to disrupt the unique biological ecosystem. The Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area should be protected from jet ski use. The area needs continued monitoring from adverse activities such as jet skis. The local human population overwhelmingly oppose the use of jet skis and there are numerous other unprotected areas throughout the State of Alaska where jet skis may be used.

Anne Brooks  
Markashe Brooks  
markashe@gmail.com  
1704 Rogers Park Court  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
I am a 45 year resident of Anchorage and I oppose any regulation lessening restrictions on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay and surrounds. I do not believe the use is consistent with wildlife protections. I also have concerns about safety and emergency response in the area with inexperienced users of which I think there will be many. I think the numbers will rise rapidly due to interests of tour operators further damaging the area. We have many places throughout southcentral that is not off limits. Do not open to this use.

Nicole Szarzi  
Nicole Szarzi  
njszarzi@gmail.com  
Homer  
See message: Keep ban on personal watercraft in place msg in PWC8

Marshall Miley  
Marshall Miley  
mrmiley@gmail.com  
I am emailing you to express my concern for the proposed allowance of jet skis and other recreational motor vehicles in the Kachemak Bay Area. From my understanding and experience with the area, I see it as a very significant wildlife habitat. I have served on the ACC for a summer and have friends and have visited the area several times now. I am sure that we all love the great outdoors being residents, visitors, and former residents of the great state of Alaska. My concern is not only aesthetic, but practical and inclusive of the lifestyle and patterns of our treasured wildlife. I have spent time helping my friends business of ecotourism there and it depends largely on serenity and the undisturbed activities of all wildlife. They not only deserve this inherently as creatures of the animal kingdom but the people and residents of the area deserve their solitude as well. In my opinion, recreational motor vehicles serve no purpose in our precious waters. There is no practical reason why people should be jet skiing and disturbing the silence and serenity of others. Now, if they were using them to transport goods, services, water, food, etc. I could see merit in allowing it. However, since this is clearly not the case with such proposed vehicles, I strongly believe the use of jet skis, dolphins, and nesting raptors deserve respect and to be treated properly by honoring their own personal space and undisturbed behavior. Please, for the mental well-being of us all and for the sake of preserving the wildness of the final frontier and aesthetic quality of nature that many thousands of people come to this great state for every year, I ask that you oppose this proposition of the allowance of jet skis and other similar recreational vehicles in our precious waters.

Michael B. Rearden  
Mike Rearden  
mrearden@gci.net  
See message: Lifting of ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay msg in PWC8
I am writing to express my views on inclusion of jet skis on Kachemak Bay. The purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife. The science is clear and shows that jet skis and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADF&G, and in the opinion of ADF&G’s own staff experts.

With over 99% of Alaskan waters open to jet ski use, opening this seems ridiculous. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousands of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economy to a few people can pile on jet skis.

Karen Shemet
As a longtime resident of Homer, I want to add my voice to the many that strongly oppose allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay. I thought Rick Sinnott’s piece in the Anchorage Daily News yesterday made very clear and reasonable points for why we need to uphold the status quo here.

I also don’t appreciate “the process” or shall I say, lack of process involved in overturning a rule that has been on the books from the beginning. This is clearly an effort to ramrod a change through that the powers that be are in support of. Let’s not pretend that this is a fair and open discussion of options when it appears that a decision on high has already been made. People will not be quiet on this issues, especially when treated disrespectfully.

The issue of jet skis operating in our bay and home places is a serious no brainer, so let’s just leave things as is. The protection that the bay, critters and ecosystem have now is how it should remain, forever, as was intended. We need to do the right thing here and not mess up Kachemak Bay with destructive and noisy jet skis.

Bill Wiebe
It appears that you are getting some pressure from higher ups to open Kachemak Bay to jet skis. This pressure does not amount to widespread support from an Alaskan jet ski community because there really isn’t one. Most of this pressure comes from a few individuals who stand to make money and our Governor may be one of these individuals.

And its not even that much money. There are so many safer and more interesting places to use a jet ski in Alaska outside of Kachemak Bay. The lakes and rivers near Anchorage would be far more lucrative. The most popular jet ski area I’ve been to is on the Colorado River below Newdies where it is warm and calm. There are lots of jet ski money being spent there and when a machine breaks down it will most likely wash up next to somebody’s beach house.

Kachemak Bay? Its cold, too rough for jet skis on most summer afternoons, featuring 22 foot tides inundating mudflats. Aim a dart at Anchorage on an Alaska map and you would hit a better jet ski location. The helicopter pilots may not agree with me as they would be fully employed rescuing stranded jet skiers off the Fox River Flats.

Craig Cutler
I am opposed to permitting jet skis in Kachemak Bay because of damage to wildlife in the Bay. I went to you to convey this information to Governor Dunleavy and recommend that he NOT approve use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay. The law is clear: the purpose of Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statutes 16.20.500 (emphasis added).

I am opposed to permitting jet skis in Kachemak Bay because of damage to wildlife in the Bay. I went to you to convey this information to Governor Dunleavy and recommend that he NOT approve use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay. The law is clear: the purpose of Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statutes 16.20.500 (emphasis added).

The science clearly shows jet skis and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADF&G, and in the opinion of ADF&G’s own staff experts. 0
Hello Mr. Green. The purpose of the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is just that...Critical! It is to "protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife." No water craft or person can be allowed to degrade, reduce, destroy or change (intentionally or not) a critical habitat area. Personal Water Craft are jet boats, specifically designed to operate in very shallow water. Let us secure and protect what remains of our critical habitat. Personal Water Craft have a large volume of other areas to enjoy. I'm sure tourism is very important to Alaska as it is in Maine. In both states it makes no sense to threaten critical wildlife areas designated as Critical Habitat like Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats. Do jet skis have to be everywhere? Isn't it enough that they are allowed on 99% of Alaska's waters? Anyone can see that allowing jet skis will cause irreparable damage (including but not limited to stress, noise, and probable maiming and killing) to the wildlife that lives there. For the Governor to be considering this I believe is to allow the few jet ski owners to cause more negative reactions towards him which he clearly doesn't need as he is facing a recall movement. Any Alaskan who owns a jet ski knew they couldn't zoom around Kachemak Bay. It is called a Critical Habitat Area for a reason. Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.

Here's to thinking things through! Let's try to educate the governor to do what's right for Alaska.
I am writing to express my dismay at the proposal to open the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area to the use of Personal Watercraft (Jetskis, etc.). This is an issue that has been studied over many years and the recommendation has always been NOT to allow use of PWCs in this highly protected area. The ADFG itself has concluded, as recently as 2017, that upholding the ban on PWCs is appropriate and supported by science. What is the reason that after so many years of study there should be a change in this highly researched ban? It is to please a few Alaskans, I would ask you to remind them of the vast access to areas where use is allowed. The Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is too important to sacrifice to the desire of the few who care only about their own personal “thrills.” There are so many other ways to enjoy Kachemak Bay while preserving the fragile environment and eco-system.

Please stop this proposal to open use to Personal Watercraft and maintain the ban against the use in this particular area of Alaska.

Please do not allow jet-skis on Kachemak Bay. Alaskans and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADFG, and in the opinion of ADFG’s own staff experts. Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to jet-ski use. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousands of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economy so a few people can play on jet-skis. Thank you.

I believe that jetskis and other thrillcraft have no place in Kachemak Bay. Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to jet-ski use. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousands of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economy so a few people can play on jet-skis. It would be totally unconscionable for the state to decide on your proposed rule without considering direct input from Alaskans, especially those most immediately impacted in Homer and all other areas of the bay. Many, many more people who are NOT jet skiers must not be ignored for the benefit of only a few. The majority rules in favor of NO JET SKIS!

Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to Jetski use. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousands of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economy so a few people can play on jet-skis.

The science clearly shows details and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent NPS EIS, a literature review by ADFG and in the opinion of ADFG’s own staff experts. Jetskis and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADFG, and in the opinion of ADFG’s own staff experts.

Please do not allow jet skis on Katchemak Bay. Please no jetskis there!! Save it for people seeking an undisturbed natural place, and for birds and marine life. There are so many other great places for jetskis in Alaska.

For five years I worked in Kachemak Bay as a naturalist-educator with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies and as a kayak guide with St. Augustin’s Shipwreck and Tours. I have had the privilege of sharing the distinct Kachemak Bay ecosystem with its stunning abundance and biodiversity with hundreds of children and adults from Alabama, the lower 48, and as far away as Australia. I have been fortunate enough to be able to introduce all these people to the tranquility of Peterson Bay, Chinitna Bay, Tutka Bay, Jakolof Bay, and Kastitsna Bay.

I believe that jetskis and other thrillcraft have no place in Kachemak Bay. Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to jet-ski use. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousands of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economy so a few people can play on jetskis.

Furthermore, the science clearly shows details and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADFG, and in the opinion of ADFG’s own staff experts.

See message: Retain ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area/msg in PWC8.
I am totally against having jet skis in beautiful Kachemak Bay. The disturbance of the wildlife of these machines would change the beautiful uniqueness of our Bay. I don't live in Homer but spend much of my summer there fishing & camping. I live on the Kenai River and we have regulations that restrict the use of certain boats & motor limits to protect our river... same as having restrictions on Kachemak Bay.

Please rethink your decision or let knowledgeable people make this decision. You are our governor not our king to make decisions without people in the know to help you make this decision.

I'm writing to you to ask you to PLEASE NOT LIFT THE BAN ON AT-SEAS AND PWC IN KACHEMAK BAY!!

The process for making a rule change WAS NOT followed. The rule change should have been considered as part of the ongoing revision process for the Management Plans of Kachemak Bay and the Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas.

There are so many reasons that the ban is currently in place. Kachemak Bay is a unique, pristine environment, recognized for its biodiversity, by U.S. state, national and international agencies. It is a National Park and Wilderness area, a National Estuarine Research Reserve and a NOAA-designated Critical Habitat Area. 99% of AK waters are available for jet skis, there is no logical, economic, scientific or ethical reason that they need to invade Kachemak Bay!!!

Additionally this high speed, high risk sport could open up a major "can of worms" for the City of Homer, regarding regulation for use, enforcement of the rules, and liability issues when people get hurt. As a citizen of Homer I resent these extra financial burdens likely imposed by the use of PWCs on/in the Bay. It's like we citizens will be paying for the destruction of our environment.

PLEASE PRESERVE KACHEMAK BAY'S CRITICAL HABITAT BY KEEPING OUR CURRENT BAN ON AT-SEAS AND "PERSON WATER CRAFT"!

Jet skis have easy access to almost all of the waterways in and around Alaska. Big Lake and Nancy Lake are examples of noisy, hard to patrol Alaskan lakes that have deaths and tragic injuries each year due to authorized use of personal watercraft, often attributed to alcohol and drug use.

Kachemak Bay, even with the horrific of climate change we see in Alaska and more particularly on the Peninsula, still is relatively intact and pristine. Please Mr Green, do not let greed and politics ruin these critical habitat areas. It has been said in many different ways that wilderness is what will save us. May we continue to have wilderness so that this can be true!!

 Operators of these machines have adequate access to other waters just about everywhere on the Kenai Peninsula! As property owners in Bear Cove on Kachemak Bay, we are adamantly opposed to allowing the operation of jet skis in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats areas.

These machines are disruptive and destructive to wildlife, having access to the nests and living areas of both land and sea birds, as well as other animals living on the banks and coops of Kachemak Bay and the Fox River Flats.

A big NO to allowing these extremely destructive machines access to the Bay or adjoining areas.

Operators of these machines have adequate access to other waters just about everywhere on the Kenai Peninsula!
I am writing to voice my strong opposition to lifting the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. I urge you to read this entire email because I have a concern that I have not yet seen expressed. Namely, that is a SAFETY risk. Have you visited Homer at the height of the tourism and fishing season? Have you witnessed the extensive boat traffic in the bay? Many fishing and tourism boats are much bigger than jetskis, and that means jet ski operators could easily end up in contact with a large vessel.

I have personally witnessed jet skis on Crooked Lake (near Big Lake) in the Mat-Valley. The drivers seemed oblivious to what was around them, traveling in circles and intent on one thing: speed. What a nightmare to think that big boats and jet skis would be operating in the same waters—it would be like allowing go-carts on the highway, putting them at the mercy of diesel trucks and 18 wheelers.

I oppose the rule change that would allow jet skis, personnel watercraft, in Kachemak Bay. This is no place for the noise and annoyance of these machines.

See message: Jet Skis in Kachemak Bay - final copy - please read and post msg in PWC9

Kevin McCarthy
vickymc1@hotmail.com

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to lifting the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. I urge you to read this entire email because I have a concern that I have not yet seen expressed. Namely, that is a SAFETY risk. Have you witnessed the extensive boat traffic in the bay? Many fishing and tourism boats are much bigger than jetskis, and that means jet ski operators could easily end up in contact with a large vessel.

I have personally witnessed jet skis on Crooked Lake (near Big Lake) in the Mat-Valley. The drivers seemed oblivious to what was around them, traveling in circles and intent on one thing: speed. What a nightmare to think that big boats and jet skis would be operating in the same waters—it would be like allowing go-carts on the highway, putting them at the mercy of diesel trucks and 18 wheelers.

I oppose the rule change that would allow jet skis, personnel watercraft, in Kachemak Bay. This is no place for the noise and annoyance of these machines.

See message: Jet Skis in Kachemak Bay - final copy - please read and post msg in PWC9

Bill Wuestenfeld
bill@wuestenfeld.com

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to lifting the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. I urge you to read this entire email because I have a concern that I have not yet seen expressed. Namely, that is a SAFETY risk. Have you witnessed the extensive boat traffic in the bay? Many fishing and tourism boats are much bigger than jetskis, and that means jet ski operators could easily end up in contact with a large vessel.

I have personally witnessed jet skis on Crooked Lake (near Big Lake) in the Mat-Valley. The drivers seemed oblivious to what was around them, traveling in circles and intent on one thing: speed. What a nightmare to think that big boats and jet skis would be operating in the same waters—it would be like allowing go-carts on the highway, putting them at the mercy of diesel trucks and 18 wheelers.

I oppose the rule change that would allow jet skis, personnel watercraft, in Kachemak Bay. This is no place for the noise and annoyance of these machines.

See message: Jet Skis in Kachemak Bay - final copy - please read and post msg in PWC9
Evelyn Seguela
Evelyn Seguela
P.O. Box 1492
Homer, AK
bnehus@gmail.com

Practically speaking, Kachemak Bay is not getting any bigger, but our human population is. Seems like wildlife is having a hard time keeping up with the changes we humans are putting it thru and I think we ought to give it some chance. After all, I believe 75% of visitors to Alaska, come to view wildlife as their number 1 goal. We can’t make more wildlife and we can’t make a bigger bay but, we can protect what we have. Kachemak Bay has already been designated as Critical Habitat for this wildlife and adding jet skis to the mix is not going to help. Why do humans Need to be able to go anywhere they want, when ever the want? That just seems spoiled to me. We could be better stewards and conserve what we have for our kids kids...

Dale Spence Chairman
Dale Spence Chorman
dalechorman@gmail.com

None don’t allow jet ski’s on Kachemak Bay. I’ve seen too many other places destroyed by there presence!

Beth Nehus
Beth Nehus
donnedu@gmail.com
Homer

Jet skis should not be allowed in a critical habitat area. They unlike boats would be totally used for fun. Because of their ability to turn quickly, accelerate quickly and often be used in a group, they would be extremely disruptive to the birds and other wildlife. There nothing stopping people from using kachemak bay. They need to find something other than jet skis. This should not be a political decision, but based on the studies done and recommendations of the fish and game. I am a resident of homer and very concerned about this.

Diana Conway
vickia@gci.net
Homer

Jetskis are fun and allowed in 90% of Alaskan waterways. They are incompatible in the critical habitat for birds and fish of Kachemak Bay, however. We are smart enough to allow fun devices where they fit and stop them from places critical to our wildlife. The science is clear—Jetskis and critical habitat in Kachemak Bay are incompatible. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game did a thorough review of scientific studies and found no reason to lift the ban on personal watercraft and jetskis. ADF&G agreed, the science agreed. They all still agree. It is very upsetting to see it pop up again so soon. The Governor has no moral right to reopen it unilaterally. Open to jet skis, equates to closed to a vast majority of other people and purposes and uses and wildbrooks and wildlife habitat, right away and for the future of all.

Barbara Parker
I strongly oppose opening Kachemak Bay to jetskis.

Harold Parker
P.O. Box 112
Halibut Cove
Homer

Otters take refuge in our community from storms on the bay, or human noise and annoyance. In particular I worry about the otters who mate, give birth, and raise their young in Halibut Cove where I live. Otters take refuge in our community from storms on the bay, or human noise and annoyance. Sometimes we have more than 100 of them in residence. In addition Halibut Cove serves as a nesting area for Great Blue Herons. We have counted up to a dozen at a time, and these birds are extremely rare in the area and very sensitive to any noise, even as little as two people speaking. Finally, you should be aware that many schools of herring, salmon, greenling, and other immature fish circle around Kachemal Island as do flocks of Golden Eye, Harlequins, Long tail ducks, Mallards and countless other sea birds. Finally, you should be aware of the danger jetskis potentially represent to children and adults who travel in kayaks, row boats, paddle boards and other non-motorized transportation frequently used in this area. I urge you to restrict jetskis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

Dopus-Conway
dopusconway@gmail.com
Halibut Cove

I strongly oppose opening Kachemak Bay to jetskis. My concern is not the impact to local property owners, of which I am one but the impact to actual life in the bay. In particular worry about the others who make, give birth, and raise their young in Halibut Cove where I live. Others take refuge in our community from storms on the bay, or human noise and annoyance. Sometimes we have more than 100 of them in residence. In addition Halibut Cove serves as a nesting area for Great Blue Herons. We have counted up to a dozen at a time, and these birds are extremely rare in the area and very sensitive to any noise, even as little as two people speaking. Finally, you should be aware that many schools of herring, salmon, greenling, and other immature fish circle around Kachemal Island as do flocks of Golden Eye, Harlequins, Long tail ducks, Mallards and countless other sea birds. Finally, you should be aware of the danger jetskis potentially represent to children and adults who travel in kayaks, row boats, paddle boards and other non-motorized transportation frequently used in this area. I urge you to restrict jetskis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

Kathy Trump
kathy.trump@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 747
Talktoons, Alaska

I am writing in order to voice my opinion that jetskis do not belong in Kachemak Bay. The purpose of Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife. The science is clear—jetskis and critical habitat in Kachemak Bay are incompatible. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game did a thorough review of scientific studies and found no reason to lift the ban on personal watercraft and jetskis. Jetskis are fun and allowed in 50% of Alaskan waterways. They are incompatible in the critical habitat for birds and fish of Kachemak Bay. However, we are smart enough to allow fun devices where they fit and stop them from places critical to our wildlife and fish.

Dale Spence Chairman
Dale Spence Chorman
dale.chorman@gmail.com

I believe 75% of visitors to Alaska, come to view wildlife as their number 1 goal. We can’t make more wildlife and we can’t make a bigger bay but, we can protect what we have. Kachemak Bay has already been designated as Critical Habitat for this wildlife and adding jet skis to the mix is not going to help. Why do humans Need to be able to go anywhere they want, when ever the want? That just seems spoiled to me. We could be better stewards and conserve what we have for our kids kids...

Kathy Trump
kathy.trump@yahoo.com

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Dale Spence Chairman
Dale Spence Chorman
dalechorman@gmail.com

None don’t allow jet ski’s on Kachemak Bay. I’ve seen too many other places destroyed by there presence!
Nancy Bloczyński

Please do not propose a regulation that would allow jetskis and PWC in Kachemak Bay.

The legislature designated it a state critical habitat area.

The plan reads: “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statutes 16.20.500 (emphasis added).

Almost all other AK waters are open to PWC and jetskis. Please follow what the legislature has put in place.

Jennifer Edwards

Not the science has not changed. The need to protect critical marine habitats has not changed. My opinion and desires have not changed. Please, please, please fly, in stone, the ban on jet skis on Kachemak Bay.

Anne Wieland

See message: Kachemak Bay Ban on PWCs and jet skis in PWC9

Kachemak Bay belongs to ALL Alaskans – not just the self-chosen few. Equal access for all.

Conservation concerns are already addressed by current regulations which apply to all boats in Alaska.

Most other AK waters are open to PWC and jetskis. Please follow what the legislature has put in place.

Claudia Roberts

Homer, AK 99603

caroberts@ak.net

Kachemak Bay is a Critical Habitat Area. The wildlife there have not been exposed to such bad human behavior. It would take many years to study the impact to the wildlife and it may not be reversible in our lifetime. We urge you to keep such activities out of Kachemak Bay.

Nancy Bloczyński

Almost all other AK waters are open to PWC and jetskis. Please follow what the legislature has put in place.

Patti Berkhahn

550 N. Hyer Road

Palmer, AK 99645

pgberkhahn@gmail.com

Kachemak Bay belongs to ALL Alaskans – not just the self-chosen few. Equal access for all.

Bill Bell

4136 Bartlett

Homer, AK 99603

Add my voice to those against the use of PWC in Kachemak Bay. In the fifty years I have been associated with this area I have seen a tremendous loss of biodiversity and species in the Bay. As a critical habitat area we must do all we can to protect the nurseries and breeding grounds for all of the organisms that make this place vital. The use of PWC in shallow areas that skiffs can enter into will be exceedingly disruptive to the life that starts with small organisms in the flats and lead to large organisms in the depth of the bay.

Claudia Roberts

Homer, AK 99603

caroberts@ak.net

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| Mike Blair                    | blairlson2015@gmail.com      | New Castle CO         | Please accept my following comments regarding the proposed opening of Kachemak Bay to jet skis and personal watercraft.  
I am very concerned about the Governor's plan to open Kachemak Bay to jet skis and personal water craft.  
I am a State of Alaska retiree, born and raised in Seward and spend at least 3 months a year at our cabin in the Bear Cove vicinity.  We have owned the cabin since 1992 and have enjoyed the peace and tranquility that it affords my family.  
I object to the Governor's plan to open up Kachemak Bay.  I have been following this news every day and believe that this plan will be harmful to ALL of the wildlife that inhabit the Bay.  Besides adding to the pollution and its effects on mammals & fish, humans who enjoy the wonders of the Bay will also be drastically affected.  
                                                                                     |
| Karen Strid-Chadwick          | stridwick@gci.net            | Homer                 | See message: Kachemak PMW.msg in PWC9  
Let me state a couple of my objections to a rule change that would allow jet-skis and PWC onto the waters of Kachemak Bay and her shores:  
1-The law is clear: the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to "protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose." Alaska Statutes 16.20.001.  
2-It seems that 99% of Alaskan waters are available to Jetskis and PWC. Please let's preserve Kachemak Bay, the one and only remaining sanctuary in Alaska where the waters have been set aside, where people and animals can find a quiet and peaceful refuge!!  
Marketing research has clearly established that QUIET is the most sought after quality for people, and Kachemak Bay is recognized by international, national and state agencies/organizations as a rare area of unusual bio-diversity and pristine natural habitat.  That is because it is a Critical Habitat Area, a National Estuarine Research Reserve, and a National Park and Wilderness area.  
Kachemak Bay is also an internationally designated a critical migration site on the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Because of our fabulous annual springtime Shorebird Festival, tourists are being drawn here for nearly a month before our regular summer season of fishing begins—a huge boost to the local businesses, and the awareness of the importance of birds!!  
From an economic as well as scientific and ethical perspective, Kachemak Bay must remain protected from PWC thrill craft use!  
Jet ski users have 99% of Alaskan waters available to them.  
PLEASE PRESERVE KACHEMAK BAY'S CRITICAL HABITAT!!!                                                                                     |
| Beth Blankenship               | bethbeadsandbeads@gmail.com  | Homer                 | In 2001, the State of Alaska went through a rigorous public process, and the overwhelming majority of comments favored a ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. The State revisited the issue in 2011 and 2016, and again, Alaskans spoke out to maintain the ban. The inherent design and intended use of jetskis makes them incompatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, which is “to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.”  
The State is currently undergoing revisions to the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area’s management plan, and any changes to jet ski policy or rules should occur within the context of the management plan revisions. Staff biologists and managers at ADFG support the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. They have reviewed all scientific literature on the matter and conclude the ban is appropriate and justified.  
Some activities are simply too unsafe or a nuisance to other users. Jetskis and other personal watercraft are “thrill craft” which can reach speeds over 60 mph and the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is one place that should be left free of them.  
Please keep the ban on personal watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area.                                                                                     |
I am writing in support of maintaining the current jet ski ban in the Kachemak Bay. With the amount of tourism traffic on the Kenai Peninsula, a repeal of this ban would result in a complete conflict with the original intention of the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area. The purpose is defined in the Alaska Statute 16.20.500, which is to "protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose."

Michael S. Burns
<msb1001421131120572421111@mms.gci.net>
Message: Dear Rick Green, I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today's pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state's navigable waters. Sincerely, Michael S. Burns

Laura Baldwin
<laura.baldwin.ak@gmail.com>
Anchorage, AK
The purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to "protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose." This is from Alaska Statutes 16.20.500.
The science clearly shows Jetskis and PWC's are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADF&G, and in the opinion of ADF&G's own staff experts.
Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to Jet ski use. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousands of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economy so a few people can play on Jetskis.
Let's choose not to do this.

Joan Diamond
<JoanDiamond@ak.net>
Kachemak Bay and jet skis do not mix. I have seen the problems on Big Lake when people, jet skis and alcohol mix. The state does not even have the money to enforce public safety regulations. It is not a sport that people do quietly or calmly. It is not in the best interests of the bay to add jet skiing.
Wrong sport in the wrong area.

Travis Rector
<travis.ector@alaska.edu>
I am writing to let you know I am opposed to jetskis in Kachemak Bay.

Maureen Knutsen
<maureen.knutsen@gmail.com>
Naknek, AK
I am writing to express my opposition to allowing jet ski in waters of Kachemak Bay designated as critical habitat for fish and wildlife.
Jet skis are noisy, polluting and need to be restricted to areas that do not support valuable, renewable resources, which are already being degraded by warming, acidifying waters.

Alma Neale
<alma.neale@gmail.com>
The purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to "protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose."
The science clearly shows Jetskis and PWC's are not compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADF&G, and in the opinion of ADF&G's own staff experts.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Dickerson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephanie@dickers.com">stephanie@dickers.com</a></td>
<td>I am writing to voice my support for continuing to disallow PWC in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Sometimes in the past I used to laugh at the ban and say that it wasn't needed, but with the much warmer summer and fall temperatures, improvement in waistcoat technology and increased visitors to the area over the last 20+ years have all made the possibility much more less laughable. As a resident and local business owner I foresee great impact to my home and livelihood in addition to wildlife impacts. As an recreational user and operator in the Bay, we value the relative quiet and safety that the lack of PWC allows. Stand up paddling, kayaking and surfing would all feel quite different, less safe and less some of its appeal to ourselves and clients. And as surfers we have nothing against PWC but it's place is not in this critical habitat area. The increase in noise is also a consideration. Summer is anything but quiet already and adding to the float planes, boats and traffic seems unnecessary and short sighted. I respect that you have a lot of more powerful people lobbying in the other direction but I impit you listen to my voice anyway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Sanborn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jsanborn@live.com">jsanborn@live.com</a></td>
<td>I was writing to request that you protect the natural habitat and values of Kachemak Bay by continuing to ban Jetskis from the use of personal watercrafts like Jetskis. This is vital to maintain the safety and integrity of this important ecosystem. It sounds like you are taking your marching orders from lobbying interests which you consider higher priority than the Alaskan public, which is a shame. Nonetheless, I am going on record as completely opposed to this move. I am a lifelong Alaskan who is totally opposed to repealing the Jetski (and other personal watercraft) ban in Kachemak Bay. I am aware that in 2001, ADFG underwent a robust public process that resulted in banning Jetskis. As you well know, ADFG staff conducted an exhaustive review of the scientific literature surrounding Jetski risks and impacts—and it concluded again in 2017 that the ban on personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area was appropriate and supported by science. Please share with me the reports and studies recently conducted by ADFG staff (biologists and other scientists) that support the decision to repeal the ban. Please pass on to the Commissioner and the Governor that I don't appreciate the administration elevating the interests of a small group of people over the staff biologists and managers of the ADFG and the majority of Alaskans. I have voted in every election since turning voting age and I will not miss a special election, especially if one comes up that could correct a politician who ignores both science and the will of the majority of Alaskans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Pitcher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:donpitcher@xyz.net">donpitcher@xyz.net</a></td>
<td>I am writing to share my opposition to allow jetskis on Kachemak Bay. I am a former resident of Homer and now reside in Soldotna. I tell you this cause having lived there I saw something wonderful there. No Jet Ski. There are tons of reasons to not allow jet ski. First marine life is fragile and deserves our respect by not allowing wild residences abandonment to such devices. The Jet ski when you watch them there is not a means of transportation for or the harvesting sea life. It is like a dirt bike designed for speeding down a deviling hill in water. It is unpredictable in its direction or its purpose. I can only imagine my life being terrorized of it. The K Bay is still much like a wilderness area, where peaceful/calm fishing, kayaking or approaching with predictable direction and noise to sea fish the waters. I think of the Sierra Club motto. &quot;Not blind opposition to progress, but rather opposition to blind progress&quot;. Please do not allow for Jet ski on Kachemack Bay there is good sound reason to not allow them and only disrespectful reckless personal greed and selfishness to allow it.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Dave Eckwert</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dickerson@yahoo.com">dickerson@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>I am writing to you to share my opposition to allow jetski's in Kachemak Bay. I am a former resident of Homer and now reside in Soldotna. I tell you this cause having lived there I saw something wonderful there. No Jet Ski. There are tons of reasons to not allow jet ski. First marine life is fragile and deserves our respect by not allowing wild residences abandonment to such devices. The Jet ski when you watch them there is not a means of transportation for or the harvesting sea life. It is like a dirt bike designed for speeding down a deviling hill in water. It is unpredictable in its direction or its purpose. I can only imagine my life being terrorized of it. The K Bay is still much like a wilderness area, where peaceful/calm fishing, kayaking or approaching with predictable direction and noise to sea fish the waters. I think of the Sierra Club motto. &quot;Not blind opposition to progress, but rather opposition to blind progress&quot;. Please do not allow for Jet ski on Kachemack Bay there is good sound reason to not allow them and only disrespectful reckless personal greed and selfishness to allow it.</td>
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<td>Steve Kahn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:steve.kahn@gmail.com">steve.kahn@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>I am a lifelong Alaskan who is totally opposed to repealing the Jetski (and other personal watercraft) ban in Kachemak Bay. I am aware that in 2001, ADFG underwent a robust public process that resulted in banning Jetskis. As you well know, ADFG staff conducted an exhaustive review of the scientific literature surrounding Jetski risks and impacts—and it concluded again in 2017 that the ban on personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area was appropriate and supported by science. Please share with me the reports and studies recently conducted by ADFG staff (biologists and other scientists) that support the decision to repeal the ban. Please pass on to the Commissioner and the Governor that I don't appreciate the administration elevating the interests of a small group of people over the staff biologists and managers of the ADFG and the majority of Alaskans. I have voted in every election since turning voting age and I will not miss a special election, especially if one comes up that could correct a politician who ignores both science and the will of the majority of Alaskans.</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:david.eckwert@yahoo.com">david.eckwert@yahoo.com</a></td>
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I strongly oppose the proposed repeal of the personal watercraft ban in the critical habitat areas of Kachemak Bay. I disagree with you that repealing the ban does not go against the purpose of the critical habitat areas, to protect and preserve habitat crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife. Personal watercraft are definitely incompatible with that purpose. I have witnessed that myself when studying shorebirds along the Gulf Coast of the US. Several times I saw jet skis ride up loud and fast into nearshore waters and flush foraging shorebirds, sometimes on purpose. I have also seen a small overpowered jet ski purposely drive through reeds of sea ducks off the Homer Spit - that, unfortunately, is not prohibited, but allowing jet skis into the same habitats in the name of "harmless" is only going to compound the problem of intentional or unintentional harassment of wildlife. 

As I understand it, there are many places in Alaska where personal watercraft are allowed for recreational purposes. Opening up the critical habitat areas of Kachemak Bay to their use as well is frankly "unfair" to the fish and wildlife which are meant to be protected in these areas, as well as to the many residents and visitors here who enjoy the relatively calm and quiet PWC-ness quality of Kachemak Bay.

I am writing to ask you to keep the ban in place on Kachemak Bay. I fish, boat and sight see on Kachemak Bay. I also do the same out of Seward on Resurrection Bay. Last summer I was fishing on Resurrection Bay and was passed by a PWC skier. It was noisy and fast. It reminded me how out of place it was and how glad I was they are not allowed on Kachemak Bay. There are plenty of other places in the state they are allowed. Please keep the ban in place and keep them off of Kachemak Bay. Thank you.

I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from Kachemak Bay and to "cherry pick" this out of the comprehensive plan would be compromising the effectiveness and goal of the Critical habitat designation. We need to be stewards for that which has no voice or vote...the land, water and the fragile ecosystems for future generations to come. Now is not the time to lift the ban.

As a resident of Kachemak city, I oppose the use of PWC in our critical habitat. These machines will effect not the wild life and other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state's navigable waters. In support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today's pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state's navigable waters.

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Angela Lindberg
915 Birchwood Loop Rd
Chugiak, AK 99567

Thank you for your efforts in trying to get this changed.

My wife and I bought SeaDoo's back in the late 1990s. We owned one of the first 3 seater and a two seater. We loved them and used them more of a boat than a thrill ride. We witnessed the transition from the loud, joy riding, tearing up the water days of the stand-up to the quiet riding 4 stroke engines.

Personal water craft (PWC) are much better environmentally these days. They are quieter and do far less damage to the beaches and shore sides than boats.

I support the repeal of the ban in Kachemak Bay.

Joe Lindberg
18212 S. Birchwood Loop Rd
Chugiak, AK 99567

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Personal water craft (PWC) are much better environmentally these days. They are quieter and do far less damage to the beaches and shore sides than boats.

I support the repeal of the ban in Kachemak Bay.

Marjorie Dunn
357 Lee Drive
Homer, Alaska 99603

I am writing to request that the State retain the current regulations prohibiting jet ski use in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. I have been a Homer resident for 5 years and have spent summers across the bay from Homer for over 20 years. I cherish the natural environment and especially the fish and wildlife in the bay. The fish and wildlife have been at least partially protected in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area due to the current regulations prohibiting jet skis. Jet skis/endo themselves to quick maneuvers for chasing wildlife, are typically used for touring around the bay rather than reaching a destination. I understand that the noise element is decreasing in newer models of personal watercraft, but nonetheless I think it is an unnecessary noise factor that will also reach sensitive parts of the bay. Simply put, allowing "thrillcraft" would degrade the natural habitat for both the fauna and for humans.

Providing another opportunity for "fun" for a few is not worth degrading our natural habitat.

Andrea Van Dinther
18212 S. Birchwood Loop Rd
Chugiak, AK 99567

There are all kinds of arguments people will give about wildlife and emissions and I agree with those sentiments. They are true and must be considered. What also must be considered is the economics of the area.

I am a Homer resident. I work as a wildlife guide and have traveled the world seeing different communities that earn a livelihood from tourism. What I have learned is that places that maintain preservation of their wilderness areas are able to bring in much higher dollars for tours and accommodations in that area. Near wilderness, lodges can bring in hundreds/night. Disturb that, make it just another loud crowded beach, and that number goes down.

We need to maintain Kachemak Bay as a treasured pristine wilderness area so that we can continue to bring in top-dollar for the tourism industry here in Kachemak Bay. Without it we are just another town.

If you would like comparative numbers I have that data.

Please retain current prohibitions and keep Kachemak Bay reserve safe for wildlife, and economically viable for our future.

Karen Corcoran
Karen@msn.com

I do not believe the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay should be lifted. Sea otters will be injured as the people can not be trusted to watch out for wildlife. They can't even pick up their own trash. Why would you even let them go out there when you know they can't be trusted??? They are trying to make this another California and we DO NOT need it here. We love our wildlife and we want them protected from the insanity of disrespectful humans that don't value anything but their own personal thrill. DO NOT ALLOW PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OUT IN KACHEMAK BAY. IT WILL BE DISASTROUS IF YOU DO. AND WE WILL KNOW WHERE THE BLAME SHOULD BEASE WHEN OITTERS ARE KILLED. QUIT CAVING TO PRESSURE. DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR OUR WILDLIFE. THEY WERE HERE BEFORE PEOPLE.

Steve Albert
stevie@msn.com

See message: Watercraft in Kachemak Bay/msg in PWC
Charlene Ditton  
PO Box 601  
Homer, Alaska  99603  
I oppose lifting the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas.

Karen Medak  
See messages: ban on jetskis in Kachemack Bay.msg in PWC10

Judy Brakel  
Gustavus, Alaska  
You must not allow these high-speed, super-maneuverable jet skis and personal water-craft run around in the critical habitat areas. To my knowledge nothing of the kind is allowed in other critical habitat areas. There is a critical habitat area near where I live in Gustavus and the only mechanical conveyance allowed there is for hunting by someone who is physically disabled, a use that has very rarely occurred.

Walt Sonen  
Seldovia  
i object to the proposal being advanced to introduce personal water craft to the critical habitat area in Kachemak Bay. we have all observed the extreme operators of these machines and think that it would be foolish not to assume that a large portion of these operators, should the proposal succeed, would be folks with little experience who would rent. many folks compare jet skis to skiffs, i don't think that is a valid comparison. jet skis can access shallow water at high speeds, not can, but will, just for fun. the multitude of quiet coves, rocks and cairns that provide shelter for waterfowl of all types are easily accessed. it was headlined in just this week's anchorage paper how the "blob" has stressed the bird populations, especially the murres—major die offs. i think that we will see the otters harassed by the less sensitive riders as well. doesn't it make sense that we leave kachemak bay as something of a sanctuary, that we have that responsibility? especially those of you at ADFG, who must have a greater awareness of and hopefully sensitivity to the situation.

Barbara Crews  
Please support the science behind the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. It is important to make decisions based on the studies and information provided by your own state fish and game managers.

Toni B. London  
Allowing jet skis to operate in Kachemak Bay would be like opening the Appalachian Trail to formula one automobile racing; destructive, foolish and utterly inconsistent with the Bay’s designation as a Critical Habitat. Our first priority in managing this unique area must be the protection of the wildlife and the habitat it depends upon. ADF&G has repeatedly determined that jet ski use is NOT CONSISTENT with Kachemak Bay’s critical habitat designation. Nor is allowing jet ski operation in the Bay compatible with the use and enjoyment of other human users of the area. Only in Kachemak Bay can the thousands of us who seek to spend a few quiet hours fishing, kayaking, observing nature up close and personal, or simply admiring the stunning natural beauty of our amazing state, find a place to do so in peace. Many people in the area make their living based on the pristine and quiet nature of this special place (lodge owners, fishing and wildlife guides, kayaking guides, etc.). These people bring in thousands of visitors every year and contribute millions to the economy. You cannot simply assume that these businesses or the economy to which they contribute will be unaffected by the dramatic change you propose.

This is not a matter of equal access. Jet ski riders have the entire state in which to indulge in their noisy, disruptive activity. What will you propose next under the guise of equal access? Motocross on the Crow Pass Trail? The jet skiers are welcome to come to Kachemak Bay, but they should leave their jet skis behind.
David J. Swarthout  
Dave Swarthout  
davewarthout@gmail.com  
Homer, Alaska  
I'm writing to protest the rule change that would overturn the limitation on the use of personal watercraft, Jetskis, in the waters of Kachemak Bay. These sport vehicles are not suitable for use in the protected and resource-rich critical habitat area of Kachemak Bay. There are plenty of other areas that would be better suited for this type of sport. The actual, and for me much more important "primary purpose" of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River flats Critical Habitat Area is to "protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other use not compatible with that primary purpose. Those aren't my words. They come from the law that was passed to prevent just such access to an area that is still relatively pristine and scenic. There is simply no compelling reason to jettison that important and clearly written restriction which would put precious wildlife resources at risk for the sake of a few people who want to race around on jetskis.

Moreover, the City of Homer does not have the ability or the funds required to monitor any such use. The City derives economic and cultural benefits from the Bay as is. The city does not have the funds to monitor a bunch of people who are playing around on Jetskis. For these reasons and others, the Homer City Council has come out strongly against this rule change. They've argued that it would be a senseless threat to a resource highly valued by all the residents of Homer.

It's a sad state of affairs that people would actually want to see the day when I am writing a letter to prevent something that was so clearly never meant to happen. Keep Kachemak Bay wild, keep it special, and keep personal watercraft out of it.

John Brooks  
johnbrooks12221968@gmail.com  
Jetskis and PWC's are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Critical Habitat to protect fish & wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADFG, and in the opinion of ADFG's own staff experts. Please don't sacrifice this area to the power sports industry.

Judith Lund  
jlundhome@gmail.com  
Homer, Alaska  
Please keep the current regulations about Jetskis. They are not compatible with the purpose of the Critical Habitat areas in Kachemak Bay and Fox River. They also are not safe for kayaks and canoe users who are growing in number.

Debra Caldera  
debracaldera@akansak.net  
I am writing this comment in opposition to lifting the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. As a property owner in the Bay, I am strongly opposed to the noise and the disruption to wildlife posed by these machines. Because of the lack of public notice, many of us only learned of this proposed rule change from a recent article in the Daily News. The comment period needs to remain open long enough for Alaskans to express their opinions on this.

Pat Linehan  
linehan3@hotmail.com  
We cherish the chance to kayak while observing birds, otters and other wildlife.

Adam Ebnet  
adamebnet2@gmail.com  
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today's pwc meet strict environmental/emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. No scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state's navigable waters.

Brian Okonek and Diane Calamar Okonek  
brianokonek@gmail.com  
We do not agree with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's proposal to repeal the ban on operating jet skis in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Critical Habitat Areas. It is necessary to keep the jet ski ban in place, as it has been for years, to protect wildlife and their habitat. These areas were recognized for the rich wildlife habitat that exists there and designated as critical habitat to protect the resources that the wildlife depends on. Almost twenty years ago land managers recognized that operating jet skis in these critical habitat areas would be detrimental to wildlife and with forethought banned their use. The public has supported this ban realizing that jet ski activity is not compatible with protecting wildlife and the habitat they depend on.

It is well documented that the high speeds, quick maneuverability, wakes, near shore riding, exhaust and noise from jet skis negatively impact birds, animals and habitat. It would be terribly irresponsible to allow jet skis to be ridden in these or any other areas designated for Critical Habitat.

With ever increasing human activities that affect wildlife and the changes to the environment caused by climate change protecting critical habitat is more important than ever before. Please do not repeal the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Critical Habitat Areas.
I am writing to voice my strong opposition to allowing jet skis (PWC’s) to operate in Kachemak Bay.

Gary Miller
Homer

Hi, I'm writing to say we'd prefer Kachemak Bay remain with jetskiis making noise, getting hit by the many boats, please.

Eben Sargent
Anchorage

Please do not allow jet skis on Katchemak Bay. The bay is currently known as a good place for kayaks. Putting jet skis on conserves habitat.

Amanda Neal
Ave., #524

I had to write you to ask that you keep the restriction on PWC’s in place in Katchemak Bay. The restriction is reasonable, supported by science and ADF&G, and in the opinion of ADF&G's own staff experts.

Doug Smith
Seward

I agree with the science. I also support the ADF&G's restriction on PWC's in Kachemak Bay.

Terence Carroll
Homer

I am writing to express opposition to allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay. I also would like to request the state publish a summary of comments for and against this proposal including comment totals for both options. I do not buy into the equal access argument that has been presented by PWC groups. If you take that line of thinking to it's obvious and there are many examples where different uses shouldn't be allowed under some twisted idea of fairness.

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1) I oppose allowing Jet skis in Kachemak Bay because it is a critical habitat area and personal watercraft will only add more stress to it; as such I want to add my concerns. In hope that you will also manage to keep Homer’s waters and beaches as serene as they are at the present. Strings jet skis to kachemak bay will disturb animals and people alike. Jet skis are noisy, polluting, and dangerous. These small speedy and noisy vessels can collide with sea mammals, trouble beachcombers and drive away tourists. The peace of the whole area will be in danger.

2) It is absolutely essential to continue the current prohibition on jet skis in Kachemak Bay, both for the safety and well-being of wildlife and humans.

3) This is a dumb idea for a Critical Habitat Area, and one that’s been previously rejected by professional ADF&G staff. Keep jet skis out of Kachemak Bay.

4) I am appalled, annoyed and angry how everything is being ruined by people who think their fun is more important than the protection of fish and wildlife. Please do not allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

5) Absolutely no PWC’s should be allowed on Kachemak Bay!!!

6) I am writing to urge you to keep jet skis out of Kachemak Bay. Over 99% of Alaska waters are open to these noisy, disruptive pleasure craft, and very little quiet water remains for those of us who want to hear and see the natural environment. Jet skis and PWCS are not compatible with the established purpose of the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. I have lived in Alaska for nearly 4 decades and the peace and quiet of Kachemak Bay are very important to me and my family. Please protect it.

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9) The science is clear, jet skis and PWCS are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats CRITICAL HABITAT to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADF&G, and in the opinion of ADF&G’s own staff experts.

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11) I am appalled, annoyed and angry how everything is being ruined by people who think their fun is more important than the protection of fish and wildlife. Please do not allowjet skis in Kachemak Bay.

12) I oppose allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay for three reasons: 1) It is a critical habitat area and personal watercraft will only add more stress to it; 2) Jet skis “play” in waterways where all others are headed to a destination. These are not compatible; 3) There are plenty of other places personal watercraft can operate, such as in Cook Inlet out of Anchor Point.

13) I am writing to urge you to keep jet skis out of Kachemak Bay. Over 99% of Alaska waters are open to these noisy, disruptive pleasure craft, and very little quiet water remains for those of us who want to hear and see the natural environment. Jet skis and PWCS are not compatible with the established purpose of the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. I have lived in Alaska for nearly 4 decades and the peace and quiet of Kachemak Bay are very important to me and my family.

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16) This is a dumb idea for a Critical Habitat Area, and one that’s been previously rejected by professional ADF&G staff. Keep jet skis out of Kachemak Bay!!
I am writing to voice my strong opposition to jetski use in Kachemak Bay. I believe jetskis will negatively impact the marine wildlife in the bay and interfere with existing fishing operations.

I do not support allowing personal watercraft (jetski) in Kachemak Bay. Current marine activities in the area are entirely enough. The proposed introduction of these watercraft would cause injury or death - unnecessarily.

I strongly object to this change in permitted use. I am concerned that similar events will happen again if the prohibition is lifted. The public safety risks created by personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay far outweigh the recreational aspirations of this user group.

I support the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. There is a precious resource that we enjoy in Alaska and is difficult to come by in other places. It is silence, it is stillness, it is space.

I have led an annual retreat across the Bay for the past 12 years. I also lead retreats to Central America, Asia, and Europe. Everyone I meet is fascinated by Alaska and drawn to it for its promise of serenity and beauty. This is why tourism is our most important and sustainable industry!

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of Alaska’s land, sea and inhabitants. We are a diverse group and it can’t be easy.

I am a longtime Alaskan, world traveler, small business owner, and outdoor enthusiast. I implore you to uphold the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. There is a precious resource that we enjoy in Alaska and is difficult to come by in other places. It is silence, it is stillness, it is space.

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We are Kenai Borough property tax payers, registered voters, community volunteers, a retired teacher and a retired union member, college educated, environmentally conscious citizens that take offense of the blatant disregard of what we the people of Alaska have already established previously to prohibit jet skis in Kachemak Bay. We also fully support the recall movement. Mike Dunleavy is a disaster to the wondrous state of Alaska in our opinion. This jet ski issue is just another example of his compromised position putting his ignorance on display for all to see.

We also fully support the recall movement. Mike Dunleavy is a disaster to the wondrous state of Alaska in our opinion. This jet ski issue is just another example of his compromised position putting his ignorance on display for all to see.

The wave riders are a menace to society. The leaves fuel on the water. Fumes in the air and noise that does not stop. Just the way to ruin a peaceful area.

This is to voice my opposition to allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay. The reasons are many, you have heard them all many times, so I won’t bore you.

Dear Mr. Rick Green,

I would like to give my opinion about the jet ski issue that is up for public comment. I am a land owner of property in Bear Cove, tax # 19326220. After considerable thinking on this issue, my feelings about jet skis running around in coves like Bear Cove is, I am against it. There are numerous areas in Alaska where jet skis can play and have little impact on the wildlife, ocean life, coastal vegetation, coastal erosion and the noise impacts associated with jet skis. This end of the bay is listed as a Critical Habitat Area and again there is no place for this type of watercraft to be playing around. I have watched people play with them and have seen where they have done damage if they intend to do so that can’t be undone. I know not all of them would be tearing things up, but it doesn’t take many to make an impact that won’t go away.

I own a boat and knowing that is so hard to spot other boats in the water at times, I shudder to even think about watching for a craft that can hide behind a wave. There is also a lot of traffic to be watching for as is. I know that when the water starts getting choppy that most of the time the kayaks will be ashore, but jet skis will be out playing to catch that big wave.

Thank you for your time.

Mr. Green,

I am opposed to allowing the use of PWC in Kachemak Bay.

There seems to be no rationale/ justification for this repeal other than equal access to all Alaskans. The “equal access” argument is specious and provides absolutely no factual basis for changing the regulation so that PWC use would be allowed. All Alaskans (and others) currently do have access to the bay. Well over 90% of waters in Alaska are open to PWC use. Kachemak Bay is a unique water body as its designation as a CHA indicates.

If the State proceeds with this, a thorough and comprehensive study of the impacts on wildlife and other user groups must be undertaken.

Dear Sir,

Before the ban on Kachemak jet skis, I had the opportunity to stay at a hotel at the end of Homer Spit. The room was on the water/bay side. Looking out the window there were many otters swimming near the shore. Although otters usually remain separate and independent, I learned it was the time of year they congregate as a family.

It was later in September with Homer quiet on an off season. Around 5:30 in the morning I woke to much noise outside the window on the water. There were 5-6 people on jet skis and they were swerving in and out of each other. I worried they would crash and someone would get hurt. I often wonder if they had been drinking, it seemed so early in the morning.

What happened next caught my breath. The people on jet skis ran over to the otter population and ran through and around them. I could not see what happened to the otters and if any were injured. This went on for over 15 minutes. I did not see the otters after the jet skis left.

This incident not only disturbed my early morning sleep but it disturbed the otters, disturbed the waters and convinced me that jet skis have no place in Kachemak Bay. The ban was put in for good reasons and should not be withdrawn.
After reading about the effects and knowing the general usage of jet skis—it is my opinion that there should not be ANY rules that allow them to operate in Kachemak Bay. Period!

Please, please there are 1000 reasons not to harm this beautiful and rare space!

Jetskis and personal watercraft (PWC) are not like skiffs and boats. With overpowered 200-300 horsepower engines, jetskis are designed and intended to be ridden for fun – to jump waves, make tight turns and spins, run in super shallow water and congregate in small areas. As a result, they pose unique threats to birds, marine mammals and humans alike.

The law is clear: the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statutes 16.20.300 [emphasis added].

*The science clearly shows jetskis and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADF&G, and in the opinion of ADF&G’s own staff experts.

• Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to Jetski use. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousand of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economy on a few people can play on jetskis.

I am concerned about the decision that Governor Dunleavy appears to be making regarding Kachemak Bay. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game oversees the management of this area, and has procedures to follow. I do not believe that the Governor should override an established policy without the proper procedure preceding the decision.

I am concerned with the use of personal watercraft in areas where whales are feeding, waterfowl are breeding, and fish are foraging. I believe their safety should override the use of pleasure craft.

See message: Fwd: Proposed Repeal of the Jet Ski/Person Water Craft Prohibition in Kachemak Bay msg in folder PWC 11

I add my name to adjure the allowing of jet skis in the areas around Homer, AK. Please be advised citizens do not welcome such arrivals and I ask that the government understand no is the answer.

As a board member of the Kachemak Bay Water Trail, Kachemak Bay State Park Citizen Advisory Board, advocate and volunteer in the park, I stand opposed to the 2019-2020 changes to remove the prohibition on personal watercraft (PWC) in the Fox River and the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. Jet skis are not compatible with the bay, can upset wildlife, make excessive noise, upset boaters and other boaters and because of excessive horsepower, speed, lack of control and braking, are dangerous to the rider, wildlife, others and other watercraft. Their ability to navigate shallow water makes them less compatible in Kachemak Bay particularly in the critical habitat areas. Please, Fox River and the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas are not a place for PWC. If this ill-conceived proposal were to go to fruition it needs to be funded, as the bay is presently very underfunded. Thanks in advance for not allowing this ill-conceived proposal.

Please keep the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay.
Bonnie

I am writing as a property owner of land on Bear Island at the head of Kachemak Bay. Personal jet skis do not belong in this Bay, Kachemak Bay is a Critical Habitat Area for many species under stress due to changes in temperature, the last thing we need is another release in this environment. Jet skis are very different than traditional vessels already in the area. Less enforcement is already present at the head of the bay, when these new machines are allowed to they are polluting their waters? The difference lay in the noise these crafts make and the areas they can access. Who is stop them from running up China Pool at low tide when the rest of us are up to our chests in cold water? Who is to ask them to slow down when children are swimming/wading? The rate of speed these machines can achieve in such a small area is terrific, we are already facing enough dangers from small boats, why add another device to the water now? Alaska already has so many places where jet skis are allowed. Please look beyond the politics surrounding this issue and reassess the biological impacts these loud machines will have on our already infiltrated islands and bays.

I am commenting on behalf of my children who have never tasted the Dungeness crab, shrimp and King Crab and who now have to be very wary of shellfish consumption, bird die offs and star fish wasting, please take into consideration all that has already been effected in the bay.

Louise Driscoll

I am opposed to allowing jet skis/personal water craft in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. I have had the privilege of visiting a small bay there for short stays over many summers. A few summers ago the shoreline was littered with dead murre due to starvation. Jet skis will adversely impact bird rookeries and breeding sites and further stress the population of murres. Jet skis will encroach on the shore line and harm kelp beds and stress the sea otter that are slowly returning to the bay after their own crash about five years ago.

A jet ski is used for going fast, zipping along with twists and turns. It can be a ton of fun, but there’s no justification to reverse a ban that has been placed to protect birds, water fowl, marine mammals and kelp beds, particularly when the areas can be accessed by less intrusive craft such as kayaks and row boats. Certainly, a jet ski isn’t necessary to explore the shoreline.

The motorized craft typically use in the small bays are shifts travelling to or from a site. The journey’s purpose is to get somewhere and it’s direct and streamlined. Jet skis are used differently and will impact people who go to Kachemak Bay to experience nature and escape the noise of our industrialized society. Tourists pay lots of money for the ‘back to nature’ peace and solitude on offer at very expensive wilderness lodges in Kachemak Bay. Reserving one body of water to allow for that experience doesn’t harm the ability of jet skiers to pursue their joy in other Alaska waters.

I wanted that ADFG’s mission is “to protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.” Introducing jet skis into a critical habitat area seems antithetical to that mission.

Mr. Green,

Finally, I’m uncomfortable with the process of directing public comment to political appointee, Rick Green, a former radio talk show host, rather than a career employee with experience handling such reviews and the agency expertise to fully and fairly evaluate comments.

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Dear Mr. Geen,

Kachemak Bay is a large estuary that supports millions of waterfowl, shorebirds, seabirds and marine mammals and abundant populations of fish, shellfish and other marine life. It was designated “critical habitat” by the Legislature in 1974 to protect those resources and to restrict all human uses incompatible with that goal.

More than a dozen studies on the adverse effects of PWCs have been published since then. All boats are capable of disturbing wildlife, but jet skis are especially problematic because they tend to be operated erratically at higher speeds, generate different and cumulatively more disturbing noises, and perform loop-de-loops in shallower, near-shore waters and protected bays where wildlife are concentrated.

A recent analysis published in the scientific journal Marine Policy found jet-skiing had the highest potential for impact compared with 15 other recreational and scientific activities in 91 marine reserves in 36 countries.

A study in Florida found that jet ski operators are more likely to blatantly disregard boating regulations. Another found that, while people operating jet skis seldom have problems with other users, those users — particularly anglers — experience lots of problems with jet skis.

The handful of people who want to ride PWCs in Kachemak Bay could have a seriously detrimental effect on the animals and people who depend on the marine estuary for survival.

Please do not ignore the overwhelming science and the overwhelming majority of people who want to prohibit jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Please keep Alaska serene and beautiful.

Jackie Robertson
irondog01@yahoo.com

I hope you would reconsider the ban on PWC’s in Kachemak Bay. Allowing the few to dictate the whole is not a solution. PWC’s are continually reducing their footprint and are a much more economical and environmentally friendly way to explore this beautiful state we call home. With limited roads and access to our land, a PWC can provide remote land owners a legitimate cost effective way to their land.

Alaska depends upon tourism and offering the responsible usage of PWC with experienced guides is an excellent source of positive experiences and return visits. The benefits offer an incredible opportunity for the area and the state to responsible operation of personal watercraft. Adults shouldn’t be treated like children and punished for the acts of the ignorant. Allowing the worst of society to dictate the actions of the law of society shouldn’t be considered a solution. It’s a knee-jerk reaction. It’s 2020, we can and should do better than this.

Michael Bavarsky
mbavers@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 15115
Fitz Creek, AK 99603 907-299-2014

I am going on record as strongly opposing the lifting of the ban on PWC’s in Kachemak Bay for the following reasons:

1: Their very nature encourages erratic, dangerous, destructive, and annoying use. Comparing them to other boats is like comparing a military automatic weapon to a hunting rifle.

2: There are many, many places that are already frequented by such noisy and disruptive craft, where their disharmony would not be as noticeable. There are few places like Kachemak Bay.

3: Their use, even on an infrequent basis, would be destructive to wildlife, tourism, and peaceful and quiet recreation that persons such as myself enjoy.

Rebecca McGuire
rmcGuire@wcs.org

See message: Alaska Shorebird Group Comments on ADF&G's proposed repeal of 5 AAC 95.310.msg

Organization
Good day,

The management plan for the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, as you well know, is to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.

Repealing the Personal Watercraft Prohibition definitely would go against the management plan.

The Jet Ski Ban should stay in place. There is only one purpose of riding jet skis and that, as you know, is go as fast as you can, jump boat wakes, etc. Marine animals, boats, other people recreating would be at great risk. Jet skis can’t avoid or even see, a couple of otters, or other things just below the surface and don’t have the ability to slow down quickly at high speed. Collisions with boats would happen, drinking and riding would certainly happen, animals and birds could be targets, and whose to stop them. It would be a free for all.

Jet skis are not compatible with this Critical Habitat Area and should not be allowed under any circumstances. Frankly, the Df&G should be totally against this proposed action. Their job is to protect Alaska’s Wildlife, not to exploit it.

Thanks for reading this.

Chuck Wirschem
kellytt@gmail.com

I can’t believe that an Alaskan, as part of the Governors office can support a Virginian lobby (Chris Manthos: All Alaskans Should Have Access to Kachemak Bay, 1/14) to support an activity so offensive to the values and character of Kachemak Bay than allowing personal water craft. This research is from Florida, and has no bearing on what Alaskans want. We have been in the Bay for 40 years and we enjoy our peace and quiet.

Jennifer Carr
jwcarr907@yahoo.com

Seward, AK

What a dumb idea to take off jet ski restrictions from Kachemak Bay! There is a reason they have been banned. They should continue to be so. How can one person interested in skiing meet with the governor and have the whole thing changed? That was loud and clear that the governor changes with every breeze. No. Please reconsider this consequential change. Alaska’s wildlife need all the help they can get.

Johnna Kohl
johnna.kohl@gmail.com

Bear Cove resident

Hello Rick,

My husband Mike Wirschem and I are property owners in Bear Cove on Kachemak Bay. His family have been property owners here since the mid 70s. I strongly oppose allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay. The wildlife in the bay is a big part of its beauty and we have a duty to protect it. Our kids have grown up spending time in Bear Cove as my husband did and I expect that they will bring their kids there someday.

In addition to the safety of wildlife in the Bay, I have concerns about our safety as recreation users. We kayak frequently as a family and my husband swims (with a wetsuit!). I was involved in a jet ski accident in my 20s in Montana on Canyon Ferry Reservoir outside of Helena. A 13 year old boy was driving a jet ski alone (way too fast and out of control) and ran into the jet ski I was on with a friend. I was fine but this resulted in an ER visit for my friend to suture lacerations in his leg. At the time, I felt we were pretty lucky. It could have been a lot worse. The kid was not mature enough to handle the responsibility of a motorized vehicle with that much power nor mature enough to make judgements about how to avoid other jet skiers. Jet Skis are fun, but I don’t believe Kachemak Bay should be opened up to the kind of use that jet skiers tend to enjoy. If you change the rules regarding jet skis, who is going to monitor the problems and ensure the safety of other users and the wildlife?

I really hope that you take into consideration the views of the public at large as well as the views of Kachemak Bay property owners when you make your decision. If the majority of people are opposed to jet skis in the bay please respect that.

Thanks for your time.

Donald McKay
donmcmln@gci.net

Kachemak Bay resident

Good morning Mr. Green. I am responding to the proposed lifting of the prohibition of the use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. My wife and I own property in the bay and spend much of the spring, summer and fall there and strongly support the prohibition of personal watercraft. We have observed that some of the species the Critical Habitat Area supports are stressed as a result of changing conditions resulting from warming. Adding another stressor, the operation of personal water craft will only cause more harm to those animals. In addition, reintroducing jet skis to the area will directly conflict with recreational fishing and quiet uses such as paddle boards and kayaks. The purpose of the CHA is to protect fish and wildlife resources and existing public uses of Kachemak Bay. People who own jet skis have plenty of alternatives available to recreate including access to the bay via other means of access. The issue is protecting the CHA, not super-imposing an incompatible use.

Terry Cummings
cummingst44@yahoo.com

6740 10th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99504 907-333-7809

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Dear Rick Green,

My family have been property owners in Bear Cove since 1978. We are strongly opposed to jet ski usage in Kachemak Bay. We, together with many landowners in Bear Cove value peace and quiet. We kayak so we can be nearly silent, so we can listen and watch for birds and other wildlife. We cannot imagine a more offensive intrusion to our values and the culture, wildlife, and character of Kachemak Bay.

Sincerely,
Leslie and Kirk Johnson
Bear Cove resident 907-345-7026
leslie4alaska@gmail.com

Dear Rick,

I am against the use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay. They are noisy. I would not want to spend a day on the water only to hear jet skis. The wakes damage shore lines and moored boats. Allowing jet skis is a bad idea.

Sincerely,
Wendy Robbins
Bear Cove resident 907-771-2217
wwrobbins@gmail.com

Robert Vernon
PO Box 1509
Fritz Creek, AK 99603

Rick
Politics brings differing opinions. Most people mask theirs. I won’t. Consider jet skis to be ecoterrorists. You might not, but then you’re not a red-necked phalarope. You’re not a town trying to run a successful shorebird festival [the first infusion of cash after a paltry winter’s take] with a few bumbas destroying what a thousand people have come to see. You’re not here, you’re there, in Alaska where you’ve already destroyed the environment.

With 99.94% of Alaska open to jet ski use, why must you destroy the .06% of the state that people are trying to preserve – where nature isn’t subject to 60 mph watercraft? When you say we must share, what sort of pig would demand 99.94% of the trough?

Sincerely,
Robert Vernon

Dear Rick,

For shame that this is even being considered. We protect our beauty here in this State. There will be no jet skis in Kachemak Bay! Thank you.

Sincerely,
Nicoli Bailey
Anchorage, AK 907-771-5977
nicoli.bailey@gmail.com

Dear Rick,

Please do not repeal jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay.

Sincerely,
Chris Perry

D. Lilja, 22 yr. AK resident, ret’d Phoenix

Dear Rick,

You, better than anyone else, should know that when you are more than 3 nautical miles from Alaska’s shoreline, you are in FEDERAL waters.

Federal waters are owned by all 330 million Americans, not just the measly 2/10ths of 1% who are Alaskans, or the flaming environmentalists, liberals, and retired state employees that saturate Homer.

I’d appreciate it if you would concern yourself with your state waters, and keep your myopic nose out of federal water policy.

Sincerely,
D. Lilja

Mary Fulkerson
MaryF@Gmail.com
2544 Tulane St.
Anchorage, AK 99504

I would like to add my vote to those against allowing the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I believe we own it for our business and our future to protect this area. The flora and fauna can’t speak for themselves; it’s up to us to do it. I believe the ban of jet skis would be beneficial.

Sincerely,
Mary Fulkerson

Dear Herr

Dave@Harrconstruction.com
1400 W-45th Street
Anchorage, AK 907-945-0812

My vote is for no PWC in Kachemak Bay

Sincerely,
Dave Harr
Gary Handrich
Ghandrich@gmail.com
I was on the Homer fish and Game advisory board for 14 years. Between early 1980's till mid 1990's. I studied Wildlife management at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I am an outdoorsmen, hunter/fisherman. I was on the local board where this watercraft ban came up. There was a lot of discussion about this from all user groups. We as a board unanimously voted on the ban for many reasons: first, our wildlife, if anything has diminished over the years with more humans living in the area. We felt the added pressure from Jet Skis would further harass the shallow based waterfowl, seabirds, and subsurface fish and wildlife. Also contribute harassing noise pollution. With many opportunities around south-central Alaska for Jet Ski use, the need for good habitat, without harassment was more important for wildlife than this user group on Kachemak Bay. So therefore, lifting the ban would be counter productive for all the other user groups and of course, fish and wildlife here in the survey.

Glenn Seaman
Glennseaman@gci.net
I was on the Homer fish and Game advisory board for 14 years. Between early 1980's till mid 1990's. I studied Wildlife management. I strongly urge you to abandon this shortcut and stick with the traditional process of working through the review process to develop good sound science, and if that allows the introduction of PWC, then so be it. But this is merely a Hijacking.

Paul Zimmerman
benjagibson@gmail.com
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay. Homer, AK. Today's jetski meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay.

Jennifer J. Kottra
jkottra@yahoo.com
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Jennifer Kolb
Jenniferkoba@gmail.com
I was born and raised in Alaska. Every summer I get away to our cabin in Little Tutka Bay to enjoy the peace and quiet of the Alaskan wilderness. My family hikes, kayaks, bike walks, picks berries and enjoys the true essence of Alaska away from the noise and chaos of the rest of the world. We love watching the sea otters, seals, whales, eagles and other wildlife in our bay. We fish from our small boat. So I am extremely upset to hear of the potential repeal of the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. I want to add my voice in the strongest sense to those many voices who wish to continue the ban concerning jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Jennifer M. Green
Little Tutka Bay
328-650-6813
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Kachemak Bay State Park and Park
1435 Bay Avenue
Homer, AK 99603
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jkottra@yahoo.com
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Rachel Lord
602 Shellfish Ave
Homer, AK 99603
907-635-7269
Dear Mr. Green,
I am writing to submit my opposition to the proposed change to use of PWC in the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats CHAs. In 2017, your department did a full review of the literature surrounding PWC, look to see if the prohibition should be lifted.

In case you haven’t recently read the report, from ADF&G dated May 9, 2017, it concludes:

"In summary, based on our review of information available since the PWC prohibition was adopted in 2001, we feel there is no new information that would warrant rescinding the prohibition, and in fact the newer information highlights most of the concerns identified when the prohibition was adopted."

Regulations should be based on facts and findings. ADF&G has provided NO information to my knowledge as rationale for the propose change to 5 AAC 95.310. The only information I have, from your department, supports leaving the regs as they are.

Changing this regulation in the absence of any rationale, beyond loud lobbyists, is bad government and does not engender the public’s trust.

Please do not repeal § AAC 95.310.

Sincerely,
Rachel Lord

Karen M. Procter
2350 LANE, Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517
Dear Mr. Green:
I am writing to strongly oppose the repeal of the jet ski ban in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. The ban, which has been in effect for over two decades, protects these critical areas from the inappropriate activity that jet ski watercraft represent.

Members of the Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska may believe that they are entitled to access these areas. However, their activities would interrupt the critical habitat and pose danger to the fish, wildlife, and other life forms that the ban protects.

Governor Dunleavy should not be swayed by the Club’s “equal access” argument. As Bill Sherwonit describes in his opinion piece of January 9, 2020, in the Anchorage Daily News, “the state places recreational restrictions on many of its lands and waters to prevent harm.” His examples refer to snowmachining, trapping, hunting, and mountain biking restrictions in various state park units.

The primary objectives of the management plan for the area are “…to protect and preserve critical habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Obviously, jet skis are “not compatible.”

What is needed is a thorough review of the area management plan, with some modeling of potential impacts. Credible quantitative estimates of current and future use of jet skis and an up-to-date review of relevant literature are also necessary.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Karen M. Procter

Laurel Doyle
laureldoyle.alaska@gmail.com
Whittier, AK
Mr Green,
I lived on a local lake for several decades and witnessed use of that lake by many craft; airplanes, assorted boats, and personal watercraft like jet skis. It is my observation that personal watercraft users seldom obey safe boating regulations, disturb waterfowl while nesting, ignore the safety of loons, grebes, ducks and other wildlife, and leave oily little slicks on the lake surface.

A lift of the prohibition on personal watercraft/jet skis in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas would be a crime against wildlife and fouls yet another sanctuary. Do not allow it.

Sincerely
Laurel Doyle

Kay McNevin
tidalzone@yahoo.com
Halibut Cove, AK
NO to lifting the ban on jet ski in Kachemak Bay.
jet skis will still be banned in the state park. With only one Ranger to patrol and enforce the regulations of the park, new temporary rangers should be hired and trained to patrol the state park adding to financial burden of the State of Alaska.
The south side of the bay is home to a colony of federally protected migratory birds, Great Blue Herons, that live and nest outside of the State Park and must be protected.

JUST SAY NO!
Dear Mr. Green,

I am writing to voice my objection to repeal of the personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay. I am a property owner across the Bay since 1993 and a permanent Homer resident since 2014. From what I understand, the proponents of repeal are arguing on the basis of equal access. Everyone wishing to enjoy Kachemak Bay currently has equal opportunity for access through a variety of resources. In reality, the issue is more importantly about properly managing recreational activities in the Bay in a way that will protect sensitive wildlife habitat that has been recognized by designation of Critical Habitat Areas. I have a vision of personal watercraft zooming along the waters adjacent to Homer Spit where rafts of sea otters and sea birds are a common attraction for those visiting Homer. Surely such activity would have a disruptive impact on wildlife in the area, and have a negative impact on the experience of those visiting our community. The same can be said for areas throughout the Bay where additional traffic created by personal watercraft will have negative impact. Without strict regulations in place and a plan that includes enforcement of those regulations, the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay should remain in place.

Penelope Haas
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

--- Forwarded message ---

From: Scott Kathey - NOAA Federal <scott.kathey@noaa.gov>
Date: Mon, Jan 13, 2020 at 5:10 PM
Subject: Re: Basis for PWC restrictions

Penelope,

Please see information on our website about management of Motorized Personal Watercraft (MPWC) within MBNMS. The “Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About MPWC” link has some useful information and links pertaining to specific questions, such as, “Is there scientific and public information demonstrating that MPWC cause a unique disturbance to marine wildlife?” The response to that question includes a list of references (some are post-2003 publications) that might be of interest to you.

In an open marine system (such as an open coast, broad bay or wide inlet), pollution concerns from MPWC are not typically an issue. Four-stroke technology, though it provides cleaner emissions, does not change wildlife disturbance concerns caused by unpredictable navigation patterns and high-speed maneuvers common to MPWC operations. MPWC owners tend to operate in pairs or groups, thus expanding their footprint in an area considerably more than a single vessel transiting through at

Michael Enstrom
m_enstrom@hotmail.com

I fully support removing the ban in KBay. It seems unfair to not let all users groups have access, and the “no” group has no logical reasoning or proof of why they would be as or more harmful then current watercraft that use waters in question.

Alice Samuelson
asamuelson@ak.net

My name is Alice Samuelson and I own property in Bear Cove in Kachemak Bay.

I am opposed to personal watercraft in the Bay. We owned a boat which we kept in Whitter for about 30 years. When personal watercraft were allowed in Prince William Sound, I saw them roar up the salmon stream at the head of Long’s Bay while I personally was fishing that river. It is an understatement to say that the fish were disturbed. If you could guarantee that all people using the personal watercraft were responsible and honored the environment they were in it would be fine with them, but they have a strong history of being thrill seekers and fairly wild while on their machines.

I am not sure of the need to open Kachemak Bay to personal watercraft, over 99% of Alaska waters are already open to them. I think it would very good to keep them out of the Bay to give non jet ski owners a reprieve from them.
Dear Rick Green,

I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has no duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.

Rebecca Charles
snowgogal@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Green,

As an owner of two properties on Kachemak Bay, I strongly object to allowing jet ski use in Kachemak Bay. Please include me on the substantial list of people that oppose Governor Dunleavy’s intent to remove the ban on jet skis.

Mary Ann Cooper
mcooper256@gmail.com

Hello,

I would like to submit my comments on the Kachemak Bay Jet Ski Ban Repeal. As a 40+ year Alaska resident and a 35 year Kachemak Bay resident I have spent many hours plying the waters of Kachemak Bay. It is my opinion that jet skis do not belong in this body of water.

There is no scientific evidence justifying a reversal of the ban. Extensive research over several years that had been done leading up to the ban in the first place has not changed. The scientists are all still on the same page as when the ban was put in place. There are plenty of other places for people to ride their jet skis - please allow this ban to stay in place.

Eileen Probasco
eileenprobasco@ya hoo.com

I am expressing my opposition to the changes being proposed by Fish and Game to the use of personal watercraft in the areas listed above.

Please keep the PWC prohibition in place.

Edwin Richards
eerich@compuserve.com

Keep the ban in place please. We live on a small lake in the Willow (AK) area and have to deal with the PWCs all summer long. As a group, these operators are generally not responsible. I base this on almost twenty years of personal observation here at the lake. They, again as a group, are inconsiderate of others, inconsiderate of docks and shorelines and inconsiderate of hours of operation. We have also seen operation under the influence on a regular basis.

James Knox
corax50@icloud.com

Dear Rick Green,

I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK.

Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has no duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.

Patrick Nephew
nephewracing5@gmail.com

Hello sir,

I am writing to you today as a concerned Alaskan that has been made aware of the personal watercraft issue. I feel that we find ourselves in a another situation where a small number of well connected individuals have made changes that do not align with the majority.

1. This is about fair and equal access to Alaska’s public waters by all Alaskans
2. The ban was put in place based on questionable “studies” that had no scientific basis. PWC are some of the most environmentally friendly boats available.
3. Conservation concerns are already addressed by current regulations which apply to all boats in Alaska.
4. Kachemak Bay belongs to ALL Alaskans – not just the chosen few. Equal access for all.

I have a PWC and use it quite often in the Prince William Sound area. I feel that if this passes it will only be a matter of time before it makes it’s way to the other PWC areas.

Thank you for your time.

Patrick Nephew
nephewracing5@gmail.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email/Contact Info</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brook Felker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brook.felker@brp.com">brook.felker@brp.com</a> Plano, Texas</td>
<td>Dear Rick Green, I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today's pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state's navigable waters. Thank you for your time on this matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Strait</td>
<td><a href="mailto:donna.strait@yahoo.com">donna.strait@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Dear Mr. Green, My family has resided in Little Jakoloff Bay since the 1940's. We have and continue, to see the detrimental impact increased human activity has had. This proposed change will exacerbate, exacerbate and irreparably harm the eco-balance of our fragile Bay Area. PLEASE reconsider this ill-advised and short-sighted roll-back of protection of this pristine and fragile area. There is NO new or apparent scientific research to support the safety/hold harmless of this rate change. How can an elite, vocal and very small special interest prevails, motivated only by financial gain &amp; short-term thrill-seeking? For your education, please think this through. Be on the right side of history on this one. This is not your best option to advance your political stature. This is not the time to lie on your sword. Think about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Browning</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pbandj01@gci.net">pbandj01@gci.net</a> 907-350-8860</td>
<td>Dear Mr. Green, I was a commercial fisheries management biologist for 25 years or so in Cook Inlet, and a Regional Mgmt. Biologist with Upper &amp; Lower Cook Inlet, P.W.S. and Bristol Bay as my regional responsibilities. I've done many research activities in Kachemak Bay, including trawl surveys, octopus surveys, clam surveys, etc. I am very much opposed to the allowance of jet skis in the Kachemak Bay area. You wrote that they were the same as a 14' – 15' dinghy. This is wrong. They are not the same. They are usually operated much faster than a small vessel, have a much lower profile, and would generally be a safety hazard for both the jet ski operator and the vessel operator in the case of a collision. The chances of a collision are 100%; it's not matter of &quot;if&quot; a collision would occur, but &quot;when&quot;. The fallout of such collisions will be directly resulting from your and the commissioner's unfamiliarity with the area and the current vessel traffic. Can't wait to hear the Jet Ski Association's outrage and fingerpointing when the first collision happens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louie Flora</td>
<td><a href="mailto:louieflora@hotmail.com">louieflora@hotmail.com</a> 64535 Sheep Drive Homer, AK 99603</td>
<td>Hello Mr. Green, The substance of the issue has been debated for two decades and the public process outcome has been an upholding of the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area. What the Governor and his advisors are doing here is something different, and is obviously an end-run around critical habitat areas rules that displeases a group of people who now have the Governor's ear. The move counter to a democratic process and sets a precedent where administrations can unilaterally repeal provisions of a critical habitat area management plan they disagree with. Supporters of the repeal talk about their opposition to government control. While this move may provide them a sense of agency, unilateral policy moves that circumvent decades of citizen informed management of a state area takes away a citizen's control over their government. This appears to be less about the sport of jet skiing, or using jet skis to access someplace than it is an avenue for sweet political revenge. Imagine how gratifying it will feel to jet ski around China Post Bay while well-heeled lower 48 lefties try to enjoy some quiet at the Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, or jet skiing around mud bay scaring up flocks of shorebirds during the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival causing a hundred geriatric Obama loving birdwatchers to shake their fists in anger! At least this makes sense! But seriously. Thousands of dollars and hours of debate have already gone into this issue. Listen to your biologist's and quit wasting everyone's precious time. This punitive rule change will have to be reversed by a subsequent administration or by legislation, but you can count on a policy response as many business owners and residents are opposed to this unilateral move. Thank you and I wish you, the Governor, and the Legislature good luck with the 2020 legislative session and budget/fiscal debate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Lee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aotrus@gmail.com">aotrus@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Rick, thank you for considering personal watercraft to use in kachemak bay. I support the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. And think that all user group should be able to use Kachemak bay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Mr. Green:

As a local resident, business owner, former EMT and current Kachemak Emergency Services Area board member, I am OPPOSED to the Repeal of 5 AAC 95.310 and the opening of Kachemak Bay for use by personal watercraft. I believe this type of activity is incompatible with the community values of Homer and residents of other communities around Kachemak Bay.

I am concerned about the safety aspects personal watercraft use within the bay. For some this is becoming an “extreme” form of recreation which increases the risk of severe injuries, hypothermia and even death. The addition of this type activity could put additional resource demands on local volunteer first responders which are stretched thinnest during the peak times for personal watercraft use. By allowing the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay it will change the quality of life for residents, visitors and wildlife have to come to enjoy, and NOT for the better. Their use will degrade quality of life in and around Kachemak Bay disrupting the tranquility of coves, bays, and by displacing, stressing or injuring wildlife and damaging fragile ecosystems.

There are plenty of places in Alaska where people can use personal watercraft if they choose to do so. Having places where people and wildlife can coexist without jet skis racing around “on principle” is a special quality that needs to be preserved.

Thank you for the opportunity of comment on the use of personal watercraft use on Kachemak Bay.

Dave Bachrach
PO Box 2828
Homer, AK 99603

david.bachrack@gmail.com

---

Caroline Ahrens
cakahrens@alaska.net

Please keep the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay intact.

These craft are loud and obnoxious and prone to bad actions by the people using them. The harassed whales in Resurrection Bay is just one example. The speed of these crafts makes it almost impossible to see the areas otters that surface or sleep on the surface. The engine noise is loud and piercing which shatters the small area of Kachemak Bay.

Please, just NO!

---

Michael W. Robbins
mike@robbinsalaska.com

Dear Mr. Green,

I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.

It is tough to be formal sometimes.

---

Deonn Torkelson
lifeiscomfy@icloud.com

1331 S. Paddly Place
Wasilla, AK 99623

Dear Rick Green,

I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.

---

Victoria Gutschow
vegutschow@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Green,

I am writing to let you know that I support a continued jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay.

---

Jasdon Weisser
jasonweisser@gci.net

Homer, AK

Mr Green, My name is Jason Weisser and I live in Homer. I am in favor of removing the jet ski ban in Kachemak bay on the grounds that it is not reasonable to ban one type of watercraft over another. Thanks for your time.

---

Dane Ferguson
dane@aksnox.com

Hello Mr. Green,

I am writing as a supporter of PWC use in the Kachemak bay and Homer area. In addition to the following 4 points:

1. This is about fair and equal access to Alaska’s public waters by all Alaskans.
2. The ban was put in place based on unaccredited “studies” that had no scientific basis. PWC are some of the most environmentally friendly boats available.
3. Conservation concerns are already addressed by current regulations which apply to all boats in Alaska.
4. Kachemak Bay belongs to ALL Alaskans – not just the chosen few. Equal access for all.

I believe that recreational use of PWC’s can generate funds for local communities and businesses when managed correctly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deonn Torkelson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:DeonnTorkelson@gmail.com">DeonnTorkelson@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Of the 3 Administrative codes banning watercraft. Dear Rick Green, I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. (Our state constitution) provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters. Thank you, Your name and address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd Toepel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ltoep44@yahoo.com">ltoep44@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Repeal the watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay, never should have happened in the first place. Not the same as kids spinning around big lake, more like adults who want to fish and or explore the bay. And they should be allowed to just like anyone else. Thank you for your time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Keogh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:warrenkeogh@gmail.com">warrenkeogh@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>PO Box 1166 Chickaloon, AK 99674 Rick Green, Keeping the ban on jet ski use in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Critical Habitat Areas is absolutely necessary to protect the wildlife and habitat that these areas were recognized and established for. The way in which jet skis are operated and the noise they produce is not compatible with safeguarding critical habitat. Repealing the ban on jet ski use is an extraordinarily bad idea and the proposal to repeal the ban should be rejected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John J. McClain</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnjmcclain@gmail.com">johnjmcclain@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Good Morning Rick, I support the repeal of the ban on personal watercraft from the entire 220,000 acres of Kachemak Bay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Gummer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tgummer@chugach.ne.gov">tgummer@chugach.ne.gov</a></td>
<td>Anacortage, AK Hello Rick: please tell those tree-hugging greenie idiots to back off the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. It’s all BS!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor McMahon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emcmahon58@icloud.com">emcmahon58@icloud.com</a></td>
<td>Good Morning, With great sadness, I read the commentary by the director of Watercraft Association this morning. He cites an anecdotal manatee confrontation in Florida as defense of the impact these personal watercraft have on marine wildlife. Yes the public waters belong to all Alaskans, however, these noisy, speeding, whale-chasing joy riders are a hazard to wildlife. Johrman, small boat owners, and commercial vessels. There is not enough solid science supporting Chris Manthos’s claim that these Watercraft do not impact wildlife. I do not support his claims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Lilja</td>
<td><a href="mailto:d.lilja@q.com">d.lilja@q.com</a></td>
<td>Dear Rick, When you are more than 3 nautical miles from Alaska shoreline, you are in FEDERAL waters. Federal waters are owned by all 330 million Americans, not just the measly 2/10ths of 1% who are Alaskans. I'd appreciate it if you would concern yourself with your state waters, and keep your nose out of federal water policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Ray Skrha</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joeray_muse@me.com">joeray_muse@me.com</a></td>
<td>110 North Willow Street; Suite 137 Kenai, AK 99611 USA 907-283-7100 Dear Rick, l was so saddened to read in the Anchorage Daily News, the comments Chris Manthos about personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. . I have a Yamaha jet ski and love using it on some lakes in a reasonable manner. I would never use it on the Kenai River or Kachemak Bay because it has the potential to be so offensive in an anchorage area. Alaskans believe wildlife deserves a priority, and that jet skis should be off limits. That said, why would you ever want a person using a jet ski around a pod of whales? Whales can be dangerous animals especially if threatened or scarred. I’ve seen a jet ski destroyed by a killer whale that was being observed by a young person on a jet ski. Unfortunately, the operator escaped death by having another person on a fishing boat offer assistance to an unconscious driver. I’m all for fairness and equality but jet skis’ on Kachemak Bay is just stupid and should not be permitted.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nathan A.
Hello Rick, Please open the bay for personal watercraft. Open to all Alaskans. Thank you
Mark Dickson
James Tingley
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.
Tim Kemp
gkeemp@gci.net
Homer, AK
Dear Rick Green,
Recently I have heard people say that the cheaper operational costs and more environmentally friendly in order to make living, spend time with family, save money on a water craft that costs less to get around and many more great options for PWC. Please do something about this on our behalf to save our rights and freedoms to choose what we would like to use in order to enjoy Alaska.
Thank you for your time.
Kathleen Budd
kathleen64 electronik46@msn.com
Homer, AK
Mr. Green,
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK.
Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.

Dear Mr. Green,
I am writing to urge you to reconsider repealing the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas.
The term Personal Watercraft is merely a euphemism for a vehicle which, unlike traditional boats, is designed and advertised for high speed riding, circling and wave jumping. These vehicles are noisy and travel at high speeds close to shore disrupting the shoreline and intertidal zone, which contain an abundance of smaller marine organisms, terrorizing marine mammals and birds. The great majority of Alaskans has always agreed the state agency, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in charge of these areas has TWICE indicated that these are sensitive areas in need of protection stating in their management plan that it is to “ protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” The last revision of the plan was in 2017 and there has not been a review since. Kachemak Bay is a sensitive environment for fish, marine mammals and birds. And the great majority of Alaskans has always agreed to protect and support this position.

For years Ms. Potts and the jet ski lobby have been agitating to rescind the ban on jet skis in the Bay. Suddenly it appears to be a “done deal.” What has changed? Have the biologists with Fish and Game changed their stance? Has there been an outcry from a majority of Alaskans asking for this change? Or only a small persistent lobby who have gained the ear of the governor citing fairness and equal access. 99% of Alaskan waterways are already open to jet skis. And there is ample precedent for areas being closed to certain uses due to impacts on animal population negating the fairness and equal access arguments. Do not overturn what has been an essential element in a well thought out plan for the Kachemak Bay Critical Area.
Cory DeCook
CoryDeCook@yahoo.com
Homer, AK
My name is Cory DeCook and I am a resident of Homer Alaska. I support lifting the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

Joe Salee
D312joe@gmail.com
Homer, AK
To whom it may concern,
My name is Joe Salee I am a resident of Homer Ak. I support lifting the personal watercraft ban in Kachemak bay.
Thank you

Jason Ricciardi
ricciardig@gmail.com
Homer, AK
I am opposed to the repeal of the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay

Antonio Ricciardi
antonic@gmail.com
PO Box 2980
Homer, AK 99601
I am not in support of the repeal of the ban on jet skis. The residents have already addressed this.

Lora Wilke
lora.wilke@gmail.com
PO Box 95
Homer, AK 99603
Mr. Green,
I adamantly oppose lifting the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay & Fox River flats Critical Habitat Area, Jet ski's are small enough to get into smaller areas and threatnes wildlife like otters, especially otters, and kayakers and ruin the peace in our secluded coves.
This is a critical habitat area, so please, jet ski's are better off used elsewhere, not in Kachemak Bay.
Also, where are all of this come from? All of a sudden here we are defending the ban. Who wants this? Not the residents of Kachemak Country, not me.
Thank you for considering my comment, and others.

Kendall Soares
kendallcsoares@gmail.com
Hey Rick, just letting you know that I am for lifting the ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay.

Justin Rutledge
js_rutledge@yahoo.com
Sterling, AK
Dear Rick Green,
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today's pwc meet strict environmental/emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter that most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state's navigable waters.

John Reeb
johnreeb@ymail.com
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK.

Ritchie Ramstad
rjramstad@gmail.com
Eagle River, AK
Rick,
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK.

Christopher Russell
orion94us@yahoo.com
Sir,
My name is Christopher Russell, and I support the full repeal of the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay.

Phil Gordon
philgordon@hotmail.com
Homer, AK 99603
Rick,
I am against jet ski's in critical habitat until I hear from the biologists overturning their conclusions about the impact of jet ski's on habitat and wildlife.
It occurs to me that the majority of tourists also find jet ski's discouraging here.
In the spirit of education from way back in Oceanview Elementary School PTA, teach me how the science has changed to require this policy change.
Plus, how are those two very different sons of yours doing? I admired both as their librarian.

Cassie Ricciardi
mcneilcab@gmail.com
Homer, AK
I Cassie am opposed to the repeal of the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay
Charles Snyder
907akcsnyder@gmail.com
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.

Sailor, Tamika and Clint Kyffin
698ec23@email.com
Mr. Green
I am writing to voice my opposition to the Kachemak bay personal watercraft ban. My family and I access all Alaskan waters by PWC. It is our preferred mode of transportation as it is efficient and affordable. I do not believe there is any reason whatsoever to deny equal access to our Alaskan waters. These vessels are coast guard approved and used around the world by ocean safety as fast efficient rescue and response vehicles.

Michael Rush
mrush_78@hotmail.com
907-240-7863
Mr. Green
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.

Gene Pool
gene@oxfordmetals.co
3406 Arctic Blvd
Anchorage, AK
99503
(907) 561-5237
Rick,
I hope the new year is treating you well so far. I would like to express my support in opening up Kachemak Bay for equal access to all Alaskans. As it stands now PWC are not allowed in Kachemak Bay based on old environmental studies that may not have the scientific basis required for such a decision. Currently, today’s personal watercraft are more environmentally friendly than many other watercraft (such as old 2-strokes) that are operating. It is my belief that current environmental regulations which apply to all boats/watercraft in Alaska are sufficient not only for today’s boats but also PWC’s. Kachemak Bay belongs to all Alaskans not just the few who can afford another vessel to operate these waters. As a lifetime Alaskan and one that currently operates my boat in Kachemak Bay I know we can all share these waters and the opportunities they offer. Feel free to reach out to me if you have further questions. Enjoy the new year!

Deborah Townsend
thefrozenchosen49@yahoo.com
Homer, AK
Dear Sir,
Please, No to jet skis in this wildlife area
We have a responsibility to protect the flora, fauna, and sea wildlife including migrating birds through habitat preservation without the noise pollution, and increased wave action from high abrupt movements.

Molly Hobbs
thehobbs@gci.net
Wasilla, AK
Rick,
Personally I think that jet skis should not be allowed in Kachemak Bay due to their own safety & to preserve habitat and ensure no harassment of wildlife which would undoubtedly happen.
Please don’t let this happen and oppose this asinine idea!

Willy Nye
eat.alaska@gmail.com
I support the effort to lift the ban on the jet skis in the Kachemak Bay. It is not right to exclude one user group from access to the bay!

Todd Palin
tmp64@sarapalin.com
Dear Rick,
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.
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don’t buy skis or fat tire bike to be limited on my access, same goes for my snowmachine and four wheeler. I would like to use my PWC in various areas to see the sights, fish, recreate etc.

James and Dianne Mahaffey
mahaffeydj1@gmail.com
9601 Midden Way
Anchorage, AK 99507
907-333-9632

We are strongly opposed to the repeal of the PWC (Jet Ski) ban in Kachemak Bay. It is necessary for the protection of our seabirds and other aquatic wildlife. The nature of jet skis is to use swift movements and turns and that puts sealife at a distinct disadvantage for avoiding fatal accidents.

Jet skis are also noisy and disruptive for visitors who visit Kachemak Bay for its beauty, serenity, and wildlife. Please retain the original ban.

Jeremy Hansen
jhansen@yukonfire.com
22804 Whispering Birch Drive
Chugiak, AK 99567
(907) 748-0205

Hello Mr. Rick Green,

I support removing the Ban of Personal Watercraft (PWC) from the entire 220,000 acres of Kachemak Bay. The use of PWC should have never been banned in Kachemak Bay. PWC are some of the most environmentally friendly boats available, with respect to emissions and direct impacts on the environment. If environmental concerns was the driving factor for banning the use of PWC in Kachemak Bay, then all commercial and privately owned vessels utilizing inboard or outboard internal combustion engines for propulsion should also be banned. These larger and less fuel efficient vessels produce a larger carbon footprint and directly impact the environment more than a PWC.

Kachemak Bay belongs to all Alaskans to enjoy, including PWC owners. This reason alone is why we should remove the ban of PWC in Kachemak Bay.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you would like to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your consideration!

Vanessa Fefelov
fefelov.vanessa@gmail.com

Mr. Green,

I support the repeal of the personal watercraft ban in Homer, AK. There is enough room for all types of watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

Alex Roth
foorballman4545@hotmail.com

Hi

I support the removal of the jetski ban in Kachemak bay.

Thanks

Dirk V. Derksen
dirkderksen@aol.com

I oppose the governor’s ambition to remove the ban on use of jet skis in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. This plan to allow jet ski use in the KBCHA is little more than an invitation to a small group of motor-heads to destroy the relative peace of one of the very few marine and freshwater areas of the state where such activity is precluded. Importantly, allowing jet skis in the KBCHA is inconsistent with the purposes of this world class marine habitat.
Gordy Vernon
gogovernon@yahoo.co
Box 3 Homer, AK 99603
Sirs:
I own a tranquil B&B as close as you can get to Bishop's Beach without being in the water. If you want a TV, you'll have to book another B&B. TV destroys tranquility. Although Sheryl Vitale gets comments about lack of a TV in other homes she books, she never gets that comment for the bungalow by Bishop's Beach (an area I have seen families letting toddlers go into the water in recent years) makes my ear lobes reverberate. Plus, where are all of those pick-up trucks with their trailor going to park? To say that jet-ski's have a place in Kachemak Bay is like saying that a graffiti tag benefits a van Gogh.
That a trend in recreation should be allowed to destroy millennia of what nature has preserved is foolish. That a trend in recreation should be allowed to destroy millennia of what nature has preserved is foolish. It will degrade Homer's draw for tourism. Can you see people jumping the wakes of the occasional cruise boat? It's akin to allowing helicopters into Denali because planes have been flying in there for decades. It will degrade Homer's draw for tourism. Can you see people jumping the wakes of the occasional cruise boat? It's akin to allowing helicopters into Denali because planes have been flying in there for decades.
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A park is to preserve what was, not to sponsor what is. No thank you.
What part of that doesn't Rick Green, Doug Vincent Long and Ben Stevens understand? It's not their economy to destroy. p.s. It's not their economy to destroy. Their proposal is to allow a 4% budget reduction from Walker's proposal.
Mr. Green, I just wanted to take a minute and express my opposition to the banning of Personal Watercraft in Kachemak Bay. These overreaching regulations need to be repealed. I appreciate your time and consideration in this important matter.
Mr. Green, I am writing in support of repealing the ban on PAC usage from the entire 220,000 acres of Kachemak Bay. I am a life long Alaskan and care deeply about ensuring the environment is protected in a way that allows Alaska to be a place where all can recreate. I strongly believe that restricted, personal watercraft use in Alaska's waterways is environmentally appropriate (not to mention amazing) way to access our amazing state. I strongly oppose restrictions that create specialized access restrictions to any Alaskans. Thank you for your attention to this issue.
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Michelle Harrington  
michellemabelle48@yahoo.com

Patricia McLoughlin  
patty99501@gmail.com
Anchorage, AK  
907-223-3184

Jon Erickson  
erickson76499@gmail.com
P.O. Box 15417  
Homer, AK 99603  
997-299-4110

Mike Grew  
mikegrew57@yahoo.com
Of concern to me is the danger all wildlife face from motorized vehicles. One time on a boat in Cook Inlet I witnessed a speeding boat failing to avoid Sea Otters. The adults Otters can dive under water to avoid a collision the pups however cannot.

Jamie Okonek-Parkhurst  
jamieparkhurst@alaska.net
Please stop the allowance of these loud obnoxious machines in such a prized area known for birds and marine animals that many enjoy in their natural settings. These “recreational” vehicles make such a negative impact that would ruin this area for a larger number of people.

Amy Fetterhoff  
homerpioneerinn@gmail.com
PO Box 1430  
244 W. Pioneer Ave.  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
(907) 235-5670

Ted Moore  
tgmoore@gci.net
14530 Echo Canyon Road  
Anchorage, AK 99516

Kevin Walker  
homerkev@gmail.com
Fish and Game scientists and officials formed the Kachemak Bay Fox River Critical Habitat Area to maintain and preserve this sensitive environment. The Management Plan for the CHA states its purpose: “to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.”

Amy Russell  
aktadpole@icloud.com
Thanks

David Lockard  
dlockard@gci.net
2401 Ingra Street  
Anchorage AK 99508  
907-444-5326

Beverly Cronen  
bcronen@gmail.com
Dear Mr. Green,

I'm writing to encourage a continuation of the ban on jet skiing in and around Kachemak Bay. I worked in the maritime industry for many years in areas where jet skis were permitted—the impact was negative on many levels—primarily related to noise levels, impact and damage to other watercraft, and stress, injury or death to avian and maritime animals.

Many local residents and tourists visit or stay around Kachemak Bay because it offers an opportunity to be in a more pristine setting. Kachemak Bay’s designation as a critical habitat is an oasis for wildlife, many species of which are struggling. Please don’t destroy this refuge for humans and animals.
Revisiting this ban is ludicrous. The Dept. has not presented any new science to support a reversal. Not every public area can serve everyone’s needs. A critical habitat area should take precedent over noisy recreators that are a detriment to wildlife. The community of businesses and recreators in Kachemak Bay have certainly grown in response to this ban. This reversal would have a negative effect on them.

Many years ago my husband and I built a home on a lake near Seward. In the four years prior to occupying the house, the area was quiet: quiet residents, quiet sports. Someone started using PWC and would do circles on the lake just off our dock. Summer quiet was gone. When we later moved for a job opportunity, the jet skis were the major factor determining whether to sell the house or keep it. We sold.

To Commissioner Lang and Rick Green,

I am adamantly opposed to repealing the current PWC ban in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats. As you know and have heard time and time again, the ban on these water craft was established through a long public process with an overwhelming conclusion by not only the public but by state staff itself. There were 3 separate occasions when the public and ADFG concluded that the ban is merited in this special marine critical habitat. The first time in 2001, the State of Alaska went through a rigorous public process, and the overwhelming majority of comments favored a ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Staff biologists and managers at the ADFG supported the ban. The State revisited the issue in 2011 and 2016, and again, Alaskans spoke out to maintain the ban in the ADFG. They reviewed all the scientific literature on the matter and they concluded the ban is appropriate and justified. Science matters and so does the public process and public will. My husband and I worked on this issue from the very beginning and we know how appreciated this ban is by a vast majority of residents, visitors and users of the bay.

Now, by Governor Dunleavy’s direction, without a true public process and with the State currently undergoing updates to the Kachemak Bay DMA management plan, any changes to a PWC policy or rules should occur within the context of the management plan revisions. Outside of this process, it is just very bad government and unmerited. To answer to a small interest group outside of a true public process on an issue this important is truly offensive and creates even more distrust of government than there already is.

Please listen and please do not allow for a repeal to this much needed PWC ban in Kachemak Bay.

Hey,

As the damage we are doing to the planet through our irresponsible use of energy becomes irrefutable I would encourage minimizing our waste and destruction any way that would help. Please, keep the ban on personal water craft in Kachemak Bay in the interest of the planets health. It could help to mandate 4 cycle engines and an efficiency requirement (horse power to weight ratio) while you’re at it.

Having lived 60 years in this state I’ve been sad to watch the constant and continued degradation of the natural resources and the lack of effective protection by the regulatory agencies here. Could you please step up and leave a legacy of something other than inept mismanagement? Your great grandchildren might not have to be embarrassed for you and they could experience the natural wonders you’ve protected for their sakes.

I personally would not like the ban lifted on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. They have plenty of other areas they can utilize rather than K Bay. Let’s keep that area peaceful.

I would like to see the ban lifted and jet skis allowed.

I’m writing this letter in support of all personal watercraft on Kachemak Bay. We own an acre of property on the spit fronting Kachemak Bay and I believe personal use watercraft currently in use such as Paddleboards and kayaks should be expanded to include motorized watercraft. There is a great market for it in terms of summer activity in business enterprise but in addition I believe it would help in some circumstances to better the quality of life. We have seen Great deal of erosion in front of our property which has created an artificial Sandbar. Last summer alone we had two swimmers (now that the temperatures are warm enough to enter the bay for swimming) come close to drowning because they dropped off the sandbar and didn’t realize there was an undertow that started to take them out to sea. Multiple people re-entered the water to help them causing more danger in my mind if they were not strong swimmers. That being said if there was a motorized watercraft nearby it could have been used in such a condition to assist. While I realize it could also increase the potential for accidents on the water, I can see that the advantage of having them could outweigh that risk. As a waterfront resident and user of motorized large vessels non-motorized kayaks and paddle boards I feel there is enough space on the water to be shared.
Dear Mr. Green,

My name is Joy Huffman. I was born and raised just outside of the City limits in Homer, Alaska. My husband and I are currently raising our four children in this wonderful community.

I am very disappointed in our Homer City Council. They are grossly overreaching with their resolution to get the possible personal watercraft ban lifted squashed.

Please take anything you get from them with a grain of salt. They DO NOT speak for a LARGE number of Homer AREA residents. Why should their inability to see the potential positive aspects of being able to use PWC’s impact EVERYONE?

Unfortunately we’ve had some pretty significant drama down here and our Council has become very politically imbalanced and they are running with it.

Many of us who have been here our whole lives...2nd & 3rd, even 4th generations...live on homesteads or property outside city limits. We would love to see regulated PWC use!! This is something that can not only boost the economy, but provide family fun and even potentially cut down on the number of oil and gas guzzling boats that pollute our Bay.

Please, please...do not think the Homer Community Council’s resolution in any way speaks for our actual community...MANY of us are not permitted to vote, even if the proposed resolution would directly affect us.

Sincerely,
Joy Huffman

Matthew S. King

Greetings Mr. Rick Green,

I would like to express my support to repeal the ban on personal watercraft in the critical habitat areas of Kachemak Bay.

Cami Dalton

I am strongly OPPOSED to the proposed rule change to allow jet ski use in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area. I am upset and disturbed by the fact that Governor Dunleavy is allowing his personal connections to direct government agency policy. There is no justification for this rule change.

Cami Dalton

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Giulia Tortora

Mr. Green-

I am opposed to the removal of the jet ski/personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay

Mary Ann Higgins and Steve Renke

Good Evening, Mr. Green,

I noted in an online article that you request a simple Yes/No on this issue. So,

NO!

WE go to Homer several times a year. Kachemak Bay is a beautiful, diverse, serene habitat for a multitude of wildlife.

These are critical habitat areas.

Plus, my experience with jet skis is that they ARE A LOT MORE INTRUSIVE DUE TO THEIR NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION/WATER POLLUTION and LACK OF MANEUVERABILITY... THAN A SINGLET, and frankly the M.O. of those who drive/in jet skis seems to be more "in the moment" real possibly reckless and often immature.

AGAIN: OUR VOTE IS NO!

Thank you for extending the deadline for comments until Jan. 21. We appreciate it.
Judy Alderson
judyntana@gmail.com
Anchorage, AK
I am writing to oppose the lifting of the Personal Watercraft moratorium in Kachemak Bay. I have safety concerns for both the general boating community as well as the personal watercraft users due to the heavy boat traffic that occurs in the bay each summer. What are the plans to have emergency responders available to address accidents that occur and who will incur the costs for those rescues?

In addition, the noise from these personal watercraft will negatively affect other users of the bay, especially those using the beaches and shorelines as the expected use of the personal watercraft will likely be largely in the near shore environs. The noise and the high speed of the personal watercraft will increase possible impacts to marine mammals from this new use. These impacts should be studied and documented prior to any changes to the regulations in Kachemak Bay. To more adequately allow for the public to review and digest the changes that would result from this regulatory change, the public comment period needs to be extended for at least 30 days.

Shelly Erickson
shellyhro31@gmail.com
PO Box 3670
Homer, AK 99603
I want to encourage you to allow the use of PWC in Kachemak Bay. Targeting one user group for years while other types of boats do far more to disturb is unfair.

Mako Haggerty
mako@xyz.net
Deer Mr. Green
I oppose the lifting of the PWC (jet-ski) ban.
I am a businessman. I have built a business here on Kachemak Bay that depends on consistent rules and regulations. Same as any business in the private sector. I have not asked for help from the government or asked for subsidies from any public funds. Jet skis will have a huge adverse effect on the experience we have promised our customers and developed here. One jet ski can upset the quality of experience for many. The jet ski lobby will complain that some Alaskans are being denied access to Kachemak Bay. Nobody is denied access. Jet skis are denied access as a boom box is denied access in a movie theater or a high school basketball game. By lifting the ban you have ruined many businesses for the benefit(?) of a few. Do not lift the ban on jet skis.

Joy Ballard
joylee@ak.net
907-240-4345
Dear Mr. Green,
As a lifelong Alaskan and a frequent visitor to Kachemak Bay, I strongly oppose the opening of the Kachemak Bay critical habitat area to jet skis.
Kachemak Bay is an incredibly unique place where Alaskans and visitors alike come to seek a quiet and peaceful experience in nature in Alaska's coastal waters with the marine mammals, seabirds, otters and etc. Kachemak Bay is known for its natural beauty and richness and is the reason why it is my favorite place in the state to visit and spend time.
The jet ski experience is one of high speed operations, noise and thrills which is in complete opposition to the quiet enjoyment we expect to find in a critical habitat area. Jet ski activities threaten marine life and will ruin the quiet experience for the many who come to enjoy all the activities – kayaking, paddle boarding, hiking and etc – that Kachemak Bay offers.
I strongly recommend you maintain the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay critical habitat area.
Thank you for your consideration.

Larry Mentzel
rik21@gmail.com
Old NBC article worth a quick read. No Environmental impact study was ever completed. The ban was indeed a witch hunt. So what next? Ban black boats because locals don't like them? How about blue boats? If it might impact business ban them...?
Time for equal access!
https://abcnews.go.com/Travel/story?id=118871&apg=1
I’m Eric M Beeman, 53930 Peterson Bay Rem SW, Homer, AK 99603. I’m writing today to express my opposition to opening the waters of Kachemak Bay to PWC (jet ski) use. My wife and I live in Peterson Bay, on the south side of Kachemak Bay, across from Homer. This is our main residence in Alaska. Peterson Bay is a smaller bay, located between Halibut Cove and China Poot Bay. Approximately 20 families reside in Peterson Bay during the summer months. Many depart in the autumn, but we all stay for most of the year. In addition, Peterson Bay hosts 3 commercial oyster farms, a sea kayaking business, and the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. By and large, the residents of Peterson Bay have always enjoyed the solitude and wildlife that a few miles of ocean separation from the road system can bring. In discussions with my neighbors, there is overwhelming opposition to lifting the ban on PWCs in Kachemak Bay. Concerns range from wildlife disturbance, safety, and excessive noise. Since I live here, I’ll offer my reasons that jet skis are a bad idea.

1. I believe that jet skis are low to the ground and loud. The noise and vibration would upset thefiles of sensitive areas.

2. I believe that jet skis are more likely to be operated by the "thrill seeker" types getting enjoyment from high-speed and rapid maneuvers. I understand that there is a place for this, but that place has not been in Kachemak Bay, nor should it be, despite our current governors motives. The additional noise is another factor that none of our bay residents would welcome. Furthermore, jet skis can be operated in fairly shallow water, leading to increased potential negative interactions with nesting or resting wildlife.

3. I conclude with an excerpt from the Cook Inlet Keeper website: “Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to PWC’s, and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is one area that should be left alone.” My wife and I strongly feel that the waters of Kachemak Bay should remain off limits to PWCs.

I am writing to protest the re-opening of jet-skis in the protected area of Kachemak Bay. Years of studies by biologists and scientists have shown that this area is critical habitat for many migrating birds, sea otters, etc. Jet-skis would be devastating in this area. Not only could they kill and/or kill animals but just the sound and motion of them would be disturbing to the birds that use the area. Governor Dunleavy does not have the best interest of Alaska or Alaskans in his decision regarding this matter. It would be detrimental to tourism, since people come from all over the world to view wildlife in the area. People spend vast amounts of money to be able to come to Homer and see the wildlife. The last thing they want to see is a jet-ski zooming around in the wildlife habitat area. Making a decision that helps a small special interest group (jet-ski operators) is not fair to the residents of Homer as it would hurt wildlife and the tourist industry in that area.

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I have seen in person what jet-skis can do in a similar area. Visiting Seward one year, I saw two jet-skis zooming around in Resurrection Bay in the same waters as sea otters and sea lions. The operators seemed to have no regard for the possibility that they might hit one of the animals or that they were disturbing them and the people who were trying to view them. It was a turn off for me, as a “tourist” from Anchorage, that this would be allowed to happen. And even though it was over a decade ago, the picture is still clear in my head. I’m sure many tourists would feel the same way if they saw this happening in Kachemak Bay.

I want to protect the re-opening of jet-skis in the protected area of Kachemak Bay. Years of studies by biologists and scientists have shown that this area is critical habitat for many migrating birds, sea otters, etc. Jet-skis would be devastating in this area. Not only could they kill and/or kill animals but just the sound and motion of them would be disturbing to the birds that use the area. Governor Dunleavy does not have the best interest of Alaska or Alaskans in his decision regarding this matter. It would be detrimental to tourism, since people come from all over the world to view wildlife in the area. People spend vast amounts of money to be able to come to Homer and see the wildlife. The last thing they want to see is a jet-ski zooming around in the wildlife habitat area. Making a decision that helps a small special interest group (jet-ski operators) is not fair to the residents of Homer as it would hurt wildlife and the tourist industry in that area.

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I want to keep the restrictions on jet-skis as they have been for the past decades in Kachemak Bay. There is a reason they’re there.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Dear Mr. Green,

I will be brief but would like to register my comment opposing the rescinding of the ban on jet skis on Kachemak Bay and the Fox River Flats.

Through the previous public process and in step with long-standing opinions of scientists and fish and game managers, the use of PWC is a bad idea in these areas. Nothing has changed to alter the facts. To open these areas to PWCs is counter to science, conservation ethics, and what most of the general public wants.

Please do not allow jet skis in these areas. Thank you.

Michael Bavarsky
mbavers@yahoo.com
PO Box 15115
Fritz Creek, AK 99603 907-299-0163

I am going on record as strongly opposing the lifting of the ban on personal use watercraft on Kachemak Bay for the following reasons:

1: Their very nature encourages erratic, dangerous, destructive, and annoying use. Comparing them to other boats is like comparing a military automatic weapon to a hunting rifle.

2: There are many, many places that are already frequented by such noisy and disruptive craft, where their disharmony would not be as noticeable. There are few places like Kachemak Bay.

3: Their use, even on an infrequent basis, would be destructive to wildlife, tourism, and peaceful and quiet recreation that persons such as myself enjoy.

Repeat

Randall Wiest
northwiest@gmail.com
Homer, AK

I'm writing to register my opposition to the recent ADF&G proposal to remove the existing ban on jet ski/ personal watercraft in the Critical Habitat zone of Kachemak Bay. Nothing appears to have changed on the scientific consensus that use of these high-speed craft is not compatible with fish and wildlife values in an area designated as Critical Habitat. Moreover, the issue has been openly discussed in public process at least twice previously over the years and the vast majority of Alaskans clearly spoke out against their use in Kachemak Bay. I'm a Homer power boater myself but given the volume of vessel traffic already here in the Bay for commercial charter fishing, kayak tours, wildlife viewing trips, and personal sport fishing there are additional safety concerns associated with use of personal water craft locally. Only 5% of Alaskan waters are already open to the use of jet skis; I see no reason why their use has to be expanded to Kachemak Bay.

Repeat

Hello,

It has recently come to my attention that the city of Homer intends to pass a resolution opposing the lift of the jet ski / personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay.

As a community member that lives outside of Homer city limits, I urge you to remember that the city of Homer does not own Kachemak Bay. Many of us who live in the Kachemak Bay Area, but outside Homer city limits, do not agree with many of the opinions of the the Homer city council. Though we are often affected by the choices they make, we have no voice or reprensentation in the city of Homer because we can not vote if we live outside the city limits.

Please do not allow the city of Homer to regulate watercraft use in Kachemak Bay, it does not belong to them, and they should not be allowed to act like it does.

Thank you for your service to Alaska.

Gil Blankinship
hurricanegil@comcast.net
9841 51st Ave,
Seattle, WA 98136
206.335.0562

As a frequent visitor to Kachemak Bay, Little Tutka Bay property owner, long time boater, and outdoor enthusiast, I am strongly opposed to the opening of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area to the use of jet skis.

The jet ski ethos is the complete antithesis to the quiet enjoyment one expects to find in a Critical Habitat Area. We retreat to Little Tutka Bay for its peaceful serenity, seeing mother nature at its best. Let’s not stain the best that Homer has to offer.

I urge you to maintain the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Ronald Van Bergeyk
rvanbergeyk@gmail.com
Yes, I think it is high time to lift the ban on jet skis on Kachemak Bay. You could also lift the ban on motorized vehicles in rough construction road while you’re at it. Here’s how it really is: there is no critical habitat, and all these “parks” are just the mountains. They only belong to those who can actually physically get there and only while they’re there. That’s it. So hell yeah - lift that ban baby!!
Mr. Green,
We urge you in the strongest terms, do not allow the state to lift the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay. As long-term Alaska residents (Stephen since 1949, Karen since 1980) we are appalled that this directive came from our Governor. In addition to extensive parts of the Bay being critical habitat areas, the long term appeal for tourism is highly dependent on preserving our natural resources — people from elsewhere visit us because that type of environment is gone, never to return where they live. Future revenue to that area from tourism will be outweighed the recreational aspects of PWCs. Ask the folks in Seward if they’d like Kenai Fjords National Park to go away; it was initially opposed but is now essential to their economy. The existing PWC ban is heavily supported by Alaskans as well as being considered crucial by Fish and Game biologists and you know it.

Simply put, it’s a bad idea to put jet skis in Kachemak Bay. The appropriate place for them are the bigger lakes like Big Lake, Willow Lake, etc. Those areas where marine wildlife currently flourish will suffer if these motorized toys are allowed. Thank you.

I am adamantly opposed to the ADF&G proposal to repeal the jet ski ban in the Kachemak Bay CHA. The ban has been supported overwhelmingly by the public in the past—more than once—and repealing the ban is opposed by ADF&G’s own staffers—the ones most familiar with the issue.

Jet skis are an abomination socially. They are very loud, they very irritatingly change pitch, and they ruin the experience of other users of Alaska’s waters. These thrillcraft should be allowed in only a small percentage of Alaska’s waters, and certainly not in a Critical Habitat Area as important as Kachemak Bay.

In addition, of course, and especially in an instance like this where a highly valuable Special Use Area is at stake, they can all too easily adversely affect fish and wildlife and their habitat as they travel in nearshore waters critical as feeding, resting, and nesting areas.

This proposal has no good natural resource justification but instead is a very obvious attempt to curry favor with recreational public interest groups. ADF&G should steward the resources for which they are responsible, not sacrifice them for political expediency.

Thank you for the chance to comment on this very unwise proposal.

Mr. Green,
I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK.

Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. C Our state constitution] provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.

Please support this motion to repeal the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay.

I do not agree with the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay.

Thank you for your efforts to repeal the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email/Website</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacque Graham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:totallyjacque@gmail.com">totallyjacque@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>9980 Hampton Circle, Anchorage, AK 99507</td>
<td>This is to support the repeal on the ban of PWCs in Kachemak Bay for the purpose of accessing the Alaska marine highway and traveling from Homer to Seldovia, Kodiak, Seward and beyond. Personal watercrafts are boats and are actually cleaner and quieter than a majority of the vessels that currently operate in the bay. Individuals who purchase PWCs may have higher disposable incomes than many of the regional operators. In every instance of numerous overnight trips via PWC, including riding from Anchorage to Seattle, our group of pwc riders have boosted the local economy by purchasing thousands of gallons of gas, have always overnighted in a hotel or lodge, have eaten every meal in local restaurants and purchased necessary supplies from local retailers. During our travels while we may have initially been met with skepticism, in the end the small boost that we provided to local businesses seemed to override any misplaced prejudice or unwarranted fear. It is also possible that PWC owners are better educated, more environmentally and ecologically aware, as well as more respectful of the marine wilderness than many boat owners who operate legally in Kachemak Bay. Thank you very much for the consideration of this request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Hodgdon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:algaeoffroad@yahoo.com">algaeoffroad@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today’s pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state’s navigable waters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yolanda Garoutte</td>
<td>yolanda.garoutte@yahoocom</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>I oppose the ban against PWC’s in Katchemak bay. It is a navigable waterway and should be open to all water craft. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kijne, Leiden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jkijne@hetnet.nl">jkijne@hetnet.nl</a></td>
<td>Leiden, The Netherlands</td>
<td>Nature’s beauties are vital to all citizens of the world. So, as a regular visitor of Alaska too, I feel entitled to give my opinion about the presence of jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Jet skis in Kachemak Bay are like allowing graffiti in the Sistine Chapel in Rome. I am sure to represent many tourists from abroad by urgently requesting the Alaskan Government to keep jet skis out of this uniquely beautiful and quiet environment, if only because of the damage to all wildlife. I wish you and your colleagues wisdom. Kind greetings from the Netherlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John E Watsjold</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jerik1969@gmail.com">jerik1969@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK 99507</td>
<td>I oppose the repealing of the Kachemak jet ski ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice Higbee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambolaya13@yahoo.com">jambolaya13@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>40508 Waterman Rd., Homer, Alaska 99603</td>
<td>I am opposed to personal watercraft (PWC) in Kachemak Bay. The current ban should stand. This is not an access issue. Land, water and roads often have &quot;restrictions&quot;. Dirt bikes and ATV’s are not allowed on designated ski areas, helicopters are restricted from landing in certain areas. PWC can operate in 99% of Alaska waters. The critical habitat designation of Kachemak Bay and Fox river flats allow restrictions to protect wildlife and habitat. PWC is not an appropriate use. In 2017 an ADFG memorandum references studies that document harm from PWC. I uphold the current ban!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Miller</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mhlisok@yahoo.com">mhlisok@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>Thank Alaska Dept of Fish &amp; Game’s assessment and say no, no, no to personal water craft in Kachemak Bay. I am a voting resident!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thomas Byers
1314 Florence Street, Anchorage, AK 99503
Dear Rick Green,

I am writing in support of the repeal of the 3 administrative codes that ban personal watercraft from the waters of Kachemak Bay, Homer, AK. Today's pwc meet strict environmental emissions standards and are cleaner and quieter than most vessels that are allowed to operate in Kachemak Bay. With no scientific evidence stating a personal watercraft is any different from other boats, the state has a duty to repeal the ban. Our state constitution provides language allowing all vessels to operate in the state's navigable waters. There are so many positives for a jet ski and even the coast guard knows this as they have jet skis in their inventory.

Sincerely,
Thomas Byers

Eric Klein
Anchorage, AK

Hello,

I would like to express my support for sustaining the ban on personal watercraft (PWC) in Kachemak Bay (KB), Alaska. My three main reasons for this are as follows:
1. The extensive studies previously undertaken resulted in many justifiable reasons for this ban to be enacted and remain in place (e.g., incompatible with critical habitat).
2. The majority of Alaskans support the ban on PWC in KB. This has been shown multiple times.
3. Not all parts of Alaska are multiple use for all interests. It is neither expected nor a current precedent to open public areas to all uses.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion. Moreover, a change of direction like this should not be made unilaterally by the State Government.

Sincerely,
Eric Klein

Jane Wiebe
Homer, AK

Please do not repeal the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. We have a precious marine ecosystem to preserve as best we can. Jet skis are also notoriously fast and noisy, and would ruin the peace that people come here to experience.

Sincerely,
Jane Wiebe

Carol Swartz

Hello,

Please retain current regulations regarding jet skis in KBay and do not change rules that would allow them. This is a designated critical habitat area. It has been well documented how jet skis will adversely impact marine life and mammals and cause significant noise in the various places where people come for a more quiet stay. Why would the State of Alaska want to do this and for a small segment of people? Not all parts of Alaska are multiple use for all interests. It is neither expected nor a current precedent to open public areas to all uses.

Thanks for your consideration of my opinion. Moreover, a change of direction like this should not be made unilaterally by the State Government.

Sincerely,
Carol Swartz

Diane Patch

As a resident of Kachemak Bay Area for over 30 years I ask that you keep prohibiting jet skis from our bay. Sea life is already stressed by climate change and sonic exploration. There are many places in our state where people can enjoy recreating on jet skis. Let us keep this critical habitat free of them. Quiet is becoming scarce..already vehicles are allowed on beach areas and it is hard to take a quiet walk on the beach in Homer. Let's keep some beaches free of noise. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Diane Patch

Phillip Lopez

They should not be allowed. They are used to harass wild life and marine life as well. Just say no.

Sincerely,
Phillip Lopez

Gregory Collins

This Ban was put in place by a Very Vocal Minority. It needs to be Lifted as PWC of today are Not what they were years ago. Boats run Dirtier than a PWC. The pollution caused by big boats that are really noisy is much larger and Louder than 4 Stroke PWC.

This would also bring more tourists to the Homer Area.

Sincerely,
Gregory Collins

Jan Agosta

As a resident of Homer, I am strongly opposed to the use of jet ski on the bay. Wildlife and human activities will be adversely affected by the noise and high incidence of accidents associated with these difficult to control play toys.

Sincerely,
Jan Agosta
Bill Sherwonit
2441 Tulik Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517

See message: Comment: proposed repeal of jet ski ban in two Kachemak Bay critical habitat areas.msg in folder PWC 13

Tim Steinberg
tim@visualadventures.net

Hi Rick,
I am a local kayak guide who is opposed to allowing jet skis in the bay. My clients come to the bay to experience the natural surroundings, I think the noise, the fumes will only take away from the experience of Alaska wilderness; I don’t think it’s good for the Otter’s, the seals, for the fishing it’s something we just don’t need in Kachemak Bay. My clients have been coming for 25 years to Alaska and I’ll Bet you can’t find one of them who would support this idea.

I'm a local small business man who thinks this will hurt my business.

Thank you.

Mary Landoli
iandolimary@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Green,
I am writing to the Administration in opposition of the proposal to allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay. K-bay is one of the richest estuaries in the world. Please, listen to the experts at Fish and Game who state that the jet skis will destroy habitat and impact fish nurseries.

Ben C. Oien
boien@gci.net

Mr Green
I wanted to personally let you know that I'm against opening Kachemak Bay to personal watercraft. I cross the bay from Homer several times a year toward Seldovia and see wildlife each time that would be affected by the use of jet skis and such in the bay.

Please be reasonable and let the AK Fish and wildlife continue with their determination that this is critical habitat, and personal watercraft should not be allowed. THEY are the experts. They determined (again) in 2017 that this is STILL critical habitat and personal watercraft should not be allowed.

Thanks for listening.

Will Frost
wd frost56@gmail.com

Mr. Green,
I am writing to state my opposition to the repeal of the prohibition of jet skis from the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Critical Habitat Areas. Unless there is new data that contradicts past analysis of the need to close these areas and show no harm will occur from jet skis, the closure should remain in place.

Thank you,

Nancy Schrag
schragnm@gmail.com

I do not support lifting the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Please keep our beautiful bay off limits to jet skis.

Julia Person
juliaperson@gmail.com

I live in Homer and have property in Tutka Bay. I oppose allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Some have framed this as an access issue. That is nonsense. People can access the bays in this area multiple ways.

Jet skis and other personal watercraft are “thrillcraft” designed for recreation. Their inherent design, maneuverability and high speeds make them very different from skiffs and boats. Where boats typically go from point A to point B, jet skis tend to congregate in small areas and shallow waters, jumping wakes and circling.

This high speed thrill seeking behavior is what I have repeatedly witnessed when I have observed jet skis. We are talking about critical habitat. Fish and Game researched this issue and determined jet skis are incompatible with critical habitats.

Stop this process. Riders have access to the rest of Cook Inlet so they are not being denied places to play. If they wish to access the critical habitat area, they are welcome to use the many options currently available.

Mark Schrag
schragnm@gmail.com

Homer, AK
DO NOT lift the ban on jet ski use in Kachemak Bay! They have no place in this pristine critical habitat area!

Casey Compton
We.Care@susitnaenergy.com

Hello Rick,
I am a resident of Alaska born and raised and I believe the PWC ban for Kachemak Bay should be repealed. There is scientific evidence to support the claim that PWC’s have no more harmful effects to the environment or wildlife then any other boats.

This alone is reason enough to repeal the ban. I feel as though the arbitrary ban of one specific type of boat is unconstitutional, unenforceable, and above all unconstitutional. Please tally my vote under repealing the ban.

Thank you,

Henry T. Munson
henryt12653oegr@icloud.com

See message: Re: Private watercraft restriction in Kachemak Bay msg in folder PWC 13
I am opposed to the proposed regulation changes to the use of Personal Watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. For this reason I’m against changes to the regulations to allow jet skis in these areas. I have been a wildlife waterfowl biologist for the last 35 years in Alaska and know how important the State “Critical Habitat Areas” are for the fish and wildlife of this state. Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay are no exception. These areas receive far more human activity than most other “Critical Habitat Areas” in the state and deserve the same, if not more, protection from human activity. Jet skis are one of most disturbing types of watercraft to seabirds and seaducks because of their speed and often unpredictable movements. This is well documented! To allow jet boats in these “Critical Habitat Areas” would have measurable impacts to the perpetuation of wildlife within Kachemak and Fox River Flats. And this is an unnecessary change to the current regulations. Jet skis would ruin the aesthetics and harm water quality and fish and wildlife populations in the area. Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Berger
kmber9w94@gmail.com

I am a 27 year resident of the Kachemak Bay area, I am asking you to do all you can to maintain the current jet ski regulations that are in place for this critical habitat and its dangerous waters. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Augusta R.
augusta.r@gci.net

To the HCF: Please do all in your power to protect our sacred Kachemak Bay from jet skis and any other disturbance of the waters and animal life in this Bay and others in Alaska.

Ray Bulson
rbulson@mac.com

I am not in favor of lifting the ban on jet skis in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. It has served the area and animals well. It does not need to be lifted.

As a 27 year resident of the Kachemak Bay area, I am asking you to do all you can to maintain the current jet ski regulations that are in place for this critical habitat and its dangerous waters. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Ashton Bersch
maryellenashton@gmail.com

I am opposed to allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats. Please respect the will of the Alaskan people over the narrow interest of the jet ski industry.

For this reason I’m against changes to the regulations to allow jet skis in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. I have witnessed personal watercraft drivers intentionally (and also inadvertently) harassing seabirds including eider ducks, puffins, loons, and other threatened species. As a 45 plus year resident of Alaska who always votes, I demand that the jet ski ban remain in effect.

I am opposed to repealing the Kachemak jet ski ban for the following reasons: Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats are critical habitat areas. Personal watercraft are inappropriate vehicles in these areas in that they will negatively impact habitats, marine organisms, wildlife, quiet sports tourism, and fishing and so on. I have personally come close to being decapitated by wave runners and jet skis while paddling. I have personally witnessed personal watercraft drivers intentionally (and also inadvertently) harassing seabirds including eider ducks, puffins, loons, and other threatened species. As a 45 plus year resident of Alaska who always votes, I demand that the jet ski ban remain in effect.

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I am a 27 year resident of the Kachemak Bay area, I am asking you to do all you can to maintain the current jet ski regulations that are in place for this critical habitat and its dangerous waters. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

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We were taken by surprise by the governor's action to lift the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. In fact we were appalled by his action. It seems to be a pet peeve of the governor to pick a controversial issue and drive it to divide a community against the wishes of a majority.

We bought and built our place over a period of 45 years in Kasitsna Bay. Pouring out more blood and sweat than most people do in several lifetimes. Our friends have thoroughly enjoyed the area. We in the area, of special interest, if there is one, would be the bearded otter. We have never seen a boat or boats engage in recklessness activities in the Bay. The kayakers in the area would be deprived of the serenity they enjoy. I have seen what jet skis have done to areas they have been to. I am the power to be act prudently on this topic for the sake of the wild life in the area especially the otter, their new born and the wildlife. Thank you.

We are writing to state our opposition to repealing the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. I use Kachemak Bay for personal enjoyment. It is a beautiful bay. It is also a very busy bay. Lots of large ship traffic and fishing boats both personal and charter. The wildlife is impacted by these vessels. I have seen dead otters that were obviously hit by boats. I don't see how adding more motor driven vehicles will help this.

Wildlife species are what tourists come to see and if mismanagement of wildlife continues, there will be nothing left to see. Keep the terrain both above and below the surface of the water undisturbed for the native species to flourish.

I am adamantly opposed to repealing the current PWC ban in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats. As you know and have heard many and time and time again, the ban on these water craft was established through a long public process with an overwhelming conclusion by not only the public but by state staff itself. There were 3 separate occasions when the public and ADGIF concluded that the ban is merited in this special marine critical habitat. The first time in 2001, the State of Alaska went through a rigorous public process, and the overwhelming majority of comments favored a ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Staff biologists and managers at the ADGIF supported the ban. The State resolved the issue in 2001 and 2002, and again, Alaskans spoke out to maintain the ban as did ADGIF. They reviewed all the scientific literature on the matter and they concluded the ban is appropriate and justified. Science matters and so does the public process and public will. My husband and I worked on this issue from the very beginning and we know how appreciated this ban is by a vast majority of residents, visitors and users of the Bay.

Now, by Governor Dunleavy's direction, without a true public process and with the State currently undergoing updates to the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area management plan, any changes to a PWC policy or rules should occur within the context of the management plan revisions. Outside of this process, it is just very bad government plain and simple. To answer to a small interest group outside of a true public process on an issue this important is truly offensive and creates even more distrust of government than there already is. Please listen and please do not allow for a repeal to this much needed PWC bad in Kachemak Bay.

My name is Noah. I live in Homer Alaska. I have read and am in favor of the repeal of the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. 3

I've been brought to my attention that there is a proposal to repeal the jet ski ban in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Do not live in Alaska, but the repercussions of repealing this ban would be felt far away as my home in Sacramento, CA.

We are on the other end of the Pacific flyway used annually by migratory birds. Lesser Sandhill Cranes, which nest around Kachemak Bay, migrate 3,000 mi each year to spend the winter in and around Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in the Sacramento area. Jet skis are not allowed on the waterways which are set aside for wildlife. The disturbance, noise and pollution caused by these personal watercraft would have a serious impact on wildlife in any area.

Keeping the jet ski ban is essential to protect wildlife and the special qualities and uniqueness of Kachemak Bay. Virtually 99% of Alaska's coastline is open to jet skis. Surely this one bay, which has had the ban for 18 years while providing a haven for wildlife in the area, should be kept free of jet skis. Thank you for taking the wildlife and serenity of Kachemak Bay into consideration.

We bought and built our place over a period of 45 years in Kasitsna Bay. Pouring out more blood and sweat than most people do in several lifetimes. Our friends have thoroughly enjoyed the area. We in the area, of special interest, if there is one, would be the bearded otter. We have never seen a boat or boats engage in recklessness activities in the Bay. The kayakers in the area would be deprived of the serenity they enjoy. We have seen what jet skis have done to areas they have been to. I am the power to be act prudently on this topic for the sake of the wild life in the area especially the otter, their new born and the wildlife. Thank you.

I support the reintroduction of the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. This is a very important ecosystem. There is absolutely no justification for their recreational use and plenty of concerns of their disruption to this Critical Habitat Area.

These do not allow yachts and other high-speed recreational watercraft in Kachemak Bay. The ban, instituted with overwhelming public support, has been in place for 18 years to protect fish and wildlife. There is no reason to lift the ban now. I live in Anchorage, AK 99517 USA
Ray Cammisa
200 West 34th
Homer, AK 99603

I am writing to express my opinion on allowing ‘jet skis’ in Kachemak Bay. What a stupid idea. Homer is a beautiful, scenic
town. The bay is especially beautiful to look at, with the mountains and islands surrounding it. Allowing jet skis to plow
around & make noise will degrade the aesthetic appeal of this lovely place. Home is relaxing & comfortable. There is enough
peace & serenity of the area, impacting the enjoyment of the great majority of locals and visitors. My husband and I own a cabin in Quiet Cove, a part of the Critical Habitat area. We’re very lucky to have beautiful side views of the bay and the Herring islands. Our cabin is situated on the point of land that separates Little Jakolof and Little Tutka Bays. Individual boats (sailfis, kayaks), larger personal crafts, and fishing vessels travel past our cabin as a means to get to other bays, stop to fish or slow troll, or stop to watch whales, otters, dolphins e.g. and/or hunt ducks. It’s peaceful, and no our tidal areas reflect such with abundance of sea star, sea anemones, and mollusks.

Motorized traffic in this area for several reasons: hard to see intertidal rocks, marine wildlife traffic and between islands and peninsula areas; and recreational use by motorized boats and the traffic of SUPs, kayakers, and even birdwatchers Lack lawn visibility. I am concerned that allowing jet skis would be detrimental to all. This type of watercraft is designed and ridden for faster speeds (over 70 mph). Group riding would pose even greater danger to wildlife, fishers, and slower recreationalists. I believe short and long term effects would show increased safety issues and a loss of wildlife and tidal habitat that is currently used for breeding, raising young, and feeding. I can see no good reason for a change in regulations to allow these nuisance watercraft in this scenic, pristine area. Do not allow jet skis in the Critical Habitat Area of Kachemak Bay.

Thank you for having an open forum for considering this issue. Noise pollution? Harassment of marine life? What possible good can come of this? Please add my name to list of people AGAINST allowing jet skis to return to Kachemak Bay.

Please, listen to the experts and the majority of Alaskans and do not allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Ketti Leibman
3702 Wind Song Dr, Anchorage, AK 99516

We, Todd Miner and Doreen Toller (danddtoller@me.com), own a cabin across the bay. We recently built a cabin across the bay and enjoy watching the numerous birds, otters, seals and whales that frolic offshore. I can’t imagine our tranquil scene ruined by jet skis. Do not allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Kurt Weichhand
4555 Sockeye Place, Homer, AK 99603

I just wanted to voice my opinion on lifting the jet ski ban on Kachemak Bay. As a property owner across the bay, it’s
evident that there is even considered being lifted in a critical habitat area. We recently built a cabin across the bay and
enjoy watching the numerous birds, otters, seals and whales that frolic offshore. I can’t imagine our tranquil scene ruined by
personal watercraft.

Richard Koskovich
rko2kbay@yahoo.com

I am NOT in favor of allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay.

Jolynne Howard
jholly@alaska.net

Please add my name to list of people AGAINST allowing jet skis to return to Kachemak Bay. I can see no good reason for a change in regulations to allow these nuisance watercraft in this scenic, pristine area.

What possible good can come of this?

Harmlessness of nuisance life?

Noise pollution?

Water pollution?

Thank you for having an open forum for considering this issue.

Jay Cross
Allan J Cross
3702 Wind Song Dr, Anchorage, AK 99516

I’ve already submitted comments, I am NOT in favor of allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay.

Riki Lebman
riki_lebman@hotmail.com

I am NOT in favor of allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay.

Jay Cross
Allan J Cross
3702 Wind Song Dr, Anchorage, AK 99516

I’ve already submitted comments, I am NOT in favor of allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay.

Riki Lebman
riki_lebman@hotmail.com

I am NOT in favor of allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay.

Jay Cross
Allan J Cross
3702 Wind Song Dr, Anchorage, AK 99516

I’ve already submitted comments, I am NOT in favor of allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay.

Riki Lebman
riki_lebman@hotmail.com

I am NOT in favor of allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay.
I am writing regarding lifting the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay. I think this is wrong. These areas are critical habitat for waterfowl, marine mammals and already threatened breeding grounds for our salmon, crab and halibut. Jets skis are noisy. Unlike a boat, when airborne, the engines magnify their noise impact. Jets skis are fast, up to 65mph and this is too fast for any marine mammal to escape contact. There are other places jets skis are more welcome, just not in the Kachemak Bay.

My question is, can we just have some sacred water ways that do not include fast flying water craft? Our bay is already busy with the increase in population with the fisherman. Please consider NOT lifting the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay!

Stan Leaphart
leaphart@gci.net

Please lift the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Thank you.

Peter E. Cannava
reniedr@gci.net

As a resident of the Kenai and one who spends lots of time camping out on K Bay I would like to go on record as strongly opposing the usage of jet skis on the bay. One of the main attractions of the Bay to those who use it frequently or tourists who use it occasionally is the peace and tranquility it affords us as we enjoy nature and the magnificent scenery. Can you imagine renting a cabin or spending a night in a tent on the Bay and having to listen to a group of jet skiers motoring around your site all thru the night till the beer is gone! There is no relationship what so ever between a jet ski and a boat! That would be tantamount to relating an automobile with a dirt bike! We don't allow dirt bikes to recreate in front of our homes but allow automobiles for transportation. Please understand the difference in these types of vehicles!

Kristiann Maclean
kristiannmaclean@gmail.com

Anchorage, Alaska

Do not lift the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay until a scientific, peer-reviewed study shows doing so will have no negative impact on the many species that live in those waters. One cannot simply ignore the past science reviews and public outcry to meet the request of some constituents who happen to benefit financially (the jet ski industry). Shame on this administration for doing so.

Rick Needs
rickneeds@gmail.com

I agree that it is a special interest law. We have too much of those. Snowmachine restrictions, 4 wheeler and off road restrictions on given dates. We have to let the public have access and use the public land. If you have a kayak or skis you can do anything but the rest is held back.

Curtis Page
ripagang5@gmail.com

I do not support opening kachemak bay to jet skis, I'm an Anchorage resident that kayaks the area, it's getting too much disturbance for the wildlife already with just supporting the current users fishing, kayak and hiking community.

Curtis Page
ripagang5@gmail.com

See message: Kachemak Bay Ban.msg in PWC14

Curtis Page
ripagang5@gmail.com

There is no special interest law. We have too much of those. Snowmachine restrictions, 4 wheeler and off road restrictions on given dates. We have to let the public have access and use the public land. If you have a kayak or skis you can do anything but the rest is held back.

Curtis Page
ripagang5@gmail.com

See message: Kachemak Bay Ban.msg in PWC14

Curtis Page
ripagang5@gmail.com

I am writing this comment to voice my belief that personal water craft NOT be allowed to operate in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. This is an important topic for me in the fact that I spend much time in the area and appreciate the natural uniqueness of the area. Few places offer the access to the ocean habitat like Kachemak Bay. For many people, that is one of the few places access is readily available. Where there is access there develops a reliance and with reliance comes the need for protection.

It is my belief that the bay is highly used by motor craft. For a vast majority of the boats that use the same areas as we shore users, those boats are in transit. There are the occasional sport fishing boats trolling near the end of the spit, but that is infrequent-most boats untie and go. Boats are a means to move from point A to point B.

We all know that personal water craft are a far different user. We all know that the recreation sought from personal water craft are not for transportation, going from point A to point B, but the use of the craft itself is the end use. There typically is no destination. The use of the craft is the purpose of the craft. The goal is to bond with the machine, not the environment which the machine operates. This makes personal watercraft not aligned with the purpose of a Critical/Habitat Area.

I believe that it is clear that personal water craft are noisy and obtrusive. They remain in a relatively small area for extended periods of time which disrupt wildlife and disrupts those of us that use that wildlife as viewers and all the benefits we gain from the use of that wildlife. The enjoyment of a single watercraft user can and will deprive a very large number of wildlife viewers and those enjoying the serene nature of the bay. Allowing these craft in Kachemak Bay would have a large disproportionate negative affect on many.

Please strongly consider keeping the personal motor craft ban in place. They are not a benefit to the community.
Kate Nixon
kate.nixon@nixilator@hotmail.com

No jet skis in Kachemak Bay. No to special interests. Nothing has changed since the 1974 legislation to remotely suggest that jet skis should be permitted in Kachemak Bay.

Dan Anderson
dananderson58@gmail.com

To all reading this. I am totally offended that this idea of allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay even be considered. I have witnessed first hand in the Midwestern part of the United States the rallies, races, and general roistering around that jet skis offer. It is an area as special as Kachemak Bay. There is no place to promote this activity. Kachemak Bay is a habitat sensitive area, why would one want to jeopardize this place. The quite slower moving activities currently taking place in the bay don’t warrant to disturb fish and wildlife living in this special area. No to jet skis.

Jacob Sonneborn
jacob@jsonneborn.com

Put my name to the list of those opposed to allowing jet ski traffic in the K Bay CHA.

Phil Brna
fisheyeak@gmail.com

5601 E. 98th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99507

I’ll make this short and sweet. I am totally opposed to use of jet skis and lifting the ban in Kachemak Bay. As a 42 year recreational user of the bay and retired ADF&G habitat biologist, it is my opinion that jet skis are incompatible with other uses and wildlife habitat values in the Bay.

Carrie Stull
oolies@gci.net

2281 E. Sun Mountain Ave,
Ste B
Wasilla, AK 99654

I strongly support lifting the ban on personal water craft (PWC) use within Kachemak Bay. Today’s PWC are no longer to the environment or other users that choose to enjoy water travel within Kachemak Bay. Today’s PWC meet strict environmental emission standards well above other vessels currently allowed within the bay and restricting the use of PWC is simply user discrimination. If there are sensitive areas within the bay then those areas should be restricted to all users and not simply to PWC.

As Alaskan’s we should always protect the rights of the individuals that choose to utilize public lands and waters; how they choose to access those lands and waters is a personal choice. Without factual and well substantiated evidence that a particular vessel or other motorized vehicle causes permanent environmental damage, the use of such vessels or vehicles should always be regarded as a personal choice, to ban them for any other reason is simply user discrimination from those that simply don’t like them, understand them, or don’t want to see them.

For all these reasons, I strongly support lifting the ban on PWC users within Kachemak Bay and restricting all users from any environmentally sensitive areas. I greatly appreciate this opportunity to respond.

Russell Hood
rhood72@hotmail.com

I passionately support the continuance of the ban in Kachemak Bay. Personal watercraft have no place in such a sensitive, fragile ecosystem. And the way Dunleavy has gone about trying to undo this ban is beyond reprehensible.

Let’s keep the personal watercraft in Big Lake, not Homer.

Louis Mass
louis mass

8325 Sundi Dr,
Anchorage, AK 99502

I oppose modifying the long term personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay.

One of my earliest memories of Alaska dates back to a family trip across Kachemak Bay in the summer of 1962 or 63. I was dazzled by the deep blue waters and the clarity near the shore where one could see fish, crabs, starfish and the brilliance of a variety of underwater flora.

I’ve enjoyed subsequent kayak trips with my children in the bay and worry that this experience may be jeopardized for my grandchildren.

This huge state offers many other opportunities for using personal watercraft such as lakes, Resurrection Bay and etc. I urge you to reconsider any proposed changes (including personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay) that would diminish this jewel of Alaska.

Jacob Fraley
fraleyjake86@gmail.com

Homer, Alaska

As a life long resident of the Kachemak Bay Area I 100% believe that personal watercraft should be allowed in the bay. I believe that there is no data that shows that the safe, responsible-operation of “jet skis” would damage habitats or wildlife in Kachemak bay, and that the ban infringes on rights of use.

I agree with Will Rice. We should not lift jet ski ban on the Kachemak bay width.

I don’t want to put my opinion in. Please keep the ban in place. This is not about equal access, it is about a few people who choose to spend their money on large, loud and destructive toys. Very upsetting that a small group has so much sway with governor.

Again the ban should remain in place.
Amber McDonald

Congratulations on your new position with ADF&G. My husband and I also enjoy listening to your radio show. Given your pending proposal to allow jet skis to operate in Kachemak Bay, I felt compelled to express my mixed emotions on this issue. We do not own our own personal watercraft, but we own a house in Seldovia for 7 years and are familiar with the area.

On the one hand, it is a great way to improve access to this wonderful recreational area to more people that can’t afford or don’t want the hassle of owning a larger marine vessel. I’m also a huge supporter of getting more people outside so they can appreciate, build a connection with, and seek to protect Alaska’s natural resources.

On the other hand, I’m concerned about the negative aspects “easy access” can bring, including wildlife harassment, litter, excessive noise, and the potential for expanded illegal activities it can create. It would seem there would be no budget allowance or incentive to increase enforcement patrols or respond to complaints so how would the administration seek to defray these concerns?

One idea would be to provide motorized and non-motorized times or days (like they do in the Eklutna Lake Rec Area) to give periodic human and environmental breaks. This would allow ADF&G as well as the public to ease into the idea of this enhanced access more slowly and evaluate any repercussions (or lack thereof) at a more relaxed pace. Do you feel like this idea or perhaps others your department may be considering might be helpful?

Karen Bendler

The stillness is lost. Otters disappear. The whales long gone. This is not the Kachemak bay we want!

Imagine kayaking along the coastline, quietly observing a playful otter or looking down through the deep at starfish below, or listening to the sound of a nearby whale breathing. Suddenly the buzz of jet skis breaks in. You have to brace for their wakes. The stillness is lost. Otters disappear. The whales long gone. This is not the Kachemak bay we want!

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Jalmer Alto

We just put another notch in the 40-foot emails for me and my wife Julie. We have lived on Homer Peninsula for 48 years, in Homer, Kenai, and Halibut Cove. You’ve heard all this pros & cons, so no need to rehearse that. But at least consider the danger to the operator of the personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Boating on the bay over the years, the water can go from looking very flat/calm to darn rough and dangerous quickly. Most of these PWC owners/operators are going to be accustomed to boating in lakes, not tidal saltwater. The result, more rescue operations for the Coast Guard & locals, and the possibility of lives lost.

Carole Guffey

I am opposed to opening Kachemak Bay to jet skis. Having personally witnessed jet ski activity in and around secluded anchoring sites, most jet skiers just like to make noise and waves and run around like idiots. Late at night they buzz around anchored vessels, insuring no sleep! The danger to aquatic life is part of the jet ski problem, even if you don’t actually see one of them harass or hit an animal.

What’s the deal? You have a 20-something “wannabe guide” who wants to start a business renting jet skis out of Homer? You have to be kidding! We do not own our own personal watercraft, but we own a house in Seldovia for 7 years and are familiar with the area. The stillness is lost. Otters disappear. The whales long gone. This is not the Kachemak bay we want!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurence Goldin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laurenngoldin1@aol.com">laurenngoldin1@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>I am a resident of Anchorage that has enjoyed recreating on the waters of Kachemak Bay for decades. I am strongly opposed to the proposal to allow jet skis to be operated for recreation in the Bay. The proposal is preposterous and dangerous in the extreme, both to wildlife and to the people riding the jet skis. Shame on you and the governor for the underhanded and continued process you instituted that ostentatiously was to gain public input into the question but clearly was manipulated to severely restrict public input, especially outside the immediate confines of Kachemak Bay. Do not commit this travesty!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff and Carrie Mowen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:caroene@mtaonline.net">caroene@mtaonline.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>We are heartily opposed to lifting the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. This is a longstanding ban instituted in 2000 by Alaska Fish and Game. State biologists have repeatedly expressed support for the ban which protects the wildlife in the bay. Given the stress all wildlife is currently under with climate change, the least we can do is not harass and threaten them with speeding machinery, noise and noxious odors. Please continue to protect Kachemak Bay from the hazards of jet skis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry Santana</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bwsantana@gmail.com">bwsantana@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>I would like to weigh-in on the Jet Ski issue in Kachemak Bay. The people have spoken in the past...we are against allowing jet skis to operate in Kachemak Bay. ADF&amp;G/biologists have also weighed-in with a formal NO based on science. Jet skis are disruptive to wildlife because by design they are erratic. I have watched jet ski operators constantly harass wildlife on the lake I live on in the Mile-Su Valley. Seymour lake is a large lake, yet a few jet ski operators can overtake he lake from all other craft (party barges, fishermen in small boats and kayaks, float planes) due to the erratic behavior their operators find the need to display. Do NOT change the status of jet skis being prohibited in Kachemak Bay. It is in effect for a reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Martin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdmartin@alaska.net">rdmartin@alaska.net</a></td>
<td>Eagle River, Alaska</td>
<td>We've owned a cabin on Blodgett lake (in the Mat-Su Borough) since the early 1970's. When &quot;personal water crafts&quot; (PWC) became popular in the 1990's, we asked that users of these devices act responsibly and not destroy the wetland nesting sites along the lake's shorelines. Our repeated requests were ignored. Finally in 1997, a lake management plan was put into place that restricted the watercraft horsepower to 10 and the grebe and loon populations eventually returned. There was, of course, a hue and cry raised by the PWC crowd. Their arguments pretty much boiled down to the belief that, because they had purchased a PWC, they had a right to use it whenever and wherever they wanted. The majority of the residents around Blodgett Lake disagreed and the restrictions became law. I read now that PWC owners want to start using them on Kachemak Bay making essentially the same arguments that were made by others wanting access to Blodgett Lake. Those arguments are specious and absurd. Local residents have a right to declare that they don't want the negative impact on the area's wildlife or have to listen to the noise PWC's create. In my opinion, there should not be a one-to-one &quot;vote&quot; between the public at large and the Kachemak Bay residents. The locals should have much more input into this issue. However, if you are counting the &quot;for PWC access&quot; and &quot;against PWC access&quot; letters, please put me solidly into the &quot;against&quot; column. These devices are incredibly destructive and there are plenty of other places for them to ride.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Bogan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chugach-apprpriator@chugach.net">chugach-apprpriator@chugach.net</a></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>Please do not even consider lifting the ban of jet skis in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. It's detrimental to wildlife. There are plenty of other opportunities for jet skis elsewhere. This is a ban that has repeatedly come before the public and overwhelmingly been seen as something that needs to remain in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Curtiss</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcurtiss@chugach.net">jcurtiss@chugach.net</a></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>While I am opposed strongly to the proposal to open Kachemak Bay to jet skis, jet skis simply are not compatible with other uses in the area and they are a danger to wildlife. I am a hunter. More than once have I been nearly swamped by jet skis as their drivers cut and turn and re-arrange the aquatic equivalent of broads. I won't deny that that may be fun, I don't suggest that jet skis don't have there place. But that place is definitely not in the middle of a critical habitat area. Such areas are managed for the benefit of the animals that live there first and for the respectful human visitors there second. Please do not support the use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Black</td>
<td>dotblack@<a href="mailto:blackus99@gmail.com">blackus99@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>I do remember you with AXA. Second, jet skis absolutely do NOT belong near wildlife! Why even considered in regard? There are plenty of places in our great state that can provide area too ride a jet ski, without disturbing the pristine areas around Homer. I am a voter, and stand solidly against this idea to open the area too jet skis!!!</td>
</tr>
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Please do not consider lifting the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. It's detrimental to wildlife. Please continue to protect Kachemak Bay from the hazards of jet skis. Do NOT change the status of jet skis being prohibited in Kachemak Bay. It is in effect for a reason. Keep the ban in place. Thank you.
I would like to register my firm opposition to NOT change the F&G ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay and nearby waters. Having been an active boater on Cook Inlet for the past 30 years, I am very familiar with the bays and inlets there, and have thoroughly enjoyed the serenity in abundance. Yes, boats are disruptive too, but boats allow many thousands of people (there are 1200 boats in Homer harbor alone) to enjoy Kachemak Bay. Also the very much fewer jet skis that would use the bay would serve a very much smaller population, and their roaring, turbulent helter-skelter manner of use that we have all seen in the hands of the young, aggressive crew are just Big Lake for comparison) far outweighs that of boats in noise and undoubtedly traumas to the sea life. Further, boats generally travel in a destination oriented manner, straight and steady in deeper water. Jet skis can maneuver in less than a foot of water, further into the inlets and bays where most marine animals make their living. Despite the inequity in access by banning jet skis, we have to draw the line in safeguarding our world class resource somewhere. Jet skis should be a thing of the past. Having listened to your radio show for many years, and appreciating your common sense approach to Alaska Wildlife, I think you can appreciate my position. Please relay that to the Governor for me.

My family and I have lived in Alaska since 1983.

Rick, this jet ski issue has been a dead issue for many years now. I have been a resident of Alaska for over 45 years. I retired from the AF here after 11 of my 20 assigned to Elmendorf. I just recently retired from Delta Airlines as a pilot. My point is, I have lived most of my life in Anchorage, and consider Homer my second home. I have spent a ton of money taking my family to Homer over the years camping, and especially fishing with them and other family and friends from in and out of state. The few years that I remember jet skis on the water in K Bay I was appalled by the noise and speed of jet skis. In short, their presence ruined my experience on the Bay. Of course there are boats that run 40 knots or more in the Bay and are just as loud and obnoxious as jet skis. Thankfully they are few and far between and usually are going out towards Compass Rose area to fish. They usually don't frequent the many pristine areas to destructive "sports". Perhaps we could institute a small user fee on boats to keep a unique area to boating Jet skis being allowed in an area rich in wildlife that thousands enjoy. Another potential change that will ruin the experience for so many and ruin what tourist strive to come and see while visiting our great state. Hind site is 20-20. We are loosing so many pristine areas to destructive "sports".

Having listened to your radio show for many years, and appreciating your common sense approach to Alaska Wildlife, I think you can appreciate my position. Please relay that to the Governor for me.

As a former owner and user of jet skis, I am quite familiar with how they are operated. In my experience, they are the marine equivalent of a motorcross bike in which the rider seeks the thrill of high speed operations, tight radius turns, near shore operation, jumping waves, etc. The jet ski ethos is the complete antithesis to the quiet enjoyment one expects to find in a Critical Habitat Area. As a former owner and user of jet skis, I am quite familiar with how they are operated. In my experience, they are the marine equivalent of a motorcross bike in which the rider seeks the thrill of high speed operations, tight radius turns, near shore operation, jumping waves, etc. The jet ski ethos is the complete antithesis to the quiet enjoyment one expects to find in a Critical Habitat Area.

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As a frequent visitor to Kachemak Bay, long time boater and outdoor enthusiast I am strongly opposed to the opening of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area to the use of jet skis. As a frequent visitor to Kachemak Bay, long time boater and outdoor enthusiast I am strongly opposed to the opening of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area to the use of jet skis. As a frequent visitor to Kachemak Bay, long time boater and outdoor enthusiast I am strongly opposed to the opening of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area to the use of jet skis.

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J. Korpi
Jacquelyn Korpi
jrkorpi@fastmail.com

I am writing in cautious support of permitting personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Please note, I am a resident of Anchorage who spends most recreational opportunities in the Big Lake area and visits the Homer area infrequently. I am familiar with the full spectrum of PWC behavior from polite and family-friendly to drunk and dangerous. Allowing PWC in Kachemak on a trial basis seems fair, especially if there is oversight with respect to the wildlife and other forms of recreation in the area.

Taner Kipfer
Taner Kipfer
taner.kipfer@gmail.com

I am writing to express my dissent towards opening Kachemak Bay to recreational watercraft use. The area is home to a wealth of biodiversity and sustainable fishing industry which would both be negatively impacted by the lift on this ban. The ban on high-speed recreational watercraft is part of what makes the Bay and it’s surrounding land so special as compared to other areas. Wildlife is already under extreme attack by climate change and the plastic epidemic, let’s not add fuel to the fire with more habitat disruption.

Emilie Otis
otisemilie@gmail.com
41364 Charlie Drive
Homer, AK 99603

Our state is under severe financial strain and adding an activity that will cost more to regulate is not fiscally responsible. We cannot pay for the basics of health, education, transportation and safety for our residents. The additional cost of enforcement for a pleasure vehicle is NOT where we should be spending money. The ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay should stay in place because:

1. The state cannot afford to enforce regulations
2. Current businesses operating in Kachemak Bay will be negatively impacted by the presence of PWC, including eco-tourism, kayaking tours, and lodges.
3. PWC are not compatible with the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat designations
4. The safety record for PWC is well documented and they are not safe
5. PWC impact on wildlife will be significant, including otters, whales, seals, sea lions, and birds

IF Fish and Game proceeds with the opening of Kachemak Bay to PWC they should all be 4 strokes. Users should have to take a class on safety and etiquette to other users of the bay and wildlife before they are able to use a PWC in Kachemak Bay. Users should pay the full cost of this class. Users should pay a license fee to cover the cost of enforcement associated with monitoring PWC on the Bay. Please do not repeal the ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay.

Thomas Hamill
tom.hamill.ak@gmail.com
Chugiak

understanding that the area is already inundated with watercraft that are certified and monitored by laws, regulations and coast guard and used for livelihood's and pleasure in one form or another.

I am not a mechanic but I believe a jet ski engine works differently and creates much more pollution both in the water and in the air. Let them use their craft in the other million miles of water around our state where they are already approved. Kachemak Bay is too much of a valuable resource and a great destination for wildlife and vista viewing, to risk spoiling the experience for the many, to appease a few motor heads to destroy it with obnoxious smells, pollution, and noise.

Next would be concessions renting them and then we will have cabo or the jersey shore in Alaska. From an environmental, fishing, wildlife, economic etc. etc. perspective it is a bad idea to allow jet ski’s in Kachemak bay now or at anytime in the future.

Paul
paulaura@hotmail.com

NO personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats. I demand you keep the ban against personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats in place.

Gretchen Nelson
glnelson19@gmail.com
3039 Alder Cir
Anchorage

I am adamantly opposed to the proposed rule change to allow jet ski use in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area and am distressed that Gov Dunleavy is allowing personal connections to direct government agency policy. The ban on jet skis received overwhelming support when it was instituted and protects essential wildlife habitat that Alaskan residents and thousands of tourists enjoy. I expect you to direct Fish & Game to uphold the regulation.

David Agosti
daveyrocket@gci.net
14251 Jarvi Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515

See message: Notice of Proposed Change - Repeal of 5 AAC 05.310 msg to PWC14
As a lifelong Alaskan I would like to way in on this issue. I am strongly against PWC operating in Kachemak Bay. Fishermen use the harbor for launching boats and heading out to the fishing grounds. In and out away from the slip. I personally enjoy watching this activity, boats coming and going while sitting on the beach. I don’t want to sit on the beach and watch and listen to jet skis doing donuts and other maneuvers along the shore and out in the bay. This will undoubtedly occur as these are toys and will be used as such. Don’t turn a beautiful place into another Big Lake please!

As a resident of the Kenai Peninsula & a very frequent visitor to Homer, I was shocked to learn that Gov. Dunleavy supports lifting the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. This would change the heart of the bay for the worse! The bay is one of my favorite places in Alaska. It is a serene, beautiful setting where one can view birds, sea otters & whales while taking in the mountains, glaciers & the pristine, peaceful beauty of the Bay. Having jet skis zooming all over will scar the beauty of the water, harm the wildlife, which will then retreat to other places. Also it will make the Bay a dangerous place. Jet skis, boats, barges & paddle board enthusiasts are sure to clash & accidents will happen. There are plenty of places to jet ski in Alaska, please don’t make Kachemak Bay one of them.

My Name is Kirk Garoutte. I am a 55 year resident of Alaska. I hunt, fish, and recreate all over the state. I buy all licences, permits, fishing stamps as well as pay for registrations of all vehicles required. I follow all rules and regulations and try to be a good neighbor and citizen.

The ban on using my boat of choice, in this case my personal WaterCraft, in Kachemak Bay, I feel is wrong. My boat causes no adverse effect to anyone or fish, marine or environment wherever I choose to use it. The rules that placed this ban into law decades back lack any scientific proof of harm to anything. My boat is as clean as any and I feel using it where I deem appropriate should be left up to me as a person and Alaska resident enjoying Alaska. Kachemak Bay is no different than any other Navigable waterway in the eyes of maritime law or the United States Coast Guard. This ban keeps me from traveling to Seldovia, port Graham, and other places in the area if my choice of vehicle using the waterway. I own an Airboat. it too is a choice that is totally legal to use as well as a 24 foot alumaweld jet boat, again legal to use in this area. I feel this ban on PWC use is outdated, placed into law with very questionable reasons, and unlawful.

I support ADF&G’s proposal to repeal the current ban on personal watercraft. Why are Jet Ski’s currently banned and not the many tankers, tenders, fishing boats, speed boats, catamaran’s, water taxis that operate in Kachemak Bay? Jet Ski’s have long been unreasonably banned from this bay and the practice of targeting certain vessels sets an unwelcome precedent in balancing Alaska’s waterways.

My Parents introduced me and my siblings to PWCs at a young age, and the best memories I have growing up in Alaska are of those contraptions.

I have been here about the 34+ of Personal Watercraft in the Homer area, ever since it happened; and I don’t even own one of those contraptions.

It is unfair to say the least. And accomplishes nothing of value. It’s simply another way to PREVENT access, like so many other rules and regulations. Our government should try to increase access and opportunities to enjoy Alaska’s outdoors, yet on every hand it accomplishes the opposite. Example, any place one can park off the road or highway, some government agency, has blocked it with a ditch or a huge rock that needs machinery to move. This works ban should be removed. ASAP

I recently learned there is an effort to allow personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I encourage you to please support the repeal and allow PWC's in the bay.

I own an Airboat. It too is a choice that is totally legal to use as well as a 24 foot alumaweld jet boat, again legal to use in this area. I feel this ban on PWC use is outdated, placed into law with very questionable reasons, and unlawful.

I’m writing to retain the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. As an older 2nd generation Alaskan I think we must retain some areas to be enjoyed for their natural qualities and free from these noisy machines with their potential to disturb and threaten this dynamic and productive marine habitat. With so much of Alaska already open to jet skis, I strongly support retaining the ban in Kachemak Bay. Thank you.

I love Kachemak Bay. It is simply another way to PREVENT access, like so many other rules and regulations. Our government should try to increase access and opportunities to enjoy Alaska’s outdoors, yet on every hand it accomplishes the opposite. Example, any place one can park off the road or highway, some government agency, has blocked it with a ditch or a huge rock that needs machinery to move.

Keeping the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats in place. NO personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay will happen.

I want to be able to take my own family in the bay on our WaveRunners to fish and enjoy nature. Please support the repeal as it will make the Bay a dangerous place. Jet skis, boats, barges & paddle board enthusiasts are sure to clash & accidents will happen. There are plenty of places to jet ski in Alaska, please don’t make Kachemak Bay one of them.

I was shocked to learn that Gov. Dunleavy supports lifting the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. This would change the heart of the bay for the worse! The bay is one of my favorite places in Alaska. It is a serene, beautiful setting where one can view birds, sea otters & whales while taking in the mountains, glaciers & the pristine, peaceful beauty of the Bay. Having jet skis zooming all over will scar the beauty of the water, harm the wildlife, which will then retreat to other places. Also it will make the Bay a dangerous place. Jet skis, boats, barges & paddle board enthusiasts are sure to clash & accidents will happen.

This wacko ban should be removed. ASAP.
Matt Blaine
Blaine, Matthew J (DOT) <matthew.blaine@alaska.gov>

I am a lifetime homer resident, my family homesteaded in Homer and I am all for getting rid of the restrictions on our liberties in K Bay. Count me as another voice against the environmental wackos.

Jeff Lebegue
Jeff Lebegue <jefflbc@xmission.com>

The jackass in the governors office has declared that jet skis are a good thing in Kachemak Bay. That is really stupid.

Genevieve Klebba
G Klebba <gennklebba@gmail.com>

Soldotna, AK 99669
See message: ADFG Proposal to lift ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay msg in PWC15

Margaret Broste
Margaret Broste <mplbroste@acsalaska.net>

I support allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Jeff Lebegue
Jeff Lebegue <jefflbc@xmission.com>

The jackass in the governors office has declared that jet skis are a good thing in Kachemak Bay. That is really stupid.

Keep the ban in place; it's there for good reasons.

Genevieve Klebba
G Klebba <gennklebba@gmail.com>

Soldotna, AK 99669
See message: Comments on Notice of Proposed Changes on the Use of Personal Watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas.msg in PWC15

Bruce Babbitt
busybabbitt@yahoo.com

Homer
see message: FW: Jet Ski Ban.msg in PWC15

Charles E. Barnwell
barnwellce@gmail.com

410 Crestwood Circle
Homer, AK 99603
I am strongly opposed to the proposal to lift the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay, and specifically the critical habitat zone. I think the critical habitat zone was designated for a reason - to protect habitat. Therefore, a jet ski ban in this place makes sense to me. Aside from that, I think we need to draw a line with regard to when jet skis are allowed. I believe this to be true for motorized sports in general. In my lifetime here in Alaska I have been to a number of places where there should be a ban on motorized sports. We don't need to play with these machines everywhere we choose disrupting the quiet, and sometimes endangering others.

Mike Haines
hainesmike04@gmail.com

please do NOT make Kachemak Bay available for "jet skis". Kachemak Bay is a unique place that contributes to the environmental well-being of our great State. There are many other places in Alaska that are available to "jet skiers", Let's keep the Bay pristine.

Beverly Kirsch
gbk74@alaska.net

Soldotna, AK
Please! No jet skis on Kachemak Bay! Humans already have a huge, negative, exploitative impact on the waters and animals of Cook Inlet: personal motorized water craft, commercial fishing boats, ferry boats, cruise ships, sonar, oil and gas industry... Enough! No more air, water and noise pollution! Make the right decision! No jet skis!

Vivian Finlay and Clyde Boyer
See message: Fwd: Personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.msg in PWC15

Cynthia Sisson,
Kachemak Bay Birders
sissoncf@gmail.com

See message: Fwd: Personal Watercraft in Kachemak Bay.msg in PWC15

David Mesiar
Dave Mesiar <dcmesiar@hotmail.com>

15740 Wind Song Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516
See message: Fwd: PWC ban change in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area/msg in PWC15

Mark Pfeffer
Mark Pfeffer <markpfeffer7.icloud.com>

Mark Pfeffer
Mark Pfeffer <markpfeffer7.icloud.com>

I have ridden jet skis on lakes and in rivers. They are a blast to ride.

But they will be a total disaster in KBay. Harassing marine mammals, eroding shore line, safety issues around other marine craft.

Please do not repeal this ban.

For reference I (or my affiliated entities) own/control properties at the entrance to Jakaloff as well as on the bluff in Homer On Ocean drive loop. (If you need tax payer ID's let me know)

Gina Poths
Gina Poths <akpwcrdr@yahoo.com>

Anchorage AK
See message: I support the repeal of the ban of PWC in Kachemak Bay msg in PWC15

organization/individual

continuation of fwd email- check for duplicates_2/5 found duplicate didn't re-enter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julia Barrett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julia.barrett@alaskakids.org">julia.barrett@alaskakids.org</a></td>
<td>5456 Winchester Ave., Homer, AK 99603</td>
<td>As a 10 year resident of the Homer and Kachemak bay area, I am fully in support of personal water craft use on Kachemak Bay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Davis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:juliadavis@hotmail.com">juliadavis@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>PO Box 340, Homer, AK 99603</td>
<td>Please do not allow jet skis on Kachemak Bay. We have one of the few pristine, not polluted estuaries left on the planet. Our Bay has always been a place of peace &amp; quiet for beach walkers. Who thinks a jet ski in a bay with shore birds, sea otters, seals and whales is a good idea? Not me! Please do not allow Jet Skis on Kachemak Bay!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carla Harness</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carlaharness@gmail.com">carlaharness@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>P.O. Box 1234, Homer, AK 99603</td>
<td>See message: Jet Ski ban msg in FWCLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Strand</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laurasstrand@rr.com">laurasstrand@rr.com</a></td>
<td>P.O. Box 1234, Homer, AK 99603</td>
<td>It disagrees with allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay. My main concern is, how is fish and game going to monitor the fishermen on the jet skis???? Are you going to have more staff and boats out on the water to make sure they are not harassing wildlife and that they are following the fishing regulations? What is the consequence for the jet ski if they are harassing wildlife, have you figured that out? The charter companies are squealed again for more no half but days and now they have to deal with idiots on jet skis! The Homer harbor is such a busy harbor I can foresee accidents and injuries already! If there is an accident with a charter boat that could result in major loss of income and lawsuits. (If you and not going to have more boats and Fish and Game officials out on the water then no jet skis because it will not be monitored properly)!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Hill</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kathhill@alaska.net">kathhill@alaska.net</a></td>
<td>Homer</td>
<td>Please do not allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Erikson</td>
<td>jeffrey <a href="mailto:Erikson@pobox.alaska.net">Erikson@pobox.alaska.net</a></td>
<td>Fritz Creek Road, Homer, AK 99603</td>
<td>PLEASE….no jet skis in Kachemak Bay!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Adams</td>
<td>scottadams@<a href="mailto:charterfish@yahoo.com">charterfish@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Homer, Alaska</td>
<td>I would like to see jet skis return to KBay, there was only 4 being used back in the 90’s. If a minority can banned jet skis, like they have done, then what else will they banned in the future. Snow-machines or ATV’s, in our back country? It’s interesting that the ban was only on Jet Skis? Not boats that go into the shallows, that drop people off, so they can enjoy the catch side of KBay. In Homer, we have that planes that take off from Beluga Lake, early in the morning and return back in the early evening. You can hear them for miles, while they fly low over some parts of town. I remember when you could make a living fishing on the waters of KBay. Now KBay is a research area, Critical Habitat. All of us care about our Bay, we enjoy it, whether by boat, kayak, or aircraft. A wonder which user group will be next to be banned from KBay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Lee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dltorders@yahoo.com">dltorders@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Homer, AK 99603</td>
<td>No, please do allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yvonne Leutwyler</td>
<td><a href="mailto:YvonneLeutwyler@yahoo.com">YvonneLeutwyler@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Homer, AK 99603</td>
<td>This is my comment to the proposal of allowing jet skis (and similar small watercraft) in Kachemak Bay:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- I am opposed to this. Kachemak Bay is habitat to a diversity of intertidal organisms, as well as watershore, shorebirds, and mammals like sea otters and whales. In part because of this, Kachemak Bay has been a destination for people seeking natural beauty and recreating for non-motorized means (sea kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, pack rafting etc.). Kachemak Bay is an attraction that plays a big part in Homer’s tourist economy. Jet skis and similar small watercraft that can be driven at high speeds with a high noise level endanger wildlife, especially in environmentally fragile areas like intertidal zones. Additionally, Jet skis are risky to drive with high potential for accidents and crashes, endangering the lives of the drivers, and others. Kachemak Bay State Park does not have the manpower to enforce any violations, hence increasing the potential for habitat destruction, noise pollution, and accident risk. There are other areas in Southcentral Alaska where jet skis are permitted. Kachemak Bay is NOT a place for them.</td>
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I ask that you leave the ban in place for the use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

I have many personal reasons for this request but it is not based on dislike for the machines. Rather, it is the behavior of the drivers who buzz about in shallow waters near shore causing noise pollution and forcing all others within auditory range to put up this disturbance. There are so many places that these machines can be used and I see no reason why some areas can't be kept undisturbed. All areas don't need to be open to all people for all uses. We should use some discretion and opening up Kachemak Bay to the use of jet skis would be a mistake, in my opinion.

Can born and raised Alaskan and I believe jet skis have a place on the bay as long as there are rules like every other motorized vehicle. Suggestions maybe for safety issues: speed limits in protected areas and populated areas, maybe a barrier area for use like the inside bayslight towards and directly across the bay and then maybe a border along the edge by halibut cow to get to the other vacation areas. I think everyone's biggest concern is the weather changing and people getting hurt but also an environmental concern. Those are the same people who are fishing and murdering thousands of fish and use a ton of fuel. I always find that ironic. The water on the inside bay is usually more calm that is just a suggestion have no experience regulating anything or even boating that much.

Just think it would be a fun for tourists and locals alike it could also bring some revenue to Homer. I just think the fines for abusing the rules though should be harsh to avoid any issues.

STOP IT! Stop the constant desire to re-evaluate the need to do what's right. No more human disruption of the wildlife in and around Kachemak Bay is necessary. Much less human presence would be much better. That is no-brainer. Do what's right for the good of the animal life. Do not add to the already excessive water, air and noise pollution in our corner of the world.

I just want to drop you an email in support of lifting the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. There is simply no reason for this. These watercraft are no different than any other water craft. In fact, they probably have less impact on the environment than the larger vessels as hull displacement is drastically reduced with jet skis. This ban needs to be dropped along with a few other jet ski bans around the rest of the state. Thanks for looking into this.

Just wanted to drop you an email in support of lifting the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. There is simply no reason for this. These watercraft are no different than any other water craft. In fact, they probably have less impact on the environment than the larger vessels as hull displacement is drastically reduced with jet skis. This ban needs to be dropped along with a few other jet ski bans around the rest of the state. Thanks for looking into this.

I would like to inform you of my opposition to lifting the ban on personal watercraft use in the Critical Habitat Area of Kachemak Bay. This restriction is still valid and changing the restrictions on personal water craft creates a detriment to everyone including wildlife, other boaters, both personal and commercial, and has an overall negative impact on the habitat of the area.

It is especially disturbing how this is coming about. Rather than using the public process that would get input from residents, property owners, marine experts and habitat scientists instead it is coming from the Governor's office. The special interest freedom issues? That works both ways. Question: What makes Homer special? Answer: Quality of life, scenery, environment, habitat, wildlife, fishing. Jetski use would detract from all of these. Please try to do the right thing.

My name is George Kirsch. I live year round in Soldotna. I visit Homer frequently.

I would like to inform you of my opposition to lifting the ban on personal watercraft use in the Critical Habitat Area of Kachemak Bay. This restriction is still valid and changing the restrictions on personal water craft creates a detriment to everyone including wildlife, other boaters, both personal and commercial, and has an overall negative impact on the habitat of the area.

Personal watercraft continue to exist as more of a toy, or recreational vehicle for their owners rather than a practical method for transportation between points. Operators generally can be found running in circles at high speed creating waves for jumping. Even these traveling straight line tend to travel at high speed (up to 65 mph) which creates a hazard for sealions, marine mammals, marine organisms, marine habitats, and regular watercraft both powered and unpowered.

Please uphold the ban against personal water craft use in the Critical Habitat Area of Kachemak Bay.

I am definitely opposed to lift ban on Kachemak Bay. Our bay is peaceful and needs to remain that way. As a volunteer at our Chamber Visitor Center I know many visitors come just to see the wildlife on the bay, such as the otters, sea birds and whales. The fact that the Bay is relatively quiet is a huge plus, and to have jet skis zooming about at high speeds will not be conducive to more tranquility. Therefore, I beg you, please do not lift the current ban on jet skis for Kachemak Bay. They are not welcome there.
I am a lifelong Alaskan, born & raised on the shores of Kachemak Bay.
The use of the bay for recreation, sustenance, and employment is a part of the fabric of our community.

Critical Habitat Area- that says it all.
The Alaska Legislature created the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (CHA) in 1974 “to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” In 2001, ADFG underwent a robust public process and with the support of thousands of local and statewide voices, it banned jet skis by regulation in the CHA.

Jetskis and other personal watercraft are “thrillcraft” designed for recreation. Their inherent design, maneuverability, and high speeds make them very different from skiffs and boats. Where boats typically go from point A to point B, jetskis tend to congregate in small areas and shallow waters, jumping wakes and circling. ADFG staff has conducted an exhaustive review of the scientific literature surrounding jet ski risks and impacts, and it concluded again in 2017 the ban on personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is appropriate and fully-supported by science. The memo reads:

“In summary, based on our review of information available since the PWC prohibition was adopted in 2001, we feel there is no new information that would warrant rescinding the prohibition, and in fact, the newer information highlights most of the concerns identified when the prohibition was adopted. A draft of this memo was circulated to affected staff in all department divisions (DWC, HAB, CTF, SE) and this recommendation was widely supported.”

Please respond rationally, respect the law and the work that has been done to draft it.

Born and raised in Alaska, I am proud and privileged to know what it’s like to live in some of the most unpopulated, beautiful, and abundant areas still left on the planet.

Hearing this news about Dunleavy wanting to lift the ban on Kachemak Bay without first giving the public a chance to weigh in is wildly wrong. Disrupting this habitat for short-term pleasures has long-term consequences and will ruin the critical habitat that has always made Alaska special. Don’t let Dunleavy ruin this for future generations.

I wish to go on record opposing the proposed lifting of bans on the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. The bay contains a great deal of important, and even critical, habitat for wildlife. The bay also already has quite a bit of traffic in it, most of which respects the wildlife that inhabit the bay. Most boat operators are knowledgeable about areas to avoid if they are to avoid disturbing nesting birds, pupping marine mammals, etc. But most personal watercraft users never have to get licensed or be trained as to proper clearances to give wildlife. Wildlife habituate to the slow moving boat traffic and its noise, particularly when boat operators are careful to keep their distance, but personal watercraft will be a new factor in the environment in terms of speed and decibels. Wildlife will be alarmed at the presence of personal watercraft and could risk injury to themselves and their offspring.

I have kayaked and boated in Kachemak Bay many times for the purpose of birding and seeing wildlife. Personal watercraft are incompatible with my way of enjoying the abundance of wildlife in Kachemak Bay, which happens to be the way the vast majority of tourists also wish to explore Kachemak Bay. They are not there to see jetskis; they are there to see marine mammals and birds and the peaceful beauty of this remarkable place. Please maintain the current bans on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Thank you.

As a 38 year resident and a yearly visitor to Homer and Kachemak Bay, I am definitely opposed to the opening of the bay to high speed recreational watercraft. The reason I am opposed is that while boats try to have a “no wake” effect due to the sensitive needs of both the fish/wildlife and residents, high speed personal watercraft are, by their very nature, very, very loud. One of the reasons my husband and I like to visit Homer is that Kachemak Bay is so serene.

I worry for the wildlife too. Jet Skis are notoriously difficult to control. I feel they are a menace and a danger to both people and wildlife. It is not uncommon to hear of deaths or injuries due to Jet Skis at a much higher rate than from boats. Also, Homer is a fishing town and the working fishing boats shouldn’t be mixed with people jetting around at high speeds.

This is such a bad idea, one that was put forth by a very narrow interest group that will disproportionately impact for more people in a negative way just to placate the selfish desires of a few.

NO to opening Kachemak Bay to Jet Skis!
Gary Lyon
Gary & Terri Lyon
9606 Skyline Drive
Homer, AK 99603

I am a 41 year resident of Homer. I have spent much quality time on Kachemak Bay for each of those years. And I fully
appreciate the bay's availability to all people. I am opposed to overturning the ban on jet skis. There are so many other places
on the road system that allow jet skis so Homer should be one place where they are not allowed.

Kachemak Bay is notably a place where many enjoy non-motorized water sports, some tourism/businesses are built on this
premise. It is also a wildlife sanctuary and is habitat for many vulnerable species.

I have sea kayaked in Prince William Sound for several years. This year we finished our 9 day trip at Blackstone Bay, a beautiful
glacier filled fjord. We were there for three days. On each of those days several jet ski tours, usually eight on ten individuals,
would come into Blackstone. They were the antithesis of our wilderness experience was all about. They were noisy and visually
obnoxious. They had a dampering effect on our quiet, muscle powered adventure. The water taxi captain said that there is
considerable opposition to them in Whittier, and for the reasons I gave.

In summary I am opposed to overturning the ban on jet skis.

Helen Desjardin
hdesjardin@yahoo.com

Unless you have them licensed and strict rules about staying their distance from the marine life, I'd be against it. And huge
fines if they don't abide by the guidelines.

Jan Underwood
j_underwood@eagleg.com

I am writing to express concern about the proposal that jet skis and other personal watercraft be permitted in the Kachemak
Bay Critical Habitat Area. The inherent design and intended use of thrillcraft makes them incompatible with the protection and
preservation of habitat areas crucial to fish and wildlife. This has been demonstrated by rigorous and exhaustive recent
studies. The current ban on jet skis in the bay has overwhelming public support, expressed repeatedly over many years. Over
99% of Alaskan waters are open to PWCs. Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is one area that should be left alone.

Karen Willmore
karenwillmore@gmail.com

9571 Midden Way
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

For the following reasons, I am very much for retaining the ban on jet skis for Kachemak Bay, a place I've loved and visited for
over 40 years.

The results of studies showing the environmental value of not having jet skis are still valid. In September in one
afternoon, we found 2 dead sea otters, one washed up on the Spit and the other on Bishop's Beach. The marine mammals and
birds living in and around Kachemak are already stressed by a changing marine climate.

Jet skis are not similar boats; they are high powered, noisy toys, not compatible with skiffs used for fishing,
transportation, and sight-seeing and certainly not with kayaks and surfers.

Almost all Alaskan waters are already open to jet skis. Shouldn't those of us who love quiet have a right to at least one
major body of water? People from out of state I've met walking the beaches of Kachemak have all remarked how wonderful
this natural environment is without all the noise of most places Outside. How many sandhill cranes will we see by Bishop's
Beach or otters floating on their backs eating over by Gull Island with jet skis zooming around? And it won't be just a few as
the industry starts advertising "Jet ski Kachemak Bay in Alaska."

Then there's the issue of enforcement and money to pay for it. For example, will jet skis be allowed in shallow water
where they can easily ruin habitat? Will they be allowed to launch off Bishop's Beach and the Spit? How about China Poot Bay?
Peterson Bay?

Cindy Moms, Owner, Seldovia Nature Tours, LLC
Cindy Moms
seldovianaturetours@gmail.com
Seldovia, Alaska

See message: Keep the ban on PWC (jet skis) in Kachemak Bay/msg in PWCL5

Peter Afonin
peterafonin@gmail.com
See message: Lift the jetski ban/msg in PWCL5

Craig Mathis
Craig Mathis
comatkin@gmail.com
3430 Main St Ste B1
Homer, AK 99603

I am a marine mammal biologist. I've been in Homer Alaska. I have been, hunted, fished and studies marine mammals here in
Alaska for 45 years. From the point of view of the numerous humpback whales killer whales, harbor porpoise, and other
marine mammals that use the critical habitat area, the reintroduction of high speed personal watercraft (jet skis and similar) is
a big step away from the reasons the critical habitat was created. There is no question that these watercraft have the potential
to disrupt feeding activity, cause unneeded stress, and other unnecessary harassment of marine mammals. Craft that move at
such speeds are often not aware of animals in the vicinity and their potential impact. I strongly request that you do not lift this
ban on high speed personal watercraft.
Greetings from Anchorage. I am a former commercial fisherman, a registered republican, and somebody who regularly frequents on Kachemak Bay.

I am writing to express my opinion that the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay should be upheld.

I salmon roared around jet ski users in Prince William Sound and do not believe they should be allowed in Kachemak Bay. PWC users intentionally travel fast and erratically as part of the fun. This use is not compatible with the high concentration of boat operators, sport fishermen, and human powered travelers on Kachemak Bay.

Please maintain the current ban.

I am writing to oppose allowing personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I have owned property on Hesketh Island since 1996 and spent much time on the waters edge listening to the songs of the many bird species, the whales and otters. This island is a wildlife sanctuary and this ecosystem would be disturbed significantly by the noise of personal watercraft. Please do not repeal the ban.

There are many areas of Alaska where these watercraft are appropriate, but not in these Critical Habitat Areas.

Watercraft have the ability to utilize shallow waters more extensively than other vessels and to disturb the wildlife that use these areas. Of particular concern are harbor seal haulouts, sea otter concentration areas, and sealuck concentration areas. The north side of Kachemak Bay and the nearshore areas between the Homer Spit and Anchor Point are known to be concentration and haulout areas.

I am writing in regards to the proposal to lift the ban on using jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Please note that I am strongly AGAINST any change in the current protections to this critical habitat area. This has been looked at in the past and scientists overwhelmingly agreed that the introduction of jet skis would have a negative impact on wildlife that rely on the resources of Kachemak Bay. Marine mammals, especially whales, are already under stress due to acidification, rising temperatures, and disruptions in their traditional food supplies. They do not need any additional stress factors such as the introduction of potentially irresponsible boaters aboard loud and excessively fast jet skis.

Some of the trails on maps don’t even exist anymore. If you are concerned about access to the park, perhaps you could advocate for more funding to maintain the trails. Some of the trails on maps don’t even exist anymore.

I am writing to express my opinion that the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay should be upheld.

There are many areas of Alaska where these watercraft are appropriate, but not in these Critical Habitat Areas.

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Greetings from Anchorage. I am a former commercial fisherman, a registered republican, and somebody who regularly frequents on Kachemak Bay.

I am writing to express my opinion that the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay should be upheld.

I salmon roared around jet ski users in Prince William Sound and do not believe they should be allowed in Kachemak Bay. PWC users intentionally travel fast and erratically as part of the fun. This use is not compatible with the high concentration of boat operators, sport fishermen, and human powered travelers on Kachemak Bay.

Please maintain the current ban.

I am writing to oppose allowing personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I have owned property on Hesketh Island since 1996 and spent much time on the waters edge listening to the songs of the many bird species, the whales and otters. This island is a wildlife sanctuary and this ecosystem would be disturbed significantly by the noise of personal watercraft. Please do not repeal the ban.

There are many areas of Alaska where these watercraft are appropriate, but not in these Critical Habitat Areas.

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If you are concerned about access to the park, perhaps you could advocate for more funding to maintain the trails. Some of the trails on maps don’t even exist anymore.
I am Tanner Thomas, born and raised and still a resident of Ketchikan Alaska. I am now a professional watercraft rider whom is
I grew up in Alaska and my family now owns a house in Homer at 37523 Greer Road. I have been visiting Homer and Sadie
Joe Dugan
Don & Cristina
2247 Arctic Circle
worcester1@gci.net
Gene Gerken
Tanner
Richard W.
Bill Kunkler
Mark Worcester
Mina Kumar
Gene Gerken
Bill Kunkler
I'm completely in agreement with ADFG's decision banning personal watercraft. That kind of watercraft is most
disruption of natural ecosystems, and unlike other motorized craft, is primarily used for purely recreational purposes, rather
than for transportation. Please preserve the bay's unique wildlife resources and keep the noise and disruption of motorized
craft to the minimum needed for traditional marine and airplane uses.

I fought property in Peterson Bay with an awareness that there are working boats that I can hear from my cabin. The sounds of
fishing boats and drifs is part of culture of K Bay. They aren't toys. But jet skis aren't part of that culture. They are a recreational toy. The sounds from made by jet skis are different. People can speed into shallow waters and make more noise closer to home owners. Jet Skis are designed to thrill. You can jump them over waves and wakes. The sounds of the exposed exhaust during a jump is 8 - 10 decibels higher. If you take a noisy toy and you move it closer to shore you will diminish the diminish the experience of the natural environment.

Kenten Thomas
Kenner Thomas
wassertheimanger@hsu.com
Bethel
I am Tanner Thomas, born and raised and still a resident of Ketchikan Alaska. I am now a professional watercraft rider whom is
I bought property in Peterson Bay with an awareness that there are working boats that I can hear from my cabin. The sounds
of fishing boats and drifs is part of culture of K Bay. They aren't toys.

Bill Kunkler
billkunkler@gci.net
I would like to take this opportunity to add my concerns to the proposed changes to PWC use in Fox River Flats and Kachemak
Bay Critical Habitat Area. As a resident of the Homer area and a frequent boater on Kachemak Bay, I don't believe personal
watercraft are compatible with current uses in the area. I am not a biologist and certainly not an expert in fish and wildlife
habitat protection, so will not attempt to address any concerns regarding those aspects. I do live in the area and own two
boats which I use frequently on Kachemak Bay. I fish regularly on the Bay and spending a considerable amount of time cruising and enjoying the beauty and peacefulness of Kachemak Bay State Park. I also spend time in Prince William Sound on a regular basis where PWC use is permitted. In my experience, PWC use is not compatible with traditional boating and fishing. If you are riding a PWC other boaters are not a problem at all. In fact, PWC users seem to love to run as close to other boats as possible to jump their wakes and bow waves. In PWS I have actually had to stop and wait for PWC's to move on because I was concerned about hitting one as they ran so close to me at high speed. It's all great fun if you are riding a PWC but not much fun if you're running the boat!

Rayner "TANNMAN" Thomas
Rothstein@rothsteinlaw.com
I have property in Peterson Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. I own two boats which I use frequently on
Kachemak Bay. I fish regularly on the Bay and spending a considerable amount of time cruising and enjoying the beauty and peacefulness of Kachemak Bay State Park. I also spend time in Prince William Sound on a regular basis where PWC use is permitted. In my experience, PWC use is not compatible with traditional boating and fishing. If you are riding a PWC other boaters are not a problem at all. In fact, PWC users seem to love to run as close to other boats as possible to jump their wakes and bow waves. In PWS I have actually had to stop and wait for PWC's to move on because I was concerned about hitting one as they ran so close to me at high speed. It's all great fun if you are riding the PWC but not much fun if you're running the boat!

Richard W. Hughes
richard.w.hughes@nps.gov
Geoff, New Mexico
I am a 48 year resident of Alaska and a Homer property owner since 1984, I'm opposed to opening up Kachemak Bay to jet skis.

"The Alaska Legislature created the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (CHA) in 1974 "to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” In 2001, ADCG undertook a robust public process and with the support of thousands of local and statewide voices, it banned jet skis by regulation in the CHA. I'm completely in agreement with ADCG's decision banning personal watercraft,

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I want the ban lifted for Kachemak Bay. It's time to allow all users to access the wonders that are out there for us to enjoy.

Jim Sterling
Jim Sterling
<lynxconstruction@alaska.net>

I am writing in favor of the PWC repeal for Kachemack Bay. More and more we see the bottlenecking of fishery activity by the hands of one or two. This has to stop and the ban lifted for the use of all Alaskans. I never understood why they are used in Whittier but not Homer.

Penny Cordes
penny.cordes@gmail.com

As a frequent user of the waters of Kachemak Bay, I strongly object to the repeal of the prohibition of personal use watercraft (PUCs). I see no evidence of a study or assessment of a change in the critical habitat designation that justifies the lifting of the prohibition. On the contrary, there is a case for caution in the face of climate change, critical habitat protections should be strengthened.

The littoral zone—precisely where PUCs operate—is the heart of Kachemak Bay’s critical habitat. It is particularly vulnerable to disruption by the wake and noise of personal use watercraft, as are marine mammals with young in the bay that may be subject to harassment.

Where is the fiscal note for increased enforcement of wildlife encroachment violations?

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Where is the fiscal note for increased enforcement of wildlife encroachment violations?

I support the Department's proposal to lift the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. The Bay is all navigable waters and the ban should never have been instituted in the first place.

Darren Keeler
<darrenkeeler4@gmail.com>

I vote to open K Bay to the use of water craft.

Jim Nelson
jessel@nukapointfish.com

Homer AK

I have been a resident of Homer since 1966. I support the Department's proposal to lift the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. The Bay is all navigable waters and the ban should never have been instituted in the first place.

Kathy Vanderwal
Kathy Dubé
<kdube@watershedynamics.com>

52542 Canna Court
Homer, AK 99603

See message: Comments on Notice of Proposed Changes on the Use of Personal Watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas.msg in PWC16

Gladys Sexton
<SextonLaw@msn.com>

Don’t repeal the law. It’s a shame to destroy the bay.

Jim Patton
<jimpatton@gci.net>

Please add my name to the list of people who support equal access for our waterways. Kachemak Bay should be open to WaveRunners (Personal watercraft). The new 4 stroke machines are quiet and low pollution output! Don’t punish responsible law abiding Alaskans because of a few bad riders!
Catherine West, Homer, AK

We are apposed to allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay. We are very blessed to live in such a beautiful pristine area. People come from all over the world to visit State parks, see our marine life, check out our shore birds and fish. It is a semester on the bay program here, because its so full of life. We live in a very delicate balance with nature here. In the past several years we have had huge die offs of animals (otters and common murres 2016). We have a big marine mammal population, which fast and loud jet skis would harass, harm and stress out. Please consider keeping kachemak bay one place in Alaska that does not stress out our already fragile environment.

Konrad Bandwin, Homer, AK

I firmly oppose personal watercraft use in K Bay. Homer, I go there yearly from Anchorage to kayak. I recommend visitors to go there who are from out towns. These boats, printing vehicles formally identified by the appropriate name of jet skis are not compatible with the wildlife experience and peaceful paddling trips that many from around the world value and seek when they visit Alaska. Please respect the majority of Alaskans who oppose the lifting the ban on jets in K Bay.

I support keeping the jet ski ban on Kachemak Bay. The Bay is listed as a Critical Habitat Area and as such high speed, highly maneuverable, shallow water, and noisy craft should be excluded. Many seabirds, waterfowl and marine mammals use this bay for breeding, feeding, and resting. Due to the high tide ranges, Kachemak Bay has excellent food resources for marine wildlife. Mud flats on the north side and shallows on the south side harbor vast amounts of intertidal life. Noise levels from near shore use by jet skis are contrary to Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park values. Please do not allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

See message: Fw: Jet skis on Kachemak Bay.msg in PWC16

I strongly oppose the use of jet skis on Kachemak Bay. Fishing or kayaking want. There are plenty of other places for them to go and jet ski. The inherent design and intended use of jet ski machines to do this? Just because the machines are perhaps quieter than they were 10 years ago, the motivation of the people operating the machines has not changed. They want adrenalin and thrills. This is not the same as what people in skiffs, small motor boats, sailboats, water taxis to see wilderness areas, bird-watching and otter viewing. More high-speed watercraft, more noise, more incursions into critical habitat is an affront to our livelihoods. It seems to me such a nobrainer, bowing to a few motor heads instead of being a steward and caring for a fragile environment we are apposed to allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay. We are very blessed to live in such a beautiful pristine area. People come from all over the world to visit State parks, see our marine life, check out our shore birds and fish. It is a semester on the bay program here, because its so full of life. We live in a very delicate balance with nature here. In the past several years we have had huge die offs of animals (otters and common murres 2016). We have a big marine mammal population, which fast and loud jet skis would harass, harm and stress out. Please consider keeping kachemak bay one place in Alaska that does not stress out our already fragile environment.

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Please, no personal watercraft use in K Bay. I go there yearly from Anchorage to kayak. I recommend visitors to go there who are from out towns. These boats, printing vehicles formally identified by the appropriate name of jet skis are not compatible with the wildlife experience and peaceful paddling trips that many from around the world value and seek when they visit Alaska. Please respect the majority of Alaskans who oppose the lifting the ban on jets in K Bay.

Katherine West, Homer, AK

I am strongly opposed to removing the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay because I believe it will ruin a magical and peaceful experience to thousands of visitors who come here annually to enjoy wildlife, solitude and wildlife viewing and not having to tear around in the peaceful waters and have a thrill seeking experience and those business people who would sell them the machines to do this? I strongly oppose the use of jet skis on Kachemak Bay.

Margaret Gavillot, Homer, AK

As there is no way to enforce a redrawing of the legal limits, keep the clearly defined boundaries - Anchor Point to Point Pogibshi. Like Turnagain Pass, a clear line - motor-heads to the right of the highway, solitude skiers to the left. At times coming from my wife's cabin across the bay we see 50+ otters. Homer has chosen to make its money with wildlife water taxis to see wilderness areas, bird watching and otter viewing. More high-speed watercraft, more noise, more incursions into critical habitat is an affront to our livelihoods.

We are apposed to allowing Jet Skis on Kachemac Bay. We are very blessed to live in such a beautiful pristine area. People come from all over the world to visit State parks, see our marine life, check out our shore birds and fish. It is a semester on the bay program here, because its so full of life. We live in a very delicate balance with nature here. In the past several years we have had huge die offs of animals (otters and common murres 2016). We have a big marine mammal population, which fast and loud jet skis would harass, harm and stress out. Please consider keeping kachemak bay one place in Alaska that does not stress out our already fragile environment.

Lynda Reed, Homer, AK

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed 2019-2020 changes to remove the prohibition on personal watercraft use in the Fox River Flats and the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. I am strongly opposed to removing the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay because I believe it will ruin a magical and peaceful experience to thousands of visitors who come here annually to enjoy wildlife, solitude and wildlife viewing and not having their experience ruined by noisy and scary jet boats. It seems to me such a social trainer, teaching a few motor heads instead of being a steward and caring for a fragile environment and animals for visitors and school groups to enjoy. Please listen to the people and not our corrupt government and heartless oil men.
Patty Shull
Pattymintpepper@kpu.net.net
I support legalizing jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Susan Clardy
susan clardy
I am against jet skis in Kachemak Bay. They will not be allowed in State Park waters and this will lead to confusion as to where they are allowed. Also, right now they have all of Cook Inlet for use and they don't seem to bother.

Leon Hickok
I watched the people on jet skis more that once harass the birds in Sadie Cove. They have done it before and they will do it again. Keep the ban.

Doug Vincent-Lang
I support keeping the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Patricia Jay
Box 1101
Homer, AK 99602
I am registering a resounding no on the current proposal to allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay. I am available to discuss this issue and request an acknowledgement to my comment.

Janet Fink
Homer, Alaska
See message: Jet Skis Kachemak Bay msg in PWC16

Roberta Hickok
12540 Turks Turnoff
Anchorage, AK 99516
As a 45 year summer resident of Sadie Cove, I am deeply disturbed that, with very little warning or consideration for the tax payers who support the preservation of Kachemak Bay, Governor Dunleavy wants to overturn the ban on jet skis.

David Peach
The ban on the use of "personal waterscraft (jet skis) in Kachemak Bay and the Fox River Flats should remain in place. "Personal waterscraft" (jet skis) use is detrimental to wildlife, birds, and habitat. The manner in which "personal waterscraft" (jet skis) are driven is dangerous due to sudden turns and loss of awareness of people, kayaks and boats on the water.

Gillian Brubaker
I am a strong voter against allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay.
Marybeth Holleman
Marybeth Holleman
Marybeth.Holleman@gmail.com
Anchorage, AK

Do not repeal the ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. As well, please extend the public comment period to 90 days; a 30-day comment period, especially over the Christmas break, is simply not enough time for the public to make their voices heard.

Jet skis are banned from this critical habitat area for good reason, reasons which have not changed since the ban was instituted. Jet skis are thrillcraft, not a means of transportation as are boats and skiffs, and are absolutely incompatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. What’s more, with their ability to travel in shallow water at high speed, they are much more damaging to the environment and wildlife, especially shore-nesting birds, than boats, skiffs, or kayaks. Staff biologists and managers at ADFG also support this jet ski ban, and the public has twice spoken out to maintain this ban.

One has to wonder just why the state is even wasting government time and money on revisiting this, when clearly it is not wanted by the majority of Alaskans. One also has to wonder why there’s only a 30-day comment period, and one over the Christmas break.

Please uphold the ban, and please give Alaskans a 90-day comment period.

Penny Joseph
penny.joseph62@gmail.com

Please keep jet skis out of Kachemak bay. My family and I are coming to Alaska to see the wildlife in the natural setting. Jet skis will harm the wildlife and make Homer less special.

Deb Purington
Deb Purington
debpurington@mac.com

I am in total agreement with the below statement and oppose use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

The inherent design and intended use of jetskis makes them incompatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, which is “to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to protect other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.”

Lisa Green
lbenavitch@gmail.com

See message: Kachemak Bay Jet Ski Prohibition (Public Comments).msg in PWC16

Andy Klamser
klamser@acsalaska.net
POB 4394
Homer, AK
99603

I’d like to weigh in on ADF&G’s proposal to lift the ban on personal watercraft on Kachemak Bay.

I’m a 40 year resident of Homer. Allowing personal watercraft/Jet Skis in the Bay will adversely affect many local businesses that rely on tourism. Many people come to the Bay to experience the beauty of the area and the marine wildlife. They are able to do this on tour boats and through kayaking.

The use of personal watercraft is not compatible with this. They are disruptive to wildlife and to people who are trying to quietly enjoy nature. Furthermore, the vast majority of personal watercraft users are simply blasting around on their machines because it’s fun. But their enjoyment comes at a cost to everyone else. There are a million lakes in Alaska, as well as many ocean areas where they can use their machines. Why is it necessary to impose your will on everyone just because you can?

I can assure you that the majority of people living in this area are strongly opposed to this. But I doubt that is going to make any difference at all to you, Mr. Vincent-Laing or Mike Dunleavy.

Wilson Rice
wrice@acsalaska.net
Anchorage

See message: Kachemak Bay personal watercraft ban.msg in PWC16

Colin Lindsay
colinm.lindsay@gmail.com

I am strongly against lifting the pwc ban in Kachemak Bay. Please do not change the existing regulation.

Lisa Armstrong
larmstrong@alaska.net

I am opposed to the repeal. I am born and raised here and have spent last 50 years in Kachemak Bay. The Bay is home to critical habitat. I am a power enthusiast but in this area I have seen first hand the detriment that pwc’s have done. I am not anti-life, my family worked hard, surveyed part of the bay for those that needed their corners set and property lines drawn. Our drift is only used to come to work get groceries, visit a neighbour. Consider the following...

This state has more watersways and coastlines in the USA. Plenty of other options for pwc’s. The Bay is a resting place for millions of migrating birds every spring and migrating whales. In the last 10 years there has been a drastic decline in shellfish. I haven’t seen a minke whale or blackfish for many years and it’s rare to see an orca.

The Bay is no place for a pwc.
Mauri Long

As a local resident of Homer I am opposed to ANY changes to the current regulations.

We regulate many things in the public sphere where the impact to others outweighs some small individual gain. That is the basis of all fish and game regulations, otherwise we would not have seasons, catch limits, restrictions on gear, etc. Using the argument "that it is not ADF&G's place to regulate" to justify this change is hollow.

I am writing to strongly oppose removing the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Kachemak Bay is not only a critical habitat area, but one of a few accessible sanctuaries for peaceful enjoyment of our coastline. Personal watercraft have a vastly outsized impact, even one or two ruin the experience of a place for many. While some users are responsible, there are many others who use them as play-toys, and the downside of this to Kachemak Bay will be significant.

I urge you to follow the recommendations of the ADF&G staff biologists and managers who support the jet ski ban.

Rosemary Fitzpatrick

The use of motorized personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay, a Critical Habitat Area (that designation alone should be enough said), is unacceptable.

I have spent countless hours on Kachemak Bay in the 50 years I have lived in Alaska. I have seen first hand - and often personally - the damage personal watercraft cause. The scientific literature does not support lifting the ban. Further, the scientific literature does not support lifting the ban.

Robert Bundy

We have seen countless hours on Kachemak Bay in the 50 years I have lived in Alaska. I have seen firsthand the damage personal watercraft cause. The scientific literature does not support lifting the ban. Further, the scientific literature does not support lifting the ban.

I am writing to strongly oppose removing the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Kachemak Bay is not only a critical habitat area, but one of a few accessible sanctuaries for peaceful enjoyment of our coastline. Personal watercraft have a vastly outsized impact, even one or two ruin the experience of a place for many. While some users are responsible, there are many others who use them as play-toys, and the downside of this to Kachemak Bay will be significant.

We regulate many things in the public sphere where the impact to others outweighs some small individual gain. That is the basis of all fish and game regulations, otherwise we would not have seasons, catch limits, restrictions on gear, etc. Using the argument "that it is not ADF&G's place to regulate" to justify this change is hollow.
I am strongly opposed to removing the ban on personal watercraft (PWC) in Kachemak Bay. The Critical Habitat designation was based on many issues facing the Bay. I remember when there was a thriving crab and halibut businesses not to mention the reemergence of whale populations. I’ve been out in Prince William Sound and witnessed two groups of PWC users “have it up” doing big loops in Blackstone Bay. As a lifelong, born and raised Alaskan who lived in Anchorage, I need to set this line off limits to them. The benefits gained by a limited few users of PWC, do not outweigh the detrimental cost to other user groups (many of whom depend on the Bay for a livelihood), the wildlife and the local surrounding communities that will bear the brunt of any potential, consequential negative economic impacts. What makes Kachemak Bay unique is the way it is currently maintained. I oppose PWC (personal watercraft) operations in the Fox River and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat areas. By definition, the areas in question are critical habitat areas and warrant the prohibition of PWC. There are thousands of square miles of water within Alaska not designated as “critical habitat” were PWC can recreate. PWC operators have many options as to where to recreate and have plenty of choices as it is. Fox River and Kachemak Bay should remain off limits to them. As a resident of Homer, a biologist, and environmental conservationist, I am vehemently opposed to lifting the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. There are so many pressures on marine wildlife here already. I think it’s not intentionally add one more! Our critical habitat area is a precious resource that deserves continued protection. I am strongly opposed to removing the ban on personal watercraft (PWC) in Kachemak Bay. As a lifelong, born and raised Alaskan who lived in Anchorage, I need to set this line off limits to them. 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I am strongly opposed to removing the ban on personal watercraft (PWC) in Kachemak Bay. The Critical Habitat designation was based on many issues facing the Bay. I remember when there was a thriving crab and halibut businesses not to mention the reemergence of whole populations. The crab farm companies are also at risk. These people have worked hard over the years to eek out a living and PWC are not the answer. Kachemak Bay has a strong year round residential population. The introduction of PWC to this area will destroy the peaceful nature of the bay to those shore based. There is a large commercial and sport fishing presence as well. Can you imagine setting your seine net amongst a team of PWC users? How about the fish hatchery and personal use fishery in Little Tulka Bay?

I’ve been out in Prince William Sound and witnessed two groups of PWC users “have it up” doing big loops in Blackstone Bay. Although I’m sure it gives them a lot of pleasure I’m not quite sure what the point is. Their wake and the noise disturbance while setting crab pots and fishing is more than an annoyance. I can’t imagine trying to camp, kayak or enjoy the quiet solitude of the area with them present.

The bay is just now starting to rebound and the introduction of Personal Watercraft will have an immediate and negative impact.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration on NOT lifting the ban.
I am writing to you to voice my support of the dropping the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. This regulation was conceived when an affluent woman complained to then governor Tony Knowles about how a jet ski disturbed her morning at her vacation house in Halibut Cove. This turned into ramming a regulation down the publics throat before we truly had time to grasp what was going on. I believe that this proposed change is just another example of Governor Dunleavy attempting to be a Mini-Me to Donald Trump and reverse as many environmental protections as possible, even when there is no economic advantage to doing so. This is similar to attempting to remove the environmental observer from cruise ships.

We all know that the science is sound and that the critical habitat areas and use of Kachemak Bay will be negatively impacted by the use of even a few jet skis. The vast majority of Alaskan waters are open to PWC use, so there is no lack of recreational opportunities for the Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska. Those of us who live in the surrounding communities are already concerned about the negative impacts of so much boat traffic in the bay. Our recreational area is of much more value preserved as wild and quiet space, offering protection to many species of marine, terrestrial, and avian life. Please preserve the regulations limiting PWC in Kachemak Bay as they are now.

There are at least two other areas open to personal watercraft in Seward and Prince William Sound, so it is important to retain the current status of NO use of personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. I strongly oppose the ADFG proposal to rescind the restrictions on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Please follow the 2017 guidance and literature review memo of former ADFG scientists, which concluded their use will adversely affect wildlife and the visitor/tourist and resident experience. There is no legitimate reason to overturn the ban when the public is overwhelmingly against their use in this unique coastal location.

If regulations limiting or prohibiting were then or are now necessary, the science and reasoning needs to be laid out so the general public can review and understand it. Also, the people in the area who will be most impacted need to be involved. Not just a vocal few who feel they should be everybody's caretaker.

This is clearly an attempt by the governor to pander to a small special interest group with political ties to his party. This sort of disruption to sea animals, tourists, and marine workers than a couple of Jet Skis racing randomly around at top speed. The ban on personal watercraft use in Kachemak Bay was formulated based on scientific review conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and public comment as a part of the management plan for Kachemak Bay State Park and the Critical Habitat Area. If the regulations are to be changed, then the same public process and scientific review should be followed.

I strongly oppose the ADFG proposal to rescind the restrictions on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Please follow the 2017 guidance and literature review memo of former ADFG scientists, which concluded their use will adversely affect wildlife. I believe that this proposed change is just another example of Governor Dunleavy attempting to be a Mini-Me to Donald Trump and reverse as many environmental protections as possible, even when there is no economic advantage to doing so. This is similar to attempting to remove the environmental observer from cruise ships.

I support lifting the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. They should be treated the same as boats. The Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is a popular tourist (including Alaskans) destination for viewing and photographing wildlife. This is not a compatible use with personal watercraft.

I would like to get on record as opposing the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I have worked my entire adult life on the water in a variety of types of vessels. We all know that the primary use of Jet Skis is to race around in circles causing maximum disruption. Sure, they could be used for fishing or transportation, but that's not the way it works out. Most other people who are on the water for work or recreation tend to proceed in an orderly fashion from one point to another while under way. In my opinion, a tanker pulling into Kachemak Bay at five or so knots, and then anchoring up, causes much less disruption to sea animals, tourists, and marine workers than a couple of Jet Skis racing randomly around at top speed.

I would like to voice my support of the dropping the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. This regulation was conceived when an affluent woman complained to then governor Tony Knowles about how a jet ski disturbed her morning at her vacation house in Halibut Cove. This turned into ramming a regulation down the publics throat before we truly had time to grasp what was going on. I did not consider Tony Knowles an outsider and am still offended by his elitist actions. I strongly oppose the ADFG proposal to rescind the restrictions on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. There is no legitimate reason to overturn the ban when the public is overwhelmingly against their use in this unique coastal location.

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See message: Personal Watercraft in Ketchemak Bay/msg in PWC16

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Jon Fuglestad

I support the repeal of 5AAC 95.310 to allow the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.  PWCs should be allowed in
my name is Dan Rainwater, I live in Homer. I support pwc in the bay.

somerville@gci.net
juan p
Dan Rainwater
dan rainwater
Joseph Skrha
Joe Ray Skrha
Joseph Raymond Skrha and I am a resident of Kenai, AK and practice law throughout Alaska for the past 37
years. I am against any proposed changes to allow personal watercraft in the Fox River Flats or Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat
Area. For years I have seen whales frequent both of these areas. The reason we refer to Kachemak Bay as critical habitat area
should be obvious. It is critical habitat and as such jet skis, and similar vehicles should not be permitted in these areas at
all. I live on the mouth of the Kenai River. Jet skis are not permitted in this area either. Whales, Seals, otters, eagles and other
wildlife rely on Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay for their habitat. Jet skis would cause undue harm to these animals. We
who value these animals do not want to see these regulations changed especially for political reasons. I own two jet skis but
would never use them in an area so critical as these to referenced areas. Let us put the wildlife first for a change.

Dan Rainwater
dan rainwater
Joseph Skrha
John Orbistondo
Chris Reynolds
I am in support of keeping the current ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. The bay is special in its diversity of wildlife and
areas that allow skiffs and non-motorized vessels. Bottom line is equal access for all. There is no difference between watercraft ,
watercraft is watercraft. Accordingly. My interests are keeping Kachemak Bay PWC free.

John Orbistondo

I Support the repeal of S A C C 95.310 to allow the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. PWCs should be allowed in
areas that allow skiffs and non-motorized vessels.

Shawn Grimes

I am against any proposed changes to allow personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Personal watercraft are disruptive to the
diversity of wildlife in ways that are not true of other forms of nautical transportation, making restrictions appropriate to
protect the general public's interest. I

Shawn Grimes

I do not repeal the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay. Doing so cater to a very small number of residents in the state, and without
a broader debate that can’t happen in the timeframe you’ve given, can’t possibly reflect the will of the majority. While some
PWC operators may be respectful to others using the areas around them, and truly use them as transportation from point A to
point B, a good portion of PWC operators only ride for the thrill, and disregard the safety or enjoyment of those they are operating
around. If you need proof of this, consider Lake Tahoe, where you can’t drive a boat across the lake without a PWC rider
gaping your wake. Imagine you want to take a quiet paddle with your family in kayaks, and a group of PWC riders decide to
use that area as their personal play area. No more peace and quiet, and it wouldn’t allow my children to paddle near where
people are riding jetskis. Given that PWCs are allowed in nearly every other body of water in the state, why get bent out of
shape about not being allowed in Kachemak Bay?

Your personal activism for this cause makes you unsuitable to coordinate this decision. While I have no illusions that you will
take the honest and objective step to remove yourself, since you lobbied the governor for the privilege to pursue this personal
 crusade, I hope that you will at least take note of the different ways that people can enjoy the outdoors in Alaska. Some want
to be able to appreciate it for what it is, others only see it as their personal playground and pay no attention to others around
them, or the damage they may do. I look forward to seeing the public records of this process so we can see where your objectivity has slipped, and judge you accordingly. My interests are keeping Kachemak Bay PWC free.

Shawn Grimes

My name is Dan Rainwater. I live in Homer. I support pwc in the bay.

Shawn Grimes

I am against any proposed changes to allow personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Personal watercraft are disruptive to the
diversity of wildlife and deserves some extra protection.

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Sotomayor

I am in support of keeping the current ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. The bay is special in its diversity of wildlife and
deserves some extra protection.

Sotomayor
Alaska
I have listened to my co-worker and friend Gina Poths for over 20 years talk about riding her PWC in the ocean with her small group of friends who are extremely responsible and lovers of the outdoors. Not many people have the courage to go out in the open ocean on a small watercraft like they do. They have clean running 4 stroke engines just like other boats. They are careful and cautious about wildlife. They don’t spin brodies or act reckless. They want to explore and enjoy beautiful Kachemak Bay like thousands of others get to.

Please help her repeal the ban of personal watercraft from lovely Kachemak Bay, so that everyone has equal access to one of Alaska’s most beautiful places.

Kathleen Johnston
Kathleen Johnston
kjjohnston.moss@gmail.com

Bonnie Mastolier
Bonnie Mastolier
bmastolier@yahoo.com

John Dittrich
John Dittrich
jgd06665@gmail.com

Angela D. Wisniewski
Angela Wisniewski
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Catheryn Uson
Catheryn Uson
waterpursuad@cloud.com

Mike Folkerts
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Mandy Migura
mandy@broadconservation.com

Homer City Council, Deputy City Clerk
Krause, Bobbie Renee
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491 E. Pioneer Avenue
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Homer City Council, Deputy City Clerk
Krause, Bobbie Renee
(bkrause@ci.homer.ak.us)
City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
See message: City of Homer Resolution 10-0314.leg in PWC17

See the below section in the recent mailing of the What’s Up newsletter, and I am interested in commenting on the proposed repeal. However, I do not see any information about the proper procedure for submitting comments. I am against removing existing protections in the critical habitat area, and am concerned about new adverse effects to wildlife in the protected area should the ban be repealed. I appreciate additional information on where/how to submit formal public comments.
It has recently come to my attention that you and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game intend to overturn the ban on jetskis and other personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area.

I find this appalling, not only because your constituents have time and again expressed support for the ban, and not only because scientists have confirmed the ban’s import, but most importantly because of the vulnerable and precious nature of the animals and plant life that survive in Kachemak Bay. It seems the height of ignorance, selfishness, pettiness, and greed to endanger and disrupt these beings and ignore the science for what I can only assume is your personal financial gain.

I worked as a kayak guide in Kachemak Bay in the summers of 2017 and 2018. In my time there I learned a lot about how vulnerable the wildlife already is in this beautiful part of the globe. From oil spills to rising ocean temperatures, to pollution and overfishing, the natural resources and wildlife in the Bay has already been threatened and damaged. Do you really want your legacy to be the further endangerment and disruption of these precious species?

I urge you to listen to the science, to the people who have spoken time and again, and to your own conscience to reconsider. Do not overturn the ban on jetskis and personal watercraft use in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area.

I just wanted to state my extreme opposition to the proposed rollback on the ban on personal watercraft in the Kachemak Bay area. This is EXTREMELY shortsighted and not to mention the timing of the comment period (less than 1 month and during the holiday season, no less) seems designed to let this rollback slide under the radar of most conservation-minded organizations.

There have been previous attempts to rollback the ban in 2011 and 2016 that both failed. Why? Because this area is of INCREDIBLE importance to not just marine life but birds that use it as well. There are a number of Important Bird Areas and marine mammal important areas in and around Kachemak Bay. If you look at the map the whole area is completely covered. So many whales, otters, and seabirds come to Kachemak Bay to birth and raise their young. Letting personal watercraft tear through such a delicate ecosystem would be incredibly detrimental to their survival.

Please do NOT roll back the ban. We need it to keep protecting this valuable area which, in turn, will help protect all the wildlife that continue to use it.

I am writing to express my support for the jetski ban in Katchemak Bay.

Although I reside in the lower 48, I spent 4 weeks in the Bay exploring by sea kayak. It was an unparalleled experience, and one that would have been significantly impaired by the presence of jetskis. I did not keep track of what I spent on meals, groceries or kayak rentals - but it probably amounted to a few thousand dollars in the local economy. I hope that you understand the impact that allowing jetskis will have not only on the local wildlife, but on the experience of those of us who visit for the opportunity to enjoy the quiet coves and islands. Jetskis will have a detrimental impact upon those of us who choose to spend our money on quieter forms of enjoyment and who come for the abundance of wildlife.

Life and Sara Sundsten support to repeal the ban on PWC.

Alaska’s State Constitution makes it clear, Article 8, Section 3. Common Use; “... waters are reserved to the people for common use”

Regulated use of PWC in Kachemak Bay allows the public to recreate on fairly safe nearshore waters that are accessible to many Alaskans who live in Alaska for the opportunities provided to them on public lands and waters. There is no justification for local residents to not share the public lands/waters near their place of residence with fellow Alaskans.

Yet again some small but noisy group is trying to impose their will on the rest of us. Personal watercraft are a low cost alternative to larger less fuel efficient, and far less environmentally friendly larger boats. They are used for fishing, and hunting both commercial and personal use. As well as recreational use. Lets not let the personal prejudices of a few restrict the rest of us.

Once again, it appears some small but noisy group is trying to impose their will on the rest of us.

Personal watercraft are a low cost alternative to larger less fuel efficient, and far less environmentally friendly larger boats. They are used for fishing, and hunting both commercial and personal use. As well as recreational use. Lets not let the personal prejudices of a few restrict the rest of us.

I urge you to keep Kachemak Bay as a protected area for bird and marine mammals, and a quiet place for its human citizens.

Please help us keep Kachemak Bay as a protected area for bird and marine mammals, and a quiet place for its human citizens.

Thank you Mary Finch.
We are opposed to opening Kachemak Bay and the Critical Habitat Area enclosed within the Bay to Personal Watercraft (jet-skis). We live in Homer and also own a summer home in Little Tutka Bay on the south shore of Kachemak Bay. Besides the fact that near shore use of these crafts is clearly detrimental to nesting birds and marine wildlife, these crafts are more like motorcross bikes than traditional watercraft. They have no place in the environment of Kachemak Bay, and the state parks on the south shore.

As a personal anecdote, we had relatives visit our Little Tutka Bay cabin this past summer and every member was astonished and moved by the peace and serenity of the area. "We didn't know a place like this existed," they all told us. That wouldn't be the case if jet-skis are allowed in the Bay.

Thank you in advance for seriously considering to continue banning these crafts in Kachemak Bay.

Anne Marie Holen
17 July 2017
Salida, Colorado

I have recently learned of the new effort to change the rules regarding use of personal water craft (jet-skis) in Kachemak Bay. I can’t believe we are having this debate all over again. The reasons for prohibiting jet skis in years past still apply, more than ever.

I lived in Alaska from 1977-2012, half of that time in Homer. Now I return to Homer every other year for an extended period. Besides visiting old friends and enjoying the views of the bay and mountains, I am drawn to Kachemak Bay again and again to go kayaking. Kayaking is quiet; it doesn’t throw up a wake; it doesn’t threaten wildlife; and it doesn’t impact other people who are enjoying themselves at cabins, beaches, and on other watercraft.

Once upon a time I worked in the City Manager’s office in Homer. I had a quote taped to my computer which read, “No place in the world these days stays special by accident.” Kachemak Bay is a very special place but it is not impervious to damage. Jet skis would inflict enormous damage. I urge you with all my heart to work to protect Kachemak Bay and keep the jet ski ban in place.

Steve Glasman
17 July 2017
Homer

As a 31 year Homer resident, you can put me down for NO JET SKIS in Kachemak Bay.

Cook Inletkeeper, Bob Shavelson
17 July 2017
3734 Ben Walters Lane
Homer, AK 99603

I am writing to inform you of my strong opposition to the repeal of the Jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. It was put in place 20 years ago after extensive research, and nothing has changed!

- All other Alaskan marine waters are open to PWCs (jet ski type speed machines that go 60 to 80 miles an hour and are not bo bias)!
- Kachemak Bay is a critical habitat and a giant nursery. The only place in Alaskan coastal waters where breeding seabirds, marine mammals such as whales, otters and seals, as well as kelp beds are protected from being harassed and threatened by PWCs, and people seeking a quiet experience in nature can get away from jet ski activity
- There is no plan nor funding to enforce, monitor or regulate Jet ski activity

As someone who has spent a lot of time in this area I can attest to its beauty and the necessity of ensuring its protection. There are few places like this in the world that still exist. Let’s not waste them.

Ruth Dickerson
17 July 2017
Homer

Subject: I can’t believe it!

Attempting to force noisy, polluting, environmentally hazardous personal watercraft upon us!!

As a 40 year resident of Homer who has volunteered countless hours to helping keep this a pristine, peaceful, healthy community AND one who lives in Kayak in Kachemak Bay, I beg you to not just ignore all the science facts presented previously AND to please listen to the opinions of the local people who are invested in this community that we treasure and love.

There are hundreds and hundreds of miles of coastline where jet skis can go do their thing – please respect the uniqueness of Kachemak Bay, it’s rich marine life, and it’s cultural richness.

Come, take a peaceful kayak tour and savor the beauty and let yourself become aware of what is worth preserving. We will all be so very grateful.
I am in support of lifting the Personal Water Craft ban in Kachemak Bay.

I urge you to make every effort possible to repeal the ludicrous restrictions on jet boats on Kachemak Bay.

Please do not allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Critical habitat is more important than speed. Thank you.

I would like to introduce another element of danger into the pool. I have observed jet skis in other waters. Their speeds and behavior are not at all in keeping with the current operations of water craft in Kachemak Bay.

I am opposed to jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Nothing has changed.

I am writing to let you know that I oppose the use of jet skis on Kachemak Bay. Although I live in Willow, I've been to Homer at least thirty times over the years, and I just don't think this is a good idea. That bay is busy as it is, and allowing jet skis would only lead to catastrophic damages done. Where will we draw the line? When the oil rigs come into the bay?

I think this proposal to allow jet skis in Kachemak Bay is ridiculous, insidious and shows you to be of low moral character. This is simply a ploy to systematically break down the protections we have on the bay.

I am in support of lifting the Personal Water Craft ban in Kachemak Bay.

Lift the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay, it's pointless and outdated. I grew up in Homer, AK and also spent summers in Seward, AK. I saw no reason to ban jet skis in the bay. They are no different from a jet ski or a small boat and or any other watercraft.

I will not comment further as I am aware that you wanted yay or nay.

This is a really dumb proposal. Is the State of Alaska now working for the Personal Watercraft Industry? Allowing jet skis in the bay will benefit the tourism industry in Homer by allowing jet ski tours, rentals and more businesses to open and attract more people to Homer.

For the wanton abuse that jet skis present. Governor Dunleavy has absolutely no scientific support, and is once again showing his abuse of power by lifting this ban. I implore you to reverse this decision to keep our bay’s pristine environment as it should be. Free of jet ski noise and thrill raft abuse out of this critical habitat that already has enough stress upon it due to climate change and ocean acidification.

I oppose the use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Nothing has changed.

I urge you to make every effort possible to repeal the ludicrous restrictions on jet boats on Kachemak Bay.

I see no reason to ban Jet skis in the bay. They are no different from a Jet ski or Bristol Bay boat and or any other watercraft.

I support the ban on jet ski’s in Kachemak Bay. Nothing has changed.

I am opposed to jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Nothing has changed.

I urge you to make every effort possible to repeal the ludicrous restrictions on jet boats on Kachemak Bay.
Carol Miller  
<skiffgarden@hotmail.com>  
Halibut Cove  
We have a home in Halibut Cove, just across the Bay from Homer. Our home happens to be on the water, and if jet skiers “play” there, it would be like someone playing in your front yard.

Firstly, it is a critical habitat and we feel that these jet skis would adversely impact our local Orca and Humpback whale populations. Not to mention the sea Otters and birds. Especially if they are allowed to approach Gull Island which is a rookery for many species of birds. The noise from these machines could wreak havoc with nesting. Even boats are restricted as to how near the island they may approach.

Second, We have many friends who are seine fisherman and I can only imagine what damage a clueless jet skier could cause to nets and gear. Also, the set-net sites could be destroyed by unknowing joy riders.

Lastly, we cross the bay about once a week, in our open skiff, and sport fish as well during the summer and fall. Jet skis, I feel, could affect our personal safety. And though I don’t personally use a Kayak, I have many friends that do and I think that might be dangerous as well.

Please work to prevent allowing these disruptive machines on the Bay.

Shawna Halvorsen  
<shawnaboz@yahoo.com>  
We do not want jet skis in the Kachemak Bay area.

Chuck Jay  
<chuck.jay@joflank.com>  
NO jet skis in K Bay!

Wendy Todd  
<wendy.todd78@hotmai...com>  
I would like to see the jet ski ban lifted and then allowed again in the bay. Before the ban, my husband and I used them to go fishing for salmon and exploring the area to allow our access to recreation. When they were banned, we began spending summers outside of Alaska where we can use our jet ski.

Thank you for the work to lift the ban and again allow us the same access to the waters as others.

Amy Bollenbach  
<amybollenbach@gmail.com>  
PO Box 3468, Homer AK 99603  
1. Why was the public only given 30 days to comment around Christmas time? 90 days would be more convenient for the public.

2. Jet skis are not safe for wildlife, otters, fish, and whales, etc.

3. Jet skis will cause erosion on many properties.

4. It is totally incorrect when the jet ski industry says that a 14’ jet ski and a 14’ foot skiff have the same impact. Of course the jet ski has greater impact to frighten wildlife and erode the shoreline.

5. Jet skis will destroy much of the pleasant natural aspect of Kachemak Bay, including recreational fishing, shellfish operations, and small boat recreational activities.

6. 99% of all Alaskan waters are open to jet-ski use. Why should Kachemak Bay be included?

7. I and many people in Homer live overlooking Kachemak Bay. Jet skis would definitely destroy the quiet aspect of many current beach activities such as looking out at the sea, recreational fishing, walking along the beach, and rowing small boats and kayaks.

Steve Kirkland  
<coltonlayton@gmail.com>  
Ogden, UT  
I had the great pleasure of visiting your state this past summer. I hiked in Girdwood, camped near Homer and kayaked beautiful Kachemak Bay. It was a wonderful vacation.

It is with distress that I have come to hear that the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay is under threat of repeal. I can only imagine how my own experience there would have been seriously tainted if jet skis were whining around while I explored the sea life. Suffice it to say that should the ban be lifted I will not seek to relive the magical time I spent on the water there, as much as I'd like to, and will take my tourism money somewhere more thoughtful of the environment.

Mike Shadley  
<mike.shadley@anchorriver...com>  
I was lucky enough to have spent 20 years as a Kachemak Bay writer and photographer and I have seen for myself the destruction caused by personal watercraft. I have witnessed the near destruction of wildlife populations, erosion of public lands and unsafe boating conditions.

I am a strong proponent of protecting Alaska’s waterways and hold the governor and the state of Alaska responsible for maintaining a clean, healthy environment. I respectfully urge you to support the ban on watercraft within Kachemak Bay and to maintain the standards of governance that make Alaska a leader in environmental protection.

Ken Dixon  
<ken.dixon@seaway.net>  
Homer  
See message: Jet skis on Kachemak Bay (10).msg in PWC17

Ann Dixon  
<ann@dixonr@gmail.com>  
Homer  
We have a home in Homer from late May until early December. We are strongly opposed to allowing Personal Watercraft on Kachemak Bay. We are strongly opposed to allowing Personal Watercraft on Kachemak Bay. Our home happens to be on the water, and if jet skiers “play” there, it would be like someone playing in your front yard.

Firstly, it is a critical habitat and we feel that these jet skis would adversely impact our local Orca and Humpback whale populations. Not to mention the sea Otters and birds. Especially if they are allowed to approach Gull Island which is a rookery for many species of birds. The noise from these machines could wreak havoc with nesting. Even boats are restricted as to how near the island they may approach.

Second, We have many friends who are seine fisherman and I can only imagine what damage a clueless jet skier could cause to nets and gear. Also, the set-net sites could be destroyed by unknowing joy riders.

Lastly, we cross the bay about once a week, in our open skiff, and sport fish as well during the summer and fall. Jet skis, I feel, could affect our personal safety. And though I don’t personally use a Kayak, I have many friends that do and I think that might be dangerous as well.

Please work to prevent allowing these disruptive machines on the Bay.

See message: Jet skis on Kachemak Bay (10).msg in PWC17

Please work to prevent allowing these disruptive machines on the Bay.

Please work to prevent allowing these disruptive machines on the Bay.

Please work to prevent allowing these disruptive machines on the Bay.

Please work to prevent allowing these disruptive machines on the Bay.
Rita Heidkamp  
USA <srheid@usa.net>  
I understand ADF&G is considering the repeal of ban of Personal Water Craft in Kachemak Bay (5 AAC 95.310). Thank you for looking into this matter. Per the Alaska Constitution, Alaska waters are for use by all Alaskans. We should not pick and choose which uses are allowed and which are not. We are all required to stay clear of the whales - regardless of our mode of transportation. None of us are allowed to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence. We have plenty of laws to regulate the "bad apples" - regardless of type of craft. It is time to let responsible PWC owners back in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat areas.

Scott Heidorn  
<srheid@usa.net>  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed repeal of the ban of Personal Water Craft in Kachemak Bay/Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. The Alaska Constitution is clear that Alaska's resources are reserved for the people. We should not discriminate based on mode of transportation. I think the recent case of the Supreme Court allowing hovercraft use is evidence of that. I know the situations are different, but the principle is the same; All Alaskans should have access to the land and water resources.

John D. "Jack" Frost  
<jayfak@gmail.com>  
I am opposed to the repeal of the ban on use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. In fact, I am opposed to the use of personal watercraft (jet skis and like powered watercraft) on any of the public waters of the State of Alaska. Please understand that I am a 45 year resident of Alaska and I hunt, fish and fly. I am generally NOT a "lock up all access environmentalist". I am in favor of personal watercraft such as canoes, kayaks and even paddleboards. However Motorized Personal Watercraft (jet skis) have several very undesirable qualities:

- They are disruption of wildlife.
- They create increased shoreline erosion.
- They are disruption of the peace and serenity of the wilderness for all other users.
- They provide enjoyment for only the individaul rider while interfering with the enjoyment of Alaska's wild lands and waters for all other users.
- They are potential safety hazards because the rider use them in an unpredictable way with out looking out for other boats or aircraft.
- The wake they create may be dangerous for non-motorized personal watercraft such as canoes, kayaks and paddleboards

I feel certain that you have heard all of this before. But I wanted to add my opinion.

Brita Mjos  
<britarm@hotmail.com>  
See message: Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area Comments/msg in PWC17

Brian Okonek, President Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition  
P.O. Box 202592  
Anchorage, AK 99676  
See message: Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area Jet ski proposal/msg in PWC17

Lori Stephens  
<happydog15@earthlink.net>  
As a Homer resident and longtime Alaskan, the issue of personal watercraft being allowed at Kachemak Bay is a vitally important one to me. Over and over again, a majority of Alaskans have voiced their opposition. And now it looks like the governor is set on ignoring this.

Government officials are the SERVANTS of the constituents of Alaska. Yet they are behaving like dictators to benefit themselves and/or the minority with greedy interests.

Please do what the law, and perhaps your conscience, tells you to do and reject this unethical move by the Dunleavy administration.

It matters and the silent majority is watching.

Philip Brudie  
<plbrudie@yahoo.com>  
P O Box 111  
Homer Ak 99603  
I am a long time resident of the Kachemak Bay drainage. I am writing to register my support of keeping the ban on jet skis in effect. I'll be happy to discuss my reason but understand you are wanting yes or no's. I'm a solid no.

Robert Archibald  
Chair, Kachemak Bay State Park Citizens Advisory Board  
See message: Kachemak Bay Personal Water Craft Regulation Repeal msg in PWC17

Robert Archibald  
<robert.a.archibald@state.ak.us>  
At a recent resident and stakeholder meeting, the issue of personal watercraft being allowed at Kachemak Bay is a vitally important one to me. Over and over again, a majority of Alaskans have voiced their opposition. And now it looks like the governor is set on ignoring this.

Government officials are the SERVANTS of the constituents of Alaska. Yet they are behaving like dictators to benefit themselves and/or the minority with greedy interests.

Please do what the law, and perhaps your conscience, tells you to do and reject this unethical move by the Dunleavy administration.

It matters and the silent majority is watching.
Please repeal the ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay waters,…for obvious reasons.

All of my long time Alaskan family and friends support a repeal but most will not take the time to tell you Sir.

Steve Friend
stevefriend011@yahoo.com
Anchor Point

My name is Steve, I live in Anchor Point and have a boat in Homer Harbor.

As someone who has lived outside where PWCs are in wide use I can say you totally agree with maintaining the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay. Yes they are fun (don’t own but have ridden) but it’s nice to have an area where they are not allowed. Both for quiet and safety.

People claim they are no different than regular boats but with speed, maneuverability and design, they are built for play. You just have to go to any lake or river outside to see what people do on these machines; wake jumping, racing and many other things.

The people asking for the repeal also say that some people in regular boats harass wildlife, which is true, but the PWCs are just another problem as they have such quick response and maneuverability. And there is not enough patrols to do much about current harassment and the PWCs will be near impossible to monitor.

The people asking to lift the ban have the whole rest of the state to play. Let’s keep Kachemak Bay a place where wildlife and people are free from the effects of PWC use.

Please remember all the other votes and assessments that have supported the current ban over the proceeding years and keep the ban in place.

Karen Gordon
kgordon@mosquitonet.com

This is Karen Gordon from Fairbanks, a member of the Laundry House Gang. I’m writing to ask that whatever influence you can exert to repeal the restriction on personal watercraft (PWCs) in Kachemak Bay be employed.

No scientific data establishes the notion that PWCs are more detrimental to the critical marine habitat of Kachemak Bay than the 5,000 plus residents living in the watershed, other marine vessels, the commercial fisheries fleet, the local recreational charter fleet, or the Bradley Lake hydro facility at the Kachemak Bay head waters.

Some would have us believe that the entire Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is so tender that it cannot abide whatever negative effects operation of PWCs would cause while motorized boats, barges, and ferries can ply these waters in vastly larger numbers with environmental impunity, so they get a pass. What folly is this? How can a PWC be as or more harmful than a ferry? If the habitat in Kachemak Bay is so critical, why did the State ban the smallest and fewest in number of watercraft types and not the larger ones?

This restriction must be repealed because it is illogical, smacks of a personal vendetta against PWCs, and totally selects a class of user that results in failure to provide for Constitutionally mandated maximal use. Clearly this is a discriminatory closure not based on facts or logic.

Can’t we also thank John Sturgeon for assuring freedom to operate on navigable waters without restriction to watercraft type? And finally, Article 8, Section 1 of the Constitution says: “It is the policy of the State to make its resources available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.”

Thanks much for your efforts to repeal this silly restriction.

Susan Downes-Borko
campserenity@myfairpoint.net

Seward, AK

Alaskans have strongly supported keeping jetskis out of Kachemak Bay in the past. With 99% of Alaskan waters open to PW, Kachemak Bay needs to stay closed to them. There is just too much at stake here, and jetskis are incompatible with the legislature’s own description for the area.

Allowing for public comment and the democratic process itself are not being respected if a Governor is allowed to pre-determine a decision based on who is greasing the wheels.

Please keep the jet ski ban intact.

Sandy Powell
sandypowell@mindspring.com

I support the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay that has been in place since 2001. The Kachemak Bay is a critical habitat area for birds, marine life, and jet skis have a much higher impact on the shallow waters of the bay. The Bay can be accessed by other watercraft that do not have such harsh impacts on the habitat. Additionally, there are plenty of alternative waters for jet skis throughout the state of Alaska.

Please keep the jet ski ban intact.
Doug Inglis
doug.inglis64@gmail.com
Homer
I am a member of the Snomads ORRV Club in Homer Alaska, a 355 Member Organization dedicated to ensuring responsible access to the Alaskan Backcountry, and over/through the waters. I am also a Homer area resident and am writing in support of the repeal of the administrative codes (05AAC95.310, 11AAC20.115 and 11AAC20.215) on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area. Finally, an administration that is not prejudiced and understands access.

Any conservation concerns are already addressed in regulations that apply to all boats which includes personal watercraft, airboats etc. Separate regulations do not need to be addressed regarding each individual type of watercraft.

Because no one can find valid current scientific studies regarding boats especially personal watercraft on the impact to fish, wildlife and other biological resources the members of Cook Inlet Keeper have just decided to label personal watercraft as thrill craft portraying the owners/operators as some kind of renegade. This is simply an equal access issue where all Alaskans have the right to use their vessel in the state’s waters, especially an area that encompasses more than 200,000 acres and includes the Alaska Marine Highway. The state simply doesn’t have the right to ban anyone from traveling on the Alaska Marine Highway. Bob Shavelson of Cook Inlet Keeper makes it sound like he and other business and property owners in the Kenai peninsula area own the bay, they don’t, it belongs to all the people and the Dunleavy administration understands that and that is why I believe the ban will be repealed.

Thank you, Rick Green, for stepping up to the plate and taking this first very important step to right a wrong done long ago by administrations who didn’t believe in equal access.

Dennis C. Lees
dennislees@cox.net
1075 Urania Ave.
Leucadia, CA 92024

See message: Maintain the current ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay.msg in PWC17

Wendy Wayne
lewistownmontana@yahoo.com
Homer
I am opposed to the rule change for personal watercraft on Kachemak Bay. I’m a Homer resident. I enjoy sharing the bay with fellow Alaskans.

Part of what makes Alaska great is that we take care of our lands, our fish and wildlife. Personal watercraft are not a good fit for the unique character of Kachemak Bay. Its abundant fish and wildlife make it uniquely vulnerable to personal watercraft that are specifically designed for tight steering and joy riding. It is important to restrict personal watercraft not because jet skis are so bad but because Kachemak Bay is so good.

Kammi Matson
ikammi@gmail.com
I oppose the use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Opening it up to jet skiing just because people don’t want their “rights infringed on” is not a good enough reason. I have lived in Homer for the past 20 years, and love recreating on the bay. However, I know that jet skis will be a real danger to the tourists who use them—not understanding the dangers of these waters, as well as the animals that will undoubtedly be harassed (either intentionally or accidentally) by people on them.

Grace Lee
grace.lee@alaska.com
Homer
To setting in silence hopes that there will be NO JET SKIS allowed in Kachemak Bay. Where the rest of the world gives in to capitalist greed, Let Kachemak Bay be preserved in its wildness and beauty.

Michael Munroe
dmichael@ymail.com
Homer, AK
No! Do not repeal the existing ban. Do not allow PWC in Kachemak Bay.

Frederick Dickerson
frederickdickerson@gmail.com
As a life long Homer resident I am against personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay and the hunting of sea otters from them.
Marcia Kuszmaul
Owner
Lanternly Lodge
President
Kachemak Bay Fish & Game Association
Homer, Alaska
See message: OPPOSITION TO THE REPEAL ON 05AAC.95.310, 11AAC20.115 AND 11AAC20.215.msg in PWC17

I would like to go on record urging you to lift the ban on personal water craft in Kachemak Bay. I strongly feel that the public has a right to access public lands and waters. I believe you are familiar with other reasons for lifting the ban as I feel there is no need to repeat them. Thank you.

Johnathon Guest
P.O. Box 792
Homer, AK 99603
You have kept in abeyance Kachemak Bay for 20 years and are extending you today to repeal the 11AAC's. Of the action codes banning the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. The waters of Alaska in general and K Bay in particular should be open for the use and enjoyment of Alaskans, not a select few who promote an agenda that is not supported by science. This is simply an equal access issue where all Alaskans have the right to use their vessels in the state's waters. Thank you for supporting the repeal of the ban.

Janice A. Burke
P.O. Box 108
Homer, AK 99605
I visited Alaska for the first time, I visited multiple areas of the state and the time I spent on and near the Kachemak Bay were by far the most impressive time that I spent. I have talked to many others about the wildlife I saw in the bay and the unique aspect that the elevation of set's shore's provide to create the wonderfully rich natural water environment and quiet. The approach of banning this type of activity has a research base which many others have conveyed to you. As I see it people come to Alaska to view nature in its natural state. As over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to PVC's it make sense that the tourism industry would be hurt dropping the ban as people can get that type of experience many places in Alaska.

Please maintain the ban on PVC's in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area.

Jan and Laurie Gentle
Janiece Gentle
agentlaurie@gmail.com
My husband and I live in Homer and feel that allowing jet skis in the area would irreparably harm the natural water and landscape of Kachemak Bay.

Realizing that jet skis are allowed in nearly every other body of water, please know this is not necessary and not wanted. Do you know how much we treasure our land and water? EVERY Homer fourth grader is trained in our lands, forests and waters, and importantly to protect these natural assets for future generations.

WE ACTUALLY TRAIN OUR OWN FUTURE CONSERVATIONISTS!!!

EVERY Homer fourth grader is trained in our lands, forests and waters, and importantly to protect these natural assets for future generations.

Please understand that we do not want jet skis and similar anywhere near Kachemak Bay.

Michelle Waclawski
mwc11@gmail.com
I wanted to express my 'no' vote to removing the JetSki ban on Kachemak Bay. The noise, speed, increased water and boat ramp traffic, as well as additional pollution are not things to take lightly in a critical habitat area. JetSkis don't seem to fit the landscape of Kachemak Bay.

Please maintain the ban on PVC's in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area.

Bill Quantick
BQ Box 1051
Palmer-Alaska 99645
PVC's are no threat to Alaska waters and this ban on them is a waste of money and time.

Mack Wood
mwood93@hotmail.com
I am reaching out to you to inform you, as an Alaskan resident, I object to the ban of personal watercraft in the Kachemak bay. I believe that these waterways should be open to use for individuals by any means that the individual has to utilize the water and surrounding areas. As access to the features that Alaska has to offer is already difficult please do not make more legislation that is going to hinder the use and benefits of Alaskans natural resources for its residents.

Rich Geldart
geldart@alaska.com
I would like to go on record in support of repealing the personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay. There are no horsepower limits, engine type specifications, or speed limits for any of the other thousands of vessels allowed to utilize the entire region east of the Pogi Point to Anchor Point line. I don't see how it is fair to restrict use of one subset of vessel. Kayaking and sight seeing companies located on the south shore of the bay are complaining that it MAY impact their business, but what about all of the economic development that it might spur in the creation of new tourism attractions?

Gay Fetterhoff
GayFetterhoff@homerpioneerinn.com
I have lived in Homer since 1991, own and operate a small B&B with my 24th tourist season just around the corner, and I have raised three sons who all reside in Alaska. I have no intention of moving from Homer. Please hear me, that I've lived on Kachemak Bay a very long time and I have no problem allowing personal watercraft use in this area. I urge you to repeal 5 AAC 95.310. Thank you.

Andy Zajac
zajac@mtaonline.net
I have been a resident of Homer for 20 years and I am contacting you today to support the REPEAL of the admin codes banning the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. The waters of Alaska in general and K Bay in particular should be open for the use and enjoyment of Alaskans, not a select few who promote an agenda that is not supported by science. This is simply an equal access issue where all Alaskans have the right to use their vessels in the state's waters. Thank you for supporting the repeal of the ban.

Andrew R Zajac
zajac@mtaonline.net
Please understand that we do not want jet skis and similar anywhere near Kachemak Bay.
As owners of the Mat-Su Outdoorsman Show, we would like to express our support to the effort to lift the ban of personal watercraft use in Kachemak Bay. We see no evidence to suggest that the use of PWCs in the bay is detrimental to coastal lands, waters, or wildlife. These waters are publicly owned, and should be available to all Alaskans for responsible public recreation.

Gregory Mccullough
Gregory Mccullough <mcculloughgreg68@gmail.com>
Homer, Ak
The decision to ban PWCs from Kachemak Bay was totally political, there was no scientific basis. The ban is unfair to the public sector. I ask your consideration in repealing this travesty.

Mark Gordon
Mark Gordon <mkgordy@alaska.net>
Homer, Ak
The use of personal watercraft in the bay would help cut the fuel usage for people wanting to make a quick trip to China Poot for instance. I currently use a 22 for with twin 70 two strokes. A PWC would cut the fuel use in half for me and for other that think this a better option. I would have the requirements for the PWC in Kachemak Bay to be four stroke engines since that are a "cleaner" option.

Keith Mantey, GM
Keith Mantey <manteyk@verizon.net>
14865 Sterling Hwy (Milepost 52) PO Box 769
Cooper Landing AK 99572-0769
Please repeal the ban on PWC on the Kenai Peninsula. I don’t see why they are banned on Kenai Lake what less the bay. I really don’t think they would cause any harm... any more so than boats that are already on the lake. Seems very weak; no real reason other than selfishness. THD are legally boats and that’s just plain crazy that they are not legal.

Sean Eastham <gunbit@acsalaska.net>
I'm writing to ask you to repeal the personal watercraft ban in Homer. I was one if the original members who was against the ban and gathered over 2000 signatures on a petition against it. This is not about emotion, but about equal access in public waters. There were no studies done and watercraft produce less emissions and wake than most boats in Homer. Conservation concerns are already addressed by current regulations which apply to all boats in Alaska. Lache makes bay belongs to all Alaskans, not just a few locals who want to ban jet skis because they just don’t like them. I know you will do the right thing and help repeal this bogus ban.
Jeff Fair
<fairwinds@briloon.org>
PO Box 2947
Palmer, AK 99645

Scot P
<akbearak@yahoo.com>
Hey Rick,
Thank you. PWC’s should be allowed in K-Bay, but in the future when you send a mass email, could you bcc everyone so you’re not giving everyone all the email addresses?
Thanks,
-Scot

Rhema Smith
<akarea83@gmail.com>
Po Box 15224
Fritz Creek AK 99603

Bruce Turkington
<bruceturkington@yahoo.com>
Bruce Turkington

Rick Green
Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
907-267-1128
<rick.green@alaska.gov>
On Dec 19, 2019, at 2:59 PM, Green, Rick E (DFG) <rick.green@alaska.gov> wrote:
Dear interested parties,
Attached please find the Public Notice, Supplemental Public Notice and Public Notice Additional Information related to proposed changes to 5 AAC 95.310.
Thank you,
Rick Green
Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
907-267-1128
<Public Notice 5AAC 95.310.pdf>
<Supplemental Public Notice 5 AAC 95.310.pdf>
<5 AAC 95.310 Public Notice Additional Information signed.pdf>
The effects of jet skis in Kachemak Bay was thoroughly discussed in 2001 and people were overwhelmingly opposed. The Governor, for reasons that are not well thought out, has forced ADFG to revisit this topic yet again, wasting time, money, and everybody’s attention.

There are some really good alternatives to use personal watercraft in the 90 plus percent of the waters of Alaska without a ban, many of them on or near the road system. Kachemak Bay has a slower pace that attracts a different type of tourists and it’s kind of dumb to drive them away. The ban has been popular for many years.

ADFG and the Governor should pick their fights, and rather than fighting this one, why not promote jet ski usage in Whitier, Valdez, Juneau, or some other place acceptable to the tourist industry.

Repeal the PWC Ban in Kachemak Bay.

As a partner of some 35 years in one of Homer’s primary accounting and consulting businesses, I can see nothing but harm coming from appealing the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. A substantial portion of Homer’s income comes from tourists—they eat in the restaurants, drink in the bars, rent rooms in the B & B’s, and, especially, take charters on Kachemak Bay to fish and look at the wildlife, the otters, whales, sea birds, and to enjoy the scenery and the mostly undisturbed beauty of mountains and ocean. What they specifically do not come to do is to watch and listen to personal watercraft.

Insofar as these watercraft intrude on our tourists enjoyment of nature, our tourists will no longer be ours—they will go elsewhere where they can experience coastal Alaska free of intrusion by jet skis. They have no place on Kachemak Bay. It is hardly a valid argument that jet ski enthusiasts need Kachemak Bay for recreation—almost all of coastal is available for their activities, including Prince William Sound and most of the water surrounding the Kenai Peninsula. Please do not repeal the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

I am very much for repealing the current ban on PWCs in the Kachemak Bay. I am quite certain that you have been inundated with various opinions, so I will spare you any further correspondence.

Please support the repeal of the ban on personal watercraft (PWC) in Kachemak Bay.

I would like to pass on my support for the ADFG’s proposal to lift the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay and the Fox River Flats. All other watercraft’s are allowed so I don’t see the harm in allowing jet ski’s. Thanks you for taking this issue on and for putting some common sense back into the management of State lands.

Repeal the ban of personal watercraft from the 220,000 acres of kachemak bay. This ban was put in place erroneously almost 20 years ago with the stroke of a pen. Common sense says thousands of users have been kept from these waters by a small wealthy minority. Any concerns about conservation are currently addressed in regulations that apply to all boats/watercraft including personal watercraft. Apply common sense in this case for ALL ALASKANS!

I am in complete support of the repeal on the three administrative codes that ban pwc from Kachemak Bay. A pwc is a boat and the ban should never have been put in place to begin with. Kachemak Bay is for all Alaskans, not just those that live nearby.

Please repeal the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay !

There is no sound reason to ban one type of watercraft in this region. It should be repealed so Alaskans can utilize this Bay with what ever watercraft they have.

Modern PWC’s are very clean and quite compared to older ones. They pose less environmental risk than nearly any boat. Limits to small groups of Alaskan’s with little to no basis is bad business. Politicians need to heed the voters.

Please repeal the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay !

There is no sense reason to ban one type of watercraft in this region. It should be repealed so Alaskans can utilize this Bay with what ever watercraft they have.

Modern PWC’s are very clean and quite compared to older ones. They pose less environmental risk than nearly any boat. Limits to small groups of Alaskan’s with little to no basis is bad business. Politicians need to heed the voters.

I am in complete support of the repeal on the three administrative codes that ban pwc from Kachemak Bay. A pwc is a boat and the ban should never have been put in place to begin with. Kachemak Bay is for all Alaskans, not just those that live nearby.
We are writing you in regards to the ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay.

We feel this ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay is unfair to the people of Kachemak Bay and all Alaskans. People that live there and rely on PWC for their means of transportation are being targeted unfairly just because “they sit on and not in a boat”.

We ask that you NOT support the ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay.

We strongly oppose repealing regulations on personal watercraft (PWC) in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Alaskans fought a lengthy and heated battle in 2001 to remove PWCs. All the objections to PWCs except one (2-cycle v 4-cycle engine) remain. They pose a threat to marine wildlife (arguably the beneficiaries of a “Critical Habitat Area”) by their speed, group travel, shallow water access and maneuverability.

Most humans dislike them. The only people who like them are the riders. They buzz other vessels like kayaks who expect a peaceful experience on the water. The buzz camps. Their presence degrades a visitor’s experience. Visitor-based entities based in Homer rightly object to lifting the ban.

Compare the number of members of the Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska who would benefit from the repeal of the ban to the number who stand to be negatively affected. What is it, 1:10,000?

Ninety-nine percent of the state is open to thrill craft. Kachemak Bay - home to the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, Kachemak Bay State Park, and Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve - should remain closed.
I am against the proposed subject regulatory change. Having observed the changing environment of Kachemak Bay for some 55 years, I am concerned that increased water traffic will have a detrimental effect on the marine environment.

The increased development on the south shore of Kachemak Bay has led to a corresponding rise in water borne traffic. While the reduced surface and subsurface wildlife is certainly attributed to many factors, the volume of water traffic certainly has not helped. One must realize that this increased activity has been transportation in support of economic growth. This growth includes summer residences, commercial fisheries, bird watching, and providing access to the Kachemak Bay State Park, to name but a few. This economic development is in conformance with the State’s mandate from the people to foster growth.

The use of personal watercraft is purely for recreational purposes and does not support as great of sustainable growth as mentioned above. I do not feel that this is compatible with purposes of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. I respectfully submit these thoughts for your deliberation. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Ginger Drais
Ginger Drais
<virgidr@hotmail.com>

It is inconceivable to me that the ADFG is attempting to repeal the ban on jetskis in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area. This is clearly greed related and has nothing to do with preserving one of the few nearly pristine coastal estuaries left on our planet. What are these governor and his cronies thinking of? Jetskis are designed for speed and thrill seeking. Due to their design there is literally no place they can't go. They are extremely dangerous, offensively noisy and in no way compatible with the cherished values of living in co-existence with the natural world. Due to lax or absent laws governing our waterways, jetskis already have complete access to 99% of Alaskan lakes, rivers, and ocean. Isn't this enough? Governor Dunleavy will not override the people. It is simply not going to be possible. NO to jetskis/personal watercraft on Kachemak Bay!!

Mary Williams
Mary Williams
<mwroses@outlook.com>

I am against allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Mary Guertas
Mary Guertas
<mgguertasa@gmail.com>

I support personal watercraft usage in kachemak bay. It isn't any worse for the environment or surrounding areas than the boats and ferries that transport people and goods back and forth on a daily basis. The people in the surrounding areas are good stewards of their lands and opening up more efficient modes of transportation offers flexibility to the people.

I vote to repeal the ban for the PWC’s. I’ve been riding in the ocean up here in Alaska for 30 years. We love to explore everything that Alaska has to offer. We just want equal access to do the same as all the other boaters in Homer.

Alyssa Guertas
Alyssa Guertas
<oleen1952@verizon.net>

I am appalled that the governor wants to ruin kachemak bay. Please tell him I vote no on his idea.

True North Kayak Adventures, Alison O’Hara
Alison O’Hara<alaskaselkie@gmail.com>

I am opposed to permitting jet ski use in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. I am concerned about the noise impact on other users and on wildlife. I am concerned about potential collisions between jet skis and other boaters and between jet skis and wildlife. The State is currently undergoing revisions to the Kachemak Bay CHA management plan, and I request that any changes to jet ski policy or rules occur within the context of the management plan revisions.

Governor Dunleavy’s actions now ignore our democratic process.
Marylou Burton
Richard and Marylou Burton
burton@mosquitonet.com
PO Box 822
Homer, AK 99603
The short answer, which according to your KBBI interview is all you’re interested in, is NO. I am AGAINST allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

But—just in case you’re even remotely interested in the reasons behind my vote, here are some:

1. You say that Kachemak Bay belongs to all Alaskans. No one disputes that, but I don’t recall any poll of all Alaskans about whether or not jet skis should be allowed in Kachemak Bay. Instead, a certain small group is dictating a change to a policy that has been in effect for 20 or more years. Yes, Alaskans have input from any interested groups, just this bigas quick “yes-no” vote from people who happened to hear that this was coming down.

2. Many lakes in Alaska (which also belong to all Alaskans) do NOT allow jet skis, and with good reason. They are fast, they are loud, they are— in the wrong hands— dangerous, and they are totally unregulated. To compare them to the many skiffs that ply our local waters is totally bogus. People use their skiffs in Kachemak Bay primarily to fish and/or to get from Homer across the bay. They do not do wheelies through a pack of otters or birds just for the hell of it (and if don’t think that THAT is going to happen, you are kidding yourself).

It was clear from your interview with Kathleen Gustafson that you—and, I presume, your boss—have already made up your mind on this issue. Why am I not surprised?

Ed Schmitt
Edward schmitt
eschmitt.edward@gmail.com
Homer
I oppose allowing jet ski operation in any critical habitat areas of Katchemak Bay. Jetskis concentrate their activities in shallow water areas, repeatedly going over the same areas and cause extreme disturbance to marine life underneath the surface in those areas. They also are noisy as hell, and have the power to ruin the sound environment for sealife, wildlife, and people expecting a quiet semi-wilderness environment when they are out on the water in kayaks, small watercraft, or tour boats.

I adamantly oppose the lifting of the ban on jet-skis in Kachemak Bay. They do not do wheelies through a pack of otters or birds just for the hell of it (and if don’t think that THAT is going to happen, you are kidding yourself).

There has been a lot invested developing the type of experience most folks expect when they come to Kachemak Bay, and jet-skis would be contrary to all our hard work.

As a Homer resident who enjoys non motorized recreation on the bay I am strongly opposed to lifting the ban on jet skis in our bay. I really hope they stay banned. I’m sure you have heard all of the arguments against allowing them here, mine are the same. If you want to hear more from me and why I feel like they should not be allowed in our bay you can email me back.

Richard and Marylou Burton
Richard and Marylou Burton
burton@mosquitonet.com
PO Box 822
Homer, AK 99603
See message: Jet skis in Kachemak Bay/msg in PWC18

I totally opposed to reversing the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Jet skis are noisy, polluting, and offensive. They will harm the aesthetic tourism values of the area, recreating guided tours, scenic wildlife boat tours, and fishing charters. They will harm the marine mammals and birds which give live and raise young in the bay. They will interfere with commercial, personal use, subsistence, and sport fishing, and become entangled in nets and lines. Jet skis have long been opposed in Kachemak Bay for very good reason. Keep the ban in place!

I adamantly oppose the lifting of the ban on jet-skis in Kachemak Bay. They do not do wheelies through a pack of otters or birds just for the hell of it (and if don’t think that THAT is going to happen, you are kidding yourself).

Please make this an open public process.

At the very least extend the comment period and hold public hearings.

Richard and Marylou Burton
Richard and Marylou Burton
burton@mosquitonet.com
PO Box 822
Homer, AK 99603
See message: Jet skis in Kachemak Bay/msg in PWC18

Individual

John Davis
John Davis
goldusk@gmail.net
4S0th NWR
Court, Homer, AK 99611
See message: Kachemak Bay (PWC) Repeal/msg in PWC18

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I am writing to express my strong opposition to opening Kachemak Bay to personal watercraft. This would affect not only the safety of other boaters (fishermen, kayakers, and others), but also has the potential to significantly and negatively impact the wildlife and habitats in the bay's critical habitat area. Repealing the current prohibition would damage the environment and culture of Kachemak Bay.

I am in favor of repealing the ban on personal water craft in Kachemak Bay. As a member of the Parks CAB trails committee in the interior, I have experience in balancing access among user groups. A similar experience we recently had was with property owners trying to retain their trail access but eliminating jet skier access for the public on that trail across State land. We all need to be responsible access users and responsible property owners. Please find ways to maintain access to all people to limit friction.

I support repeal of the ban on PWC use on the publicly owned lands and waters of Kachemak Bay.

If you are truly asking. NO JET SKIS PLEASE in Kachemak bay.

The ADFG attempt to repeal the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay is a travesty. First of all, all the scientific studies done have indicated that jet ski use is incompatible with the purpose of the Critical Habitat Area which is to protect fish and wildlife habitat. Secondly, the public has weighed in repeatedly on this topic, and the overwhelming majority have indicated that they do not want jet skis in Kachemak Bay. Thirdly, internal ADFG email has shown that the Governor's office decided to repeal the jet ski ban before even opened the public comment period. This is a clear case of special interests and corrupt government trying to undermine democratic process. Any changes to the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Management Plan should occur within the context of the management plan revisions. The public notice regarding repealing jet ski use should be rescinded immediately.

Keep jet skis out of Kachemak Bay. The Kachemak Bay State Park and Kenai Wilderness are to preserve what Alaska used to be. The boundaries between these and the open seas is very watery. There is one park ranger to handle all the park's business and violations. It is ludicrous to think they would enforce jet ski violations, when a jet ski goes three times the speed of a park ranger.

My vote is NO. I am not emotional. I like jet skis. People will die. People will suffer (accidents, noise, etc.). Animals will stress.

We need to keep the ban. NO to jet skis.
Doug Rohn
Doug Rohn
dougrohn@ak.net

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to removing the long-standing jet ski ban on Kachemak Bay. As you know, the ban has been in place since 2001 and has the strong support of people of Alaska. ADFG's own research and analyses show the value of preventing jet ski activity in the essential environment of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area whose purpose is "to protect and preserve suitable habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose."

It appears that the only reason this proposal is occurring arises from the access certain special interest groups have to Governor Dunleavy. In my view, and government education, I learned the government is supposed to work for the people. In this case those of Alaska. So how is this good government when the Governor is ignoring ADFG's own science and the will of the people? And if there should be a change, why not consider revision of the management plan that is currently being reviewed instead of opening a new public comment period?

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. They have access to over 99% of Alaskan waters already. What makes the Bay so great a place for this kind of recreation in light of the sensitivity of the habitat? Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I trust that ADFG will do the right thing and not undo nearly 20 years of scientifically based decision making for Kachemak Bay.

Roberta Collier
robertajcollier@gmail.com

It is for this reason I express my support in repealing the ban of jet skis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

I grew up in Homer and always disliked the ban. Let me know if you need any information from me to verify my vote.

Cathy Suozzo
<icepat@gci.net>

crgamj@hotmail.com

I support changing the regulations so that Personal Watercraft are allowed in Kachemak Bay and the Fox River Flats. I support allowing Personal watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. I strongly oppose watercraft in Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Habitat Areas. I am concerned about the noise impact on wildlife and other people. I am also concerned about safety. I have worked on a sea kayak guide and have recreated on Kachemak Bay and hypothermia is a real and potentially deadly possibility. Please contact me if you have any questions or responses to my concerns.

Theresa Rodger
<howal@hotmail.com>

I am writing to express my concern about the continued effort to overturn 5AAC 95.310, ban on personal watercraft in Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. I strongly oppose watercraft in Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Habitat Areas. I am concerned about the noise impact on wildlife and other people. I am also concerned about safety. I have worked on a sea kayak guide and have recreated on Kachemak Bay and hypothermia is a real and potentially deadly possibility. Please contact me if you have any questions or responses to my concerns.

Greta Mahowald
Greta Mahowald
<huskyhills@gmail.com>

I support repealing the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I think jet skis and other small water craft should be allowed to grow up in Homer and always disliked the ban. Let me know if you need any information from me to verify my vote.

Patrick Quinn
<reelpossibility@gmail.com>

I support repealing the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. It is one of the safest areas around in which to use PWC and the waters need to be available for all to use, even those of us without large fishing boats. Next, is someone going to tell me I cannot take my paddle board out there? And if there should be a change, why not consider revision of the management plan that is currently being reviewed instead of opening a new public comment period?

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I would like to see them legalized for personal use.

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I feel that they pose no great risk to our area, when they are used responsibly.

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Let me know if you need any information from me to verify my vote.

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I would like to see them legalized for personal use.

I have been an Alaska resident my whole life and a resident of Kachemak Bay since 2015 and feel that they pose no great risk to our area, when they are used responsibly.

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. It is for this reason I express my support in repealing the ban of jet skis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I am writing to express my concern about the continued effort to overturn 5AAC 95.310, ban on personal watercraft in Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas. I strongly oppose watercraft in Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Habitat Areas. I am concerned about the noise impact on wildlife and other people. I am also concerned about safety. I have worked on a sea kayak guide and have recreated on Kachemak Bay and hypothermia is a real and potentially deadly possibility. Please contact me if you have any questions or responses to my concerns.

It is for this reason I express my support in repealing the ban on jet skis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. No need to redo an analysis that shows the benefits of this ban. I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. It is one of the safest areas around in which to use PWC and the waters need to be available for all to use, even those of us without large fishing boats. Next, is someone going to tell me I cannot take my paddle board out there?

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. It is one of the safest areas around in which to use PWC and the waters need to be available for all to use, even those of us without large fishing boats. Next, is someone going to tell me I cannot take my paddle board out there?

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. In my view it's indefensible.

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. It is one of the safest areas around in which to use PWC and the waters need to be available for all to use, even those of us without large fishing boats. Next, is someone going to tell me I cannot take my paddle board out there?

It appears that the only reason this proposal is occurring arises from the access certain special interest groups have to Governor Dunleavy. In my view, and government education, I learned the government is supposed to work for the people. In this case those of Alaska. So how is this good government when the Governor is ignoring ADFG's own science and the will of the people? And if there should be a change, why not consider revision of the management plan that is currently being reviewed instead of opening a new public comment period?

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

I support repealing the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

It is for this reason I express my support in repealing the ban on jet skis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

Lastly, do jet skis really need to operate on Kachemak Bay? They have access to over 99% of Alaskan waters already. What makes the Bay so great a place for this kind of recreation in light of the sensitivity of the habitat?
I'd like to submit a public comment regarding the repeal of the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. Please repeal this ban to provide equal access to every user group.
Duane Christensen
Duane.Christensen@alaska.net
Anchor Point

In consideration of the current ban on usage of PWC on Kachemak Bay.

My name is Duane Christensen, I have been a resident of Alaska since 1950 and in particular living in Anchor Point since 1988.

I was involved in the opposition to the ban when it was initially proposed. During that time, the supporters of the proposed ban never presented any factual data supporting their contentions; namely that PWC are pollutants of the water and noise due to the 2-stroke engines, and presented a danger to wildlife. They used 20-30 year old data on the engines, of which virtually none were in use. At the time all brands met or exceeded EPA standards, yet that information was ignored. The worst part of that process, in my opinion, was the state government support for the ban, namely the head of the park service. I can understand individuals being driven by their own agenda or ideology, as long as it does not directly impact my rights without due process of law. I feel that they pose no great risk to our area, when they are used responsibly. It is for this reason I express my support in repealing the ban of jet skis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

Of course there was no mention of the hundreds of charter boats, pleasure boats, tug operations, tankers, C-130's doing touch-and-go's, aircraft of all sorts zipping back and forth; just PWC's. My family has been denied the opportunity to use PWC simply because a few folks didn't like them. This is the definition of an authoritarian, out of control government our founding fathers warned us of.

It is way past time for this atrocity to be rectified. The bottom line on this issue is this: are there any real, factual data supporting the contention that PWC presents a greater danger or threat to the health of the Bay or to the wildlife than other currently allowed activity? The answer is simple. No. Then eliminate the ban. Today. This ban is ludicrous, irresponsible and unnecessary.

Brian Willden
Brian.Willden@thewilldens@gmail.com

I am writing in appeal for strongest recommendation to repeal the ban of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

I am writing to support repealing of the PWC ban as listed in 5 AAC 95.310. I am paralyzed and in a wheelchair since a work accident in 2010. As such, I have limited torso control. Using a PWC will allow me to be able to remain more upright and once again explore the bay as I used to while paddling a kayak. I am grateful that you are exploring this regulation change and I would love to answer any questions you might have for me as a recreational user with a disability.

Mary Willden
Mary.Willden@whymkk@gmail.com

I am sending this email to make it known that I, Mary Willden, support the repeal of the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay, and wish to see them legislated for personal use. I have been a Kachemak Bay resident for (amount of time) and feel that they pose no great risk to our area, when they are used responsibly. It is for this reason I express my support in repealing the ban of jet skis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

Brian Willden
Brian.Willden@thewilldens@gmail.com

I am sending the email to make it known that I, Brian Willden, support the repeal of the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay, and wish to see them legislated for personal use. I have been a Kachemak Bay resident for (amount of time) and feel that they pose no great risk to our area, when they are used responsibly. It is for this reason I express my support in repealing the ban of jet skis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

Colton Collier
Colton.Collier@whymkk@gmail.com

I am sending the email to make it known that I, Colton Collier, support the repeal of the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay, and wish to see them legislated for personal use. I have been a Kachemak Bay resident for over 30 years and feel that they pose no great risk to our area, when they are used responsibly. It is for this reason I express my support in repealing the ban of jet skis and other personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

Billy Carnes
Billy.carnes@usa.net

3006 S. Varn Ave Wrangell AK 99929

Alaska's State Constitution makes it clear, Article II, Section 3. Common Use; "...waters are reserved to the people for common use". Regulated use of PWC in Kachemak Bay allows the public to recreate on fairly safe nearshore waters that are accessible to many Alaskans who live in Alaska for the opportunities provided to them on public lands and waters. There is no justification for local residents not to share the public lands/waters near their place of residence with fellow Alaskans.

Emails of support to repeal the PWC ban sent to rick.green@alaska.gov are important to assure ADF&G that lifting the ban is the preference among beneficial uses. You can help protect everyone’s right to access publicly owned lands and waters throughout Alaska by emailing your support today.
To whom it may concern, I would like to voice my support for repealing the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. It is my belief that navigable waters should be open to the public. As the public, and targeted groups should not be banned from using a public resource without due process and extremely persuasive factual evidence of detrimental harm being done. Please contact me if you need any additional information. Sincerely, Brian Steele.

I'm a lifelong Alaskan who votes. I am adamantly opposed to allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay waters.

I've lived in Alaska for 51 years and in Halibut Cove since 1993. The prohibition against personal watercraft, or Jet Ski's should be repealed. It's just common sense to me. Doesn't it make sense for our local and state government to make decisions that impact us directly by our votes.

I am expressing my dismay at the jet ski ban repeal. I was born and raised in Homer, and I am disheartened to see the water that I have grown up with in my lifetime turned into a chaotic and dangerous environment, all so lower 48 tourists can get their fun and then go home. Some of us actually live here and rely on Kachemak bay, and we feel strongly against this.

Do not lift the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

I oppose this quick and dirty move to repeal a vehicle ban on personal watercraft in the critical habitat areas of Kachemak Bay. These craft are used very differently than other vessels and are not a good fit for an area that includes a water trail, world class fishing, and marine wildlife. And even if special interest user groups had valid reasons to change the management plan to include jet skis, they need to do it properly, using the revision process that includes experts in the protection and preservation of fish and wildlife within the critical habitat areas.

I would like to register my opposition to allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Existing watercraft uses (fishing, sightseeing, transportation, wildlife viewing) are inclusive and leave room for mutual, shared enjoyment of Kachemak Bay resources, whereas jet skis are by their nature and intended use, incompatible with existing uses. Jet skis are not compatible with existing Kachemak Bay use patterns due to the fact that while high speed joyriding is fun and exciting for the operator, this intended use places others in the area, particularly the kayakers who support numerous small local businesses, at substantial physical risk. In addition to the clear safety issues posed by introducing jet skis to coastal areas heavily utilized by kayakers, the noise, physical presence, and traditional use patterns expected of PWCs impact the product and brand of local businesses that depend on clients seeking out the seclusion, quiet, and exposure to wildlife that are the trademarks of Kachemak Bay tour operators and lodging concerns.

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I would like to register my opposition to allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay.
Calem Collier  
Calem collier@hotmail.com  
Seldovia  
I am in support of lifting the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I grew up in Alaska and always wanted a jet ski!

Mark Boydston  
markboydston44@earthlink.net  
33595 Anel St N  
Guldeine, AK 99680  
Support ADFG continuing the ban on jet ski operation in the Kachemak Bay CHA based on ADFG recent research and also to reduce additional stress on the Kachemak Bay marine ecosystem from climate change.

Vida Wagner  
vida.wagner77@hotmail.com  
I am against allowing jet skis on Kachemak Bay.

Thomas Byers  
Thom Byers  
oasisofsnow@yahoo.com  
See message: Jet ski ban in homer is unjust.msg

Mark Boydston  
markboydston44@earthlink.net  
33595 Anel St N  
Guldeine, AK 99680  
Support ADFG continuing the ban on jet ski operation in the Kachemak Bay CHA based on ADFG recent research and also to reduce additional stress on the Kachemak Bay marine ecosystem from climate change.

Linda Wagner  
Linda Wagner  
ladybear77@hotmail.com  
I am against allowing Jet Ski s on Kachemak Bay.

Mark Boydston  
markboydston44@earthlink.net  
33595 Anel St N  
Guldeine, AK 99680  
Support ADFG continuing the ban on jet ski operation in the Kachemak Bay CHA based on ADFG recent research and also to reduce additional stress on the Kachemak Bay marine ecosystem from climate change.

Michael Illg  
michael illg@dpubcreations.com  
934 Larkspur Ct  
Homer, AK 99603  
As an Alaska resident who lives close to Kachemak Bay, I am emailing you to express my opposition to lifting the jet ski ban in Kachemak Bay. My primary concern is safety - Kachemak Bay already does not have adequate emergency response on the water for current boaters, kayakers and paddle boarders and by adding yet a other segment of people to create yet additional risks is short sighted and will be an additional cost and stress to the existing and inadequate emergency response services we already have.

John Bushell  
John Bushell  
bushellj@alaskaphirsy.co.uk  
Alaska  
Thank you for taking comments.

Kathryn Carnow  
kathryn.carnow@kwh.com  
NOT  
Jet ski use negatively impacts wildlife and is incompatible with current uses of Kachemak Bay. Rushing this decision outside a thoughtful and reasonable public process is disrespectful of Alaskans. It is the Governor's disregard for what Alaskans hold dear that is fueling his recall. No, no, no! Listen to us Dunleavy administration!

Suzanne Torian  
Suzanne Torian  
suzanne@alaskaoyster.com  
P.O. Box 3162  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
Do not lift the jetski ban in Kachemak Bay. The decision to have a ban is correct, to undo it is just plain stupid and wrong. Humans are not the only living beings on this planet.

Deborah Anderson  
paragondeb@gmail.com  
I am against any decision to OVERTURN the current ban on "JetSki's " in Kachemak Bay. We have enough user groups and crafts to look out for we do not need to add fast, small JetSki's into the mix. They have plenty of lakes they can use. With the tide system and probably of problems, fatalities would be certain!

Shirley Forquer  
Shirley Forquer  
stickyski@usa.net  
Homer  
I am totally against opening Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area to personal water craft. I vote NO.

Kelly Lockwood  
kellylockwood@msn.com  
A firm no from this 20 year Homer resident who has lived across the bay as well. Jet skis are not appropriate for this bay. Thank you for considering changing your own views.

Deborah Anderson  
paragondeb@gmail.com  
I am against any decision to OVERTURN the current ban on "JetSki's " in Kachemak Bay. We have enough user groups and crafts to look out for we do not need to add fast, small JetSki's into the mix. They have plenty of lakes they can use. With the tide system and probably of problems, fatalities would be certain!

Métis Riley  
bymetis@gmail.com  
As a lifelong Alaskan, I appreciate and respect the fact that we all recreate and enjoy the outdoors in different ways. However, I grew up near big lake in the MatSu Valley and distinctly remember the noise and chaos from jet skis. In fact, the noise and disruption on the lake is so great that any other use is negatively impacted by the jet skis. Please do not let one unnecessary group ruin Kachemak Bay for everyone else. One of the reasons my husband and I bought property in Homer is the peace and quiet that the MatSu Valley just does not offer.

Kelly Lockwood  
kellylockwood@msn.com  
A firm no from this 20 year Homer resident who has lived across the bay as well. Jet skis are not appropriate for this bay. Thank you for considering changing your own views.

Doug Doolf  
dugdoolf@yahoo.com  
Homer  
The Fish and Game plan to allow 'personal watercraft' in Kachemak Bay is a bad idea. Please count me as a No on this issue. Jet skis should not be allowed in the bay. Period. As an Alaskan and a Homer resident, I have many reasons for this opinion, but I doubt you care to hear them.

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paragondeb@gmail.com  
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I am a frequent user of Kachemak Bay for fishing and recreation. The Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area was founded on good scientific principles and has for the most part succeeded in keeping the bay relatively safe for users and wildlife. The science behind the original decision has not changed.

I have ridden jet skis and they are great fun. Almost all waters in Alaska are open to jet skis now. Those few areas closed are done for good reason and are no hardship on jet skiers. They are fast, maneuverable, thrilling toys but are incompatible with the wildlife rich area of Kachemak Bay.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed regulation change and will vote against any politicians who support the change.

I am writing you in support of the repeal to personal watercraft use in Kachemak Bay. More of this kind of action is needed. The Dunleavy administration understands the critical habitat area would be for rescue purposes, if indeed such craft can be used in this way, in which case a watercraft might be issued for HPD, HVFD, or the USCG.

I am a frequent user of Kachemak Bay. A critical habitat area should not be a place where wildlife will be negatively impacted without an excellent reason. The only reason I can think of that might override the need to protect a designated critical habitat area would be for rescue purposes, if indeed such craft can be used in this way, in which case a watercraft might be issued for HPD, HVFD, or the USCG.

I hope that no personal watercraft will be allowed in Kachemak Bay especially in casual or new users. Please don’t change the rules for jet skiing in Kachemak Bay!

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I am strongly opposed to the proposed regulation change and will vote against any politicians who support the change.
I want to voice my opinion that allowing PWS or Jet Ski type watercraft in Kachemak Bay is not appropriate for the bay and the wildlife that call it home. I am against Fish and Game's proposal to repeal the existing ban.

As a transplant from Minnesota, I grew up riding Jet Skis. They're awesome. I have two little boys who would love them. But, I am totally against Jet Skis being allowed on Kachemak Bay. My Jet Skis are used at our lake property located in the upper Kenai Peninsula area. The lake does have some birds native to Alaska but not the sea otters, whales and many other marine animals that would be harmed by the quickness and speed of a Jet Ski.

As a businessman that has lived in Homer for years and has been directly involved in the tourist business, I cannot begin to tell you how many times I have heard kayak operators and tour boat operators talking about how great it is to paddle up close to a sea otter and her pup eating a clam on her belly. The commercial usage of the oyster growers and the other types of user groups that depend on the calm waters of this one of a kind Kachemak Bay critical habitat area cannot survive without the normal usage of what Mother Nature has provided. What kind of rules and regulations would be necessary to not destroy what the Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Peninsula can never replace if this law was repealed.

Kenai Peninsula area. The lake does have some birds native to Alaska but not the sea otters, whales and many other marine animals that would been harmed by the quickness and speed of a Jet Ski. We cannot imagine a more offensive intrusion to our peace and quiet. It would be a total invasion of the cultural experience.

Please regard this as a NO vote on lifting the ban.

Karen Northrop
karennorthrop@gmail.com
Homer

We have been property owners in Bear Cove since 1978. We are vehemently opposed to jet ski usage in K-Bay. They were disallowed in the first place. As a retired Navy Captain, I want to voice my opinion that allowing PWS or jet ski type watercraft in Kachemak Bay is not appropriate for the bay and the wildlife that call it home. I am against Fish and Game's proposal to repeal the existing ban.

Please accept my comment in support to lift the PWC BAN in Kachemak Bay for all user groups to enjoy the waters.

I am a waterfront property owner in the Kachemak Bay, Critical Habitat Area and am strongly opposed to lifting the ban on personal watercraft under 16 feet because it goes against my interests. I am all for PWC having equal access in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat. Not having access there is one of the reasons that I have not purchased a PWC. I was thinking about it until I did some research and found out that one of the areas that I wanted to explore was off limits. I am glad this rule change is being proposed.

As a firefighter that has lived in Homer for years and has been directly involved in the fire service, I cannot begin to tell you how many times I have heard kayakers and paddle boarders talking about how great it is to paddle up close to a sea otter and her pup eating a clam on her belly. The commercial usage of the oyster growers and the other types of user groups that depend on the calm waters of this one of a kind Kachemak Bay critical habitat area cannot survive without the normal usage of what Mother Nature has provided. What kind of rules and regulations would be necessary to not destroy what the Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Peninsula can never replace if this law was repealed.

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Colter Demers
colterdemers@yahoo.com
Homer, AK

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Please regard this as a NO vote on lifting the ban.

I am in favor of the PWC ban lifted for 4/20.
Andy L. Pevehouse  
130 South Willow Street, Suite 3  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
I oppose opening K-Bay to personal watercraft.

Alex Fefelov  
intrepidllc@gmail.com  
Hello, i would like to see the pwc ban lifted from kbay, there are many reasons, from how it got into place to begin with to pwc being less invasive then many smelly boats i see in the bay, neither here nor there now.

Carol Comfort  
SaltChicken@gmail.com  
Can a Homer/Anchor Point resident of 30yrs, having moved here from the Puget Sound area, I return to Gig Harbor WA each summer and put up with an extreme irritation to every living creature, the Jet Ski. Suffer to it say, living near Kachemak Bay remains a more peaceful environment thanks to our personal watercraft ban. Please allow the public process to overturn the ban be fair and equitable for all.

Pat Irwin  
939 Ocean Drive Loop  
Homer  
Jetskis are toys and have no business in a Critical Habitat Area. I vote NO on allowing them in Kachemak Bay.

Carol G. Harding  
kinterm@outlook.com  
Please make note of my input on this debate as NO on reversing the current (in place for the last 20 years) JetSki ban in Kachemak Bay.

Gerard Garland  
garlandg@outlook.com  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to allow jetskis in Kachemak Bay. That idea is just as bad today as it was in 2001. Before approving jetskis in Kachemak Bay please review all the reasons from that time that led to their prohibition. Let’s be clear: No one is prohibited from using and enjoying Kachemak Bay. They just have to leave their jetskis behind. Quite simple, really.

Having endured the assault from those things on Lena Cove during our years living in Juneau it grieves me to think we could be subjected to that same activity again. Noisy, nonsensical zipping here and there, going around and around in circles of ever-diminishing radius. Ride ’em cowboy!

Michael Forbes  
siskinak@mac.com  
Personal Watercraft (‘jetskis’) have no place in Kackemak Bay. Existing watercraft uses (fishing, sightseeing, transportation, wildlife-viewing) are inclusive and loose room for mutual, shared enjoyment of Kachemak Bay resources, whereas Jetskis are, by their nature and intended use, incompatible with existing uses. Jetskis are not compatible with existing Kachemak Bay use patterns due to the fact that while high speed joyriding is fun and exciting for the operator, this intended usage places others in the area, particularly the kayakers who support numerous small local businesses, at substantial physical risk.

In addition to the clear safety issues posed by introducing jetskis to coastal areas heavily utilized by kayakers, the noise, physical presence, and traditional use patterns expected of PWCs impact the product and brand of local businesses that depend on clients seeking out the seclusion, quiet, and exposure to wildlife that are the trademarks of Kachemak Bay tour operators and lodging concerns. Jetskis are cool machines that their owners have every right to enjoy. So are dirtbikes. So are roller skates and bicycles, and kayaks. However, there are good reasons that dirtbikes are not allowed on bike paths or in roller skating rinks - the same reasons that Jetskis have no place in Kachemak Bay.

John Sanborn  
johnsanborn@gmail.com  
It makes me sad when we turn against laws that were designed to make each of us respect the Earth. Our planet which sustains a large variety of life deserves our respect and help in preserving it. Your desire to repeal the ban on jet ski’s etc. makes no sense whatsoever: The area was set up to preserve the marine life and allow fishing to flourish, but your repeal would undermine that. Please do not repeal the ban but rather promote it, tell everyone we respect the land we and other life call home. Thank you for your time and for doing what is right for the Earth and all of her inhabitants.

Susan Vogt  
vogt@alaska.net  
The Alaska Legislature created the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (CHHA) in 1974 “to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Your reversal of the waterscraft ban is the direct opposite! Stop catering to special interests. No to lifting the ban.
Since you indicated input on this issue was either a yes or no vote, I will state that I am AGAINST allowing personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

I could give many reasons including the protection of the habitat and animal life, but you have indicated you really don’t see my reasons as having any meaning or impact.

Kathryn Carovano
kcarovano@alaska.net

Both my husband and I are against allowing jet skis in Kachemak Bay. They represent the opposite of how you protect a critical habitat area. The are loud, unsafe, can cause pollution in the water. Their noise and speed can have a negative impact on the special wildlife of the area. The thought of jet skis in Kachemak Bay makes me feel physically sick. I beg you to maintain the common sense of keeping Kachemak Bay free of jet skis.

Angie and Tom Hamill
angie.hamill.ak@gmail.com

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Robert Fimon
akmoxie@yahoo.com

A big NO for allowing this noise.

Kim Smith
ksmith1002@gmail.com

I am a 42 year resident of Homer and a very frequent user of Kachemak Bay. Sitting here on the east coast, two days before open heart surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, I see that you and Governor Dunleavy think it’s a great idea to open the waters of the Bay to personal watercraft.

I thought my heart ached already. My goal in recovering from having my ribs cracked open and my aorta fixed is to find the strength to paddle in the quiet and serenity of that glorious wilderness of Kachemak Bay. To spend another five days at Bill Bell and Mary Lou Kelso’s quiet cabin in Little Tutka, listening to the loons and seeing the magical blue herons appear. Paddling, mushrooming and picking blueberries in an environment that offers the opportunity to just be, to listen and observe.

This magical Bay has sustained many, with varied activities. I, too, utilized the Bay in my early years with commercial fishing. I now sport fish and it never matters if I don’t catch anything because the quiet, the birds, and the lapping waves provide plenty.

It is unthinkable that you would deny the voices of the majority who have strongly stated their desire to continue with a ban on these noisy, dangerous watercraft. Kachemak Bay is a rare jewel in a world filled with noise and hustle. It is a place we’ve protected and spoken for; for many, many years.

I beseech you to rethink your decision. This is not the place for jet skis. It is just wrong.

I thank you for listening to my thoughts. I will go in to surgery praying that the quiet, the birds and the waves will be waiting for me next summer.

Van Hawkins
vansaccount@gmail.com

I am against the repeal of the ban on personal watercraft for Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats. I want the ban on personal watercraft to remain in place.

Mary Griswold
mgrt@xyz.net

Please do not repeal the personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay. Jet skis are too nimble and too fast to be compatible with wildlife, especially since Kachemak Bay has become a hangout for whales.

David Martindell
davidmartindell@gmail.com

Opposed to it.

Scott Jouppi
hotjouppi@gmail.com

Our family owns or owned kayaks, recreational salt water fishing boat, river boats and jet skis, so our knowledge of this topic isn’t foreign to us.

We are against lifting the current ban on jet skis in the critical areas of Kachemak Bay. There’s plenty of water for recreational jet skiers to utilize outside of this area.

We use the Kachemak for fishing from kayaks not our power boat and we’ve always been leary of jet ski users from a personal safety issue. If the ban gets lifted I hope that there is an oversight written into the change if accidents, alcohol/drugs are found on the jet ski users and/or habitat destruction is observed. Your average jet skier isn’t too terrible but the few out there that consume alcohol and/or drugs while using jet skis will lead to more Big Lake like deaths and injuries.
Nancy Lord

I am a long-time resident of Homer, Alaska and strenuously oppose changing regulations to allow jet skis and similar personal watercraft to operate within Kachemak Bay. Such use is NOT compatible with the critical habitat status of the bay. Skiffs are used for fishing and transportation here. Jet skis are recreational. They go fast and are disruptive to other users and wildlife. It is not appropriate for jet skis to zoom around (or into) these resting and feeding animals. Importantly, there are many other places for jet skiers to recreate, and only one Kachemak Bay, which is already under plenty of stress by human use. NO NO NO to opening the critical habitat area to a use that is so clearly not in keeping with its purpose. The earlier justifications for not allowing jet skis to operate in the bay are still applicable—even more so today.

Dan Presley

Rick, i am in favor of allowing pwc oin katchemsk bay. As a young man, it was not outlawed, and it was a lot of fun. I see no reason for the ban except some homerites that wanted to stop progress. Please lift the ban.

Bruce Service

Repeal of the prohibition of the use of jet skis and other personal watercraft in the CHA is an ill advised step. Nothing good can come from this. The use of these craft in the CHA is in direct opposition to the purpose that the area was set aside in the first place. Then a small group of users can have an outsized impact as these craft are notoriously loud, obnoxious and will negatively impact the appeal of the area. Even "considerate" users will detract from the integrity of the area and result in nuisance/harassment events to resident and migratory fish and wildlife. This is a bad idea and the motivation behind the decision to repeal the prohibition is questionable.

Lewis Hinnant

I am writing in regard to the recent reconsideration of the ban on personal watercraft in the waters of Kachemak Bay. I am strongly opposed to this reconsideration. This issue was settled years ago, both in terms of scientific evidence and public interest. Any proposal that seeks to lift this ban is undemocratic and hostile to those of us who live near Kachemak Bay. I can see Kachemak Bay from my home, and like many other locals (in majority, which has already been demonstrated clearly) I don't want the intrusion, noise pollution and damage to wildlife that personal watercraft would inevitably bring.

If you can't see the difference between a skiff and a jet ski, maybe you should resign from your position, and stop describing yourself as a boat man.

Robert

No

Kelsey Diane Haas

I oppose the use of personal watercraft (jet skis) on Kachemak Bay. The existing ban should remain unchanged.

Katlyn Oberholtzer

I oppose the use of personal watercraft (jet skis) on Kachemak Bay. The existing ban should remain unchanged.

Buck Kunz

I would strongly support the usage of Jet Skis in Kachemak Bay. I am the owner of Aller's Welding located in Sterling, AK, and we are heavily involved in the marine industry. We also have a cabin in Seldovia and recreate there often. With the advances of four stroke engines, i don't see any negative affect that allowing jet skis would have. The positives would be a huge boost in tourism to the Homer, Seldovia, Kodiak, and Homer areas. The areas in question would be in a new wave of development, and a main attraction to the area. Beam can cost upwards of 500,000 for a sea worthy boat, and a person can easily get set up and do some of the wonderful kachemak bay activities on a jet ski for under $15,000. It is time to lift the ban! The watercraft technology is definitely here.

Bren Leavine

See message: Proposed changes to ADG&F regulations on the use of Personal Watercraft in Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas msg  in PWC19
I am opposed to the repeal of the ban on personal watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical habitat areas. I heard you discussing the issue on the radio and you mentioned that it is a matter of providing access to these areas. That argument is wrongheaded since PWC are not used for access typically, they are used for thrill riding. The ban in these two areas has been supported repeatedly by the public and by ADF&G managers and biologists. I do not appreciate the manner in which this proposed change is occurring outside of the management plan process, apparently to satisfy the interests of a small percent of Alaskans with an interest in PWC.

Please respond to the following questions.

• What evidence do you have that supports the claim that allowing PWC use in these areas will “increase access for Alaskans to the property that we all own equally” as you stated on the radio?
• What evidence do you have that PWC are compatible with the purpose of protecting and preserving the critical habitat areas?
• Why have you put this proposal forward outside of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area Management Plan review process?
• Have you asked commenters to simply “toggle yes or no” yet indicated that the numbers are just “some legalities that we have to go through.” If the comments are tailored and support not repealing the ban, will you support the public process and recommend to the Commissioner that the ban not be repealed?

The use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay is like the use of racing dirt bikes in nice residential subdivisions. The bikes are not allowed because they are noisy and endanger other users. If you think jet skis in Kachemak Bay are such a good idea you and your fellow-thinking state officials should press for the use of dirt bikes in your neighborhoods.

The use of jet skis in Kachemak Bay is like the use of racing dirt bikes in non-residential subdivisions. The bikes are not allowed because they are noisy and endanger other users. If you think jet skis in Kachemak Bay are such a good idea you and your fellow-thinking state officials should press for the use of dirt bikes in your neighborhoods.

I urge you to withdraw this repeated attempt to open up Kachemak Bay to a noxious use.

I would like to enthusiastically share my support for removing the ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay. Removing any user group without sound logic or in a biased fashion is a precedent we should all seek to avoid and reverse when possible.

I am against the repeal of the ban on personal watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat areas. This is a significant reason why the state government has previously opposed the use of jet skis. Nothing has changed.

This statement can only charitably be described as naive. Jet skis in Alaska are used are used for the thrills of tight turns at high speed near shore. They are mostly used for high speed marine recreation in relatively small areas. Larger slower vessels are used in Kachemak Bay in point to point transportation and to go to fishing grounds. We don’t see jet skis being used to go to fishing areas or to and from Homer Harbor. High speed, tightly turning jet skis are also a hazard to kayaking another significant tourist and resident recreation activity. The use of jet skis will take money away from local tourism operators.

I am opposed to the repeal of the ban on personal watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat areas. I heard you discussing the issue on the radio and you mentioned that it is a matter of providing access to these areas. That argument is wrongheaded since PWC are not used for access typically, they are used for thrill riding. The ban in these two areas has been supported repeatedly by the public and by ADF&G managers and biologists. I do not appreciate the manner in which this proposed change is occurring outside of the management plan process, apparently to satisfy the interests of a small percent of Alaskans with an interest in PWC.

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Josh Wisniewski
merganseranthro@gmail.com
Seldovia
See message: RE: Governor Repeal of Personal Water Craft Ban on Kachemak Bay msg in PWC19
1
additional comment sent to Rep. Vance

Doug Dodd
doug.dodd@yahoo.com
Noise, overuse of the resource, danger to other users, harassment of marine life, pollution and degradation of the natural serenity of the bay. Some places should be reserved. Imagine the spring shorebird festivities, and the disruption even two or three of these motorized shit-boxes would wreak. That specific enough for ya’?

Sent from my iPhone
On Dec 12, 2019, at 3:01 PM, Rick Green <rick.green@alaska.gov> wrote:
Mr. Dodd,

This is a public comment period so if you want to explain your reasons, please feel free and they will be entered into the record.

Thank you
Rick Green
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Jack Wiles
jackwiles@usa.net
See message: Re:Kachemak Bay Jet Ski Ban msg in PWC19
1
follow-up not recounted

Zane Henning
Yes, I support the repeal.

On Wed, Dec 11, 2019, 8:08 AM Rick Green <rick.green@alaska.gov> wrote:

Zane,

Thank you. Is this a supportive comment of repealing the prohibition on PWC in Kachemak Bay, then?

Rick

From: Zane Henning <Zane.Henning@truappenergy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 4:55 PM
To: Green, Rick E (DFG) <rick.green@alaska.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Rick,

Appreciate your common sense and fairness within ADF&G.

Best regards,
Zane Henning
Summer Seldovia resident

Barb and Norrie Johnson
Barbara B Johnson
barbaraj1@mac.com
I’m writing to oppose repeal of the personal watercraft ban in areas of Kachemak Bay. My husband and I have spent our summers in Alaska since the 1980s and lived in Homer since November, 2017. We have enjoyed going to the spit for many years to watch the sea otters and their pups. In recent years we have not seen as many, but we have seen an increase in human activity and water sports around the spit. If personal watercraft are allowed in the areas proposed, they will disturb this important wildlife nursery, as well as their habitat and feeding grounds. They need these areas, and forcing them into deeper waters as their food sources are churned and chopped by personal watercraft will obviously put their future survival in peril. Please continue the personal watercraft ban to insure the survival of otters, shorebirds and other important species that need the habitat that Kachemak Bay’s near shore waters provide.

Bette Seaman
betteseaman@gci.net
Dear Mr. Green,

I have 2 questions on this proposed repeal:
1. Is there a fiscal note attached for increased enforcement and harbor modifications that might be needed for any significant increase in traffic, particularly during holidays?
2. Has Fish and Game conducted studies that indicate that vehicles that have the ability to move very quickly in near shore areas will not be harmful to marine life? Is particular concern raised on Fox River Flats?

See message: Re:Kachemak Bay Jet Ski Ban msg in PWC19
1
follow-up not recounted

5

Jack and Norrie Johnson
Jack and Norrie Johnson
norrie@msn.com
Deer Mr. Green,

I have 2 questions on this proposed repeal:
1. Is there a fiscal note attached for increased enforcement and harbor modifications that might be needed for any significant increase in traffic, particularly during holidays?
2. Has Fish and Game conducted studies that indicate that vehicles that have the ability to move very quickly in near shore areas will not be harmful to marine life? Is particular concern raised on Fox River Flats
Richard Derkevorkian  
Richard Derkevorkian  
<derkevrs@gmail.com>  
Kenai Alaska  
I am a second generation Alaskan and have lived in Kenai for 32 years. My son is a 3rd generation Alaskan and I want him to be able to access the waterways of Alaska by any form that's available. The personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay makes ABSOLUTELY zero sense. Bob Showell with Inletkeeper can take his 30' fiberglass boat out and pump the bilge and commode straight into the inlet but doesn't like the idea of a clean 500lb 4 stroke jet ski accessing the same water. The voice of a few Homer liberal elites with the backing of groups like Patagonia should not be able to limit all Alaskans from having the right to access that water. I just recently traveled to the Naples beach in Florida. Right on the white sand beach in downtown Naples were hundreds of Yamaha Pwcs for rent. This is a beautiful beach and it was having absolutely zero impact on the thousands of people enjoying the beach. Allowing pwc's in the bay would open up the bay to thousands of people that can't afford an expensive charter or 100,000$ boat.  
Please remove this ridiculous ban that is limiting Alaskans rights.

Aaron Pfeil  
<aaron_pfeil4x@gmail.com>  
I am a avid PWC owner and feel that the ban is a mistake.  PWC's have really evolved over the years and are now a viable platform for sport fishing.  Please vote to repeal the prohibition.

Larry Kropp  
<lakropp@mac.com>  
I would like to comment on the proposal to allow PWC's in Homer.  I think it's a great idea.  The previous law was discriminatory towards those who can't afford bigger boats but still want to participate in on-water activities. PWC's use far less fuel and for that reason alone are far friendlier to the environment. Smaller boats are better. The original law was passed not because the people involved didn't like small boats... they didn't like the people who ride them. They don't fit the profile of a modern liberal, and although many agree with that approach, it's not fair.

Elaine Taddei-Nelson  
<egt753@hotmail.com>  
Seldovia, Alaska  
I am against the use of jet skis on Kachemak Bay. I own property there and feel that our wildlife are more important than having jet skis on the water. Please do not vote on repealing the ban. We need it and our wildlife need it.

Russell Mumm  
<russellmumm@hotmail.com>  
PO Box 1192  
Homer, AK 99603  
I would prefer that personal watercraft remain prohibited in critical habitat areas of Kachemak Bay and the Fox River Flats.  

Paul Eneboe MD  
<pleneboe@gmail.com>  
Homer Alaska  
Please do not change the regulations to allow jet skis in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Jet skis should continue to be banned for both environmental and aesthetic reasons.

Tammy Hopkins  
<taxito32@gmail.com>  
I have just sent a letter of protest to Rick Green on the opening up of Kachemak Bay to jet skis. NoNoNo. This bay cannot handle personal watercraft, the traffic around the Homer harbor has increased to an almost intolerable level in the 2 peak months. I can't imagine throwing these int the mix with kayakers and paddle boards. The most important, is what it will do the the wildlife. There is so much boat traffic as it is, I just don't see it.

Eric Knudtson  
<epknudtson@gmail.com>  
46560 East End Rd  
Homer, AK 99603  
I would like to submit my support for maintaining the regulatory ban prohibiting personal watercraft use in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats. We've already previously banned these vehicles for good reasons based on the determination by both DNR and ADFG with a lengthy public process. I believe that jet skis are incompatible with the values protecting these lands and waters and harmful to wildlife and the environment. I am a kayaker and fisher who lives in Homer and frequently uses the bay. In addition to the adverse effects personal watercraft have on wildlife and the environment, I believe that jet ski use is incompatible with non-motorized recreationist use. Natural sounds and quiet are also resources of our public lands that deserve protection by managers and would be further compromised by allowing jet skis.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my continuing support of the current regulatory bans prohibiting the use of personal watercraft in this unique, beautiful, and quiet area.

Rebecca Snow  
<rebecnasnow@gmail.com>  
PO Box 3149  
Homer, AK 99603  
Please do what you can to stand up against opening legislation that would allow jet skis on Kachemak Bay. Jets would be harmful to wildlife and ruin the beautiful and peaceful beaches here! They could even affect tourism, as many tourists who come here would not appreciate them.

As a new member of the community, I teach creative writing for the college here and am also a mental health professional. I moved to Alaska a year ago to finish my second novel, fell in love with the incredible scenery and the town of Homer, and decided to stay.

The noise and disruption of jet skis would really do harm to the setting here in the summer, and we need to protect our wildlife in the sea more than ever.
Grant Fairbanks
Debbie Fairbanks
Laurel Hilts
Stan Lefton
MaryBeth Printz
Margaret Griffo

We are writing to express our opposition to any changes to the ban on jet ski use in Kachemak Bay. We have been home owners in Halibut Cove since 1978 and have strong family ties to the area. We raised our children and now grandchildren on the waters of Kachemak Bay. In general the vessels on the bay are utilitarian in nature, for fishing and various transportation needs. If the ban is maintained within the waters adjacent to Kachemak Bay State Park the boundaries would be confusing and expensive to enforce. Given the reality of state budgeting, the lack of enforcement would likely lead to jet skis entering prohibited areas which have been created to maintain the natural beauty and serenity of Kachemak Bay. Assuming the ban is maintained in the park, jet skis operating in the remaining areas would face the reality of the rough water conditions caused by the strong tides and winds of Kachemak Bay. This would force them into the more protected areas which are also more regulated areas. Halibut Cove has put out “No Wake” signs at both ends of the protected water area, but it is not enforceable because the Community Association has no regulatory authority. The “No Wake” policy is an example of the “will of the community” and the introduction of jet skis by the state would be an example of big government over riding local sentiment.

Joe Griffo
Tammy Hopkins

I am in favor of having jet skiis in Kachemak Bay. ——- The sooner the better.—

MaryBeth Printz

Hi Rick, i'm a resident of Anchor point.  I just want to let you know I'm in favor of allowing jet skis in kachemak bay.

Joe Griffo

Please register this email as a vote in support of the repeal of the Kachemak Bay jet ski ban.

MaryBeth Printz

Please open up the bay for personal water craft. jet ski...i dont right that few groups get to dictate this matter...its a big ocean out there....

MaryBeth Printz

I just wanted to send you a note to let you know that I am strongly in favor of allowing jet ski's in Kachemak Bay. ——- The sooner the better.—

MaryBeth Printz

This letter in support of maintaining the Personal Watercraft moratorium in Kachemak Bay, and requesting an extension on the comment period. As a past employee of Alaska Fish and Game Habitat Division and Sport Fish while at Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBNERR). My training and experience leads me to support the current moratorium. I have used personal watercraft in other water bodies for both research and recreation. While their use can be supported for research in warmer climes, as a recreational watercraft, it is likely to result in conflict between fishers, property owners, shellfisheries, and wildlife. Kachemak Bay is a Critical Habitat and must be managed as thus.

Joe Griffo

Jet skis, on top what we already have here is asking for trouble.  Along with how I see Homer's growth, they don't fit in. I also don't think wildlife in this bay can tolerate them. It is bad enough with all the boat traffic as it is.

Joe Griffo

Let the guys use personal watercraft in designated areas like they do with dirt bikes in the deserts down south.

Karen Shemet

I'm also a" boat guy" just like you, and AGAINST personal watercraft use in critical habitat areas!

Kirby and Toni Larrifancher

I'm in favor of having jet ski's in Kachemak Bay. ——- The sooner the better.—

MaryBeth Printz

This is a bad idea and I don't appreciate it being ram-rodded through either. No, No, No and No way!!

Margaret Griffo

That'd be the perfect way to wreck our bay and the exact experience that people come to Homer for, tranquility, peace and nature, not a big Lake experience!!

Margaret Griffo

I just wanted to send you a note to let you know that I am strongly in favor of allowing jet ski's in Kachemak Bay. ——- The sooner the better.—

Karen Shemet

The impetus for you action are well known by the public by now. The few jet ski users should not be over ridden by the thousands of present users whom enjoy the quiet areas of these waters as we now enjoy our fish and game employees. Your duties are to protect and preserve our fish and game. Your duties are not to promote jet ski use. The backlash from your actions will follow you in your short stay at the department. Please read the charter of the department and reissue statement.

Karen Shemet

It's a tough call to make, intended to preserve the resource by it's critical habitat designation. Let the guys use personal watercraft in designated areas like they do with dirt bikes in the deserts down south.

Kara Helms

I'd like to see the ban overturned. There are no reasons that PWC should not be allowed in Kachemak Bay.

Kara Helms

There is no difference between a PWC and a small stiff-hull boat other than most PWC's are 4 stroke engines. Whereas there are still plenty of 4 stroke small outboards on skiffs in the bay.
Duncan Wanamaker  
20th Street Homer, AK 99603  
20th Street Homer, AK 99603  
<dewanamaker@gmail.com>  
Hi Rick, I am a 40 year resident on the Kachemak Bay area. I strongly OPPOSE lifting the ban of jet skis in the Bay.

Faith Schade  
35250 Schade Drive  
Homer, AK 99603  
<fphc@horizonsatellite.com>  
I am writing in support of the repeal of the jet ski ban on Kachemak Bay. Allowing jet skis in the bay will allow the bay to be used by all the public not just those that feel their way is the only appropriate way. The two stroke argument of past discussions is not only ridiculous it is not a valid one. As almost all person water crafts are transitioning over to the 4 stroke motor. Plus there are already a large number of 2 stroke and 4 stroke motors that power skiffs and boats on Kachemak Bay.

Joseph Griffis  
<jgriffs@fastmail.com>  
Please register this email as a vote in STRONG support of the repeal of the Kachemak Bay jet ski ban.

Barrett Moe  
PO Box 2094  
Homer, AK 99603  
I support this new regulation to lift the 2003 ban on jet skiing. I want equal access for user groups on public waters.

Joseph Griffo  
<jgriffo@fastmail.com>  
Please register this email as a vote in STRONG support of the repeal of the Kachemak Bay jet ski ban. If pollution is of primary concern, I would like to propose consideration of a ban of diesel burning marine vessels.

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Homer, AK 99603  
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Rich Fetterhoff  
9th Ave. Fetterhoff  
Horizon Inn Homer, AK 99603  
pioneerinn@gmail.com  
Please lift the ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay....thanks rich fetterhoff

Dynamic Living  
30313 Green Plume  
Homer, AK 99603  
<emmyellen@gmail.com>  
I would be glad to see the prohibition of personal watercraft lifted. I've rode jet skis before and to ban them but still allow small boats serves no purpose, this needs to be lifted.

Allison Lentz  
41211 Green Plume  
Homer, AK 99603  
<ajlentz2010@gmail.com>  
I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to the proposal by Fish and Game to lift the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

Holly Alston  
beachgal88@hotmail.com  
Homer, Alaska  
I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to the proposal by Fish and Game to lift the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay.

My data comes from several sites on noise pollution, one being the Noise Pollution Clearinghouse at nonoise.org
I was shocked to read that personal use watercraft may be allowed in Kachemak Bay. Not only is this bad for wildlife such as nesting birds its downright dangerous and could place potential rescuers in danger too. This is no lake, K-Bay should only be approached with deep respect for its inherent dangers; a proper vessel with all safety equipment required by the Coast Guard and proper knowledge, it is frigid water, often rough with quickly changing conditions due to huge tidal rips (3rd largest tide in the world). The more protested water is full of blind corners and people who are often in kayaks or quietly fishing, aquaculture industry and animals who could be disturbed by the excessive noise, or endangered by the high speed. The article I read said there is a “segment of people banned” from using the area. Not true, nobody is banned just that type of watercraft for many good reasons. Anyone who can afford a jet-ski can afford a water taxi. I was born and raised across the bay from Homer and never ever approach the water without extreme consideration. We have a 17' heavy duty aluminum skiff with all the safety equipment, radio, flairs, fire extinguisher etc which I rarely take across the bay and only when I have considered the forecast, timing of tides and time of day. Otherwise I catch a ride in very seaworthy vessel. I think you will really be putting people at risk, all it would take is not putting the kill switch on your wrist and falling off, life-jacket or not the rider would succumb to hypothermia unless help arrived within minutes.
Deanna L. Chesser
Deanna Chesser
rddcr@acsalaska.net

I am writing to you as an Alaskan, living on the Lower Kenai Peninsula. I am 100% in support of allowing personal watercraft, such as Wave Runners, or other brands, to be legally operated in the Kachemak Bay area. It is an economical, and fun way to access across the Bay, to recreate, and there is no way that the noise, pollution, or use of such would cause any more harm than the boats we already have allowed in this area. It would bring more money, tax dollars, and tourists to the area as well. It would allow new businesses to spring up; rentals of the personal watercraft, sales of the same, and hopefully provide another revenue stream as folks come to enjoy the area in a new way.

Some people have complained about the noise. Give me a break. We have aircraft, helicopters, float planes, boats already. It's not as if thousands of personal watercraft's will hit the Bay at once.

There is a LOT less possibility of destroying the marine wildlife and/or habitat, than with a large boat. Personal watercraft has extremely good maneuverability, and being so close to the water, the operator can see much better than any boat.

Those are my thoughts.

Chancelen Collier
Seldovia

I just wanted to voice my support for lifting the personal water craft ban. As a life long resident of Seldovia. It would be nice to have the option of exploring Kachemak Bay on personal watercraft.

Andrew Haas
I oppose the usage of personal watercraft. I work along the bay and would find them dangerous and loud.

Marianne and Bill Schlegelmilch
Homer

See message: Personal watercraft Kachemak Bay.msg in PWC20

Benjamin Fetterhoff
I wanted to write an email to you supporting the measure to allow personal watercraft (commonly referred to as Jet Skis) to be used in Kachemak Bay. I was born and raised in Homer and was a resident there for over 20 years. I live in Southeast Alaska now but still return to Homer several times a year to visit family and friends. I’ve logged countless fishing, hunting and hiking trips and around Kachemak Bay over the years and consider it “my backyard”. During my years in Homer, I was always disappointed that people were not allowed to use PWCs in a public body of water. PWCs are a widely used source of recreation and have made substantial improvements both in fuel efficiency and noise reduction since the ban was enacted nearly 20 years ago. I love Kachemak Bay and think that everyone should be allowed to use it safely and responsibly. That includes people who want to use PWCs. I urge the department to adopt the regulation change to allow PWCs to be used in Kachemak Bay.

Cody McCollum
I Fully Support the repeal of the Ban in use of Personal Watercraft in the Fox River Flats / Kachemak Bay. I don’t believe the casual use of the watercraft will create any negligible or lasting impacts to the environment. I don’t believe the original ban was anything more than a infringement of personal access to the public land.

Jerry Meek Jr.
I wanted to shoot you a comment on jet ski use out of Homer. I am very pro jet ski. I think this would have a very positive impact. I am a life-long Alaskan, I have lived in Soldotna for 15 years, and have owned/made multiple jet skis. I have owned a few of the newest 4-stroke watercrafts.
I have always wanted to explore the Kachemak, but haven’t been able to justify buying a $10K to $15K boat to do so. I have owned newer $7000 jet skis are more than capable of touring the area. I have friends that run jet skis out of Seward and Whittier and they love it! They are able to run out on surf excursions and day tour trips. I also have friends that have property in Seldovia that have often mentioned they would love to be able to run jet skis across the bay.
I think lifting the ban would open up the area to more people that want to get out and see Alaska from a different vantage point.
I believe this could also bring more business to the peninsula as currently, anchorage, Eagle River, and Wasilla are the only places to purchase jet skis and have maintenance done on them. Thank you for your consideration in this matter and hopefully the ban is lifted.
I support the repeal of 5 AAC 95.310.

I oppose the use of personal watercraft (jet skis) on Kachemak Bay. The existing ban should remain unchanged.

I would like to express my opinion on lifting the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay critical habitat areas. This user group has been barred from obtaining access to our beautiful bay for far too long. The excuses made to keep the ban in place are erroneous, ignorant, and down right discriminatory to say the least. I am in great support of lifting the ban so that this user group can gain access to an area that has been exclusively available to other watercraft groups for many years. It is time we progress forward and stop discriminating against people who want to access the bay with a safe, affordable, clean, and quiet watercraft that will do no more harm to the area or individuals using it. Thank you for your time and I appreciate you supporting lifting the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

John Jones

I am in support of opening the personal watercraft ban. I am against having the Kachemak Bay, being only available for special interest groups. It should be open to all. If they hit into the legal requirements of the law. Personal watercrafts run cleaner and produce less pollution than a regular boat engine. They are often the only type of craft allowed on water reserviours because of their small impact.

Dunleavy Administration for helping with this screwed up situation!

Keepers he and his business counterparts do NOT own Kachemak Bay! The State does and we want equal access to the area! How many times do we have to tell Bob Shavelson at Cook Inlet Keepers he and his business counterparts do NOT own Kachemak Bay! The State does and we want equal access to the area! Great work to Dunleavy Administration for helping with this screwed up situation!

I would like to express my support in changing the regulations regarding PWC use in Kachemak Bay. There are many tables and recreational opportunities that I am not allowed to participate in because I choose to purchase a fishing style PWC. This PWC (from Seas doo) which is quieter, safer, and more environmentally friendly than most all the small crafts I seen operating in the area last spring.

Dear all: I am a resident of Homer, a fisherman and an avid outdoorsman and I fully support the lifting of the ban on the use of personal watercraft in Homer waters but should have strict fines for mis-use I personally dont have one but would definitely have one for transportation and sport fishing. They are a great means to be able to enjoy this beautiful state to not disturb certain bird species, but overall the use of jet skis would certainly allow people to quickly access areas like halibut cove, where my family has a house etc.

Hello, this is Megan Corazza from Homer. I was born and raised here, as was my mother. I have been an active outdoor enthusiast my life around this area on everything from horses to snow machines to xc skis to boats. I highly encourage you to repeal the ban based on equal access to all groups. There may be special areas near some flats that need restriction in order to not disturb certain bird species, but overall the use of jet skis would certainly allow people to quickly access areas like halibut cove, where my family has a house also.

We are a great plus for Homer and fun for the people as a whole.

I am very excited with the proposal to open the bay to PWC. We would be a weekly user and am very environmentally conscious. This is a great way to get more business in the Homer area and way less impact than 100's of ocean boats going in and out of the harbor.

It’s also economically beneficial to support this proposed change to the affected commercial enterprises in the area, as myself and many I know do not hesitate to spend $500-$1000 on our weekend getaways or long weekends.

If the [Fish PRO Series from Seas doo] can be implemented in the bay then I would fully support the ban lift. It would be a great plus for Homer and fun for the people as a whole.

I support the repeal of 5 AAC 95.310.

I oppose the use of personal watercraft (jet ski) on Kachemak Bay. The existing ban should remain unchanged.

I am in support of opening the personal watercraft ban. I am against having the Kachemak Bay, being only available for special interest groups. It should be open to all. If they hit into the legal requirements of the law.

I'm contacting you to emphasize my support in changing the regulations regarding PWC use in Kachemak Bay. There are many tables and recreational opportunities that I am not allowed to participate in because I choose to purchase a fishing style PWC (Fish PRO Series from Seas doo) which is quieter, safer, and more environmentally friendly than most all the small crafts I seen operating in the area last spring.

It's also economically beneficial to support this proposed change to the affected commercial enterprises in the area, as myself and many I know do not hesitate to spend $500-$1000 on our weekend getaways or long weekends.

Thank you for taking the time to review this email and seeing the value of the proposed changes. Personal Watercraft are changing from the way they were when the legislation was introduced, and also realize there are local groups of all types out there, so maybe a stipulation that the operator/owner would be conscientious of their behavior, and also mandate they carry the boaters safety card and USCG approved safety gear as well as proper registrations/taxes etc...

Once again, this matter is very important to me, and look forward to enjoying the wonders of Kachemak bay in the near future.
I see no harm of personal watercraft usage in Kachemak Bay. Fish and Game already has wildlife harassment laws on the books. Modern personal watercraft have just as good or better emissions than any boat running the same area. I only see it being a good thing for the community in bringing more business to an already struggling fishing community. Whitter and other communities in Alaska have personal watercraft for many years and I've seen no harm or issues in those towns. Any problems with personal watercraft would be the same with people using boats and can be handled by law enforcement in the same manner.

As we near the deadline with which to finalize decisions regarding the operation of Jet skis in Kachemak Bay, I would like to draw your attention to the voting members of our state population that disagree with an expansion of Jet ski usage.

The science clearly shows jet skis and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADF&G, and in the opinion of ADF&G’s own staff experts.

Unlike skiffs and boats, jet skis and PWC have overpowered 200-300 horsepower engines. Jet skis are designed and intended to be ridden for fun – to jump waves, make tight turns and spins, run in super-shallow water and congregate in small areas. As a result, they pose unique threats to birds, marine mammals and humans alike.

The law is clear: the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statutes 16.30.500.

Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to Jet ski use. Please do not add Kachemak Bay to the lengthy list of accessible places people can ride their jet skis and any other type of PWC.
I am writing to strongly oppose the repeal of 5 AAC 95.310, which would allow the use of Personal Water Craft/Jet Skis in the Critical Habitat Area of Kachemak Bay. AS 16.20.500 states that the purpose of AS 16.20.500 - 16.20.690 is to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose. PWCs are not in any way compatible with this primary purpose.

Proponents of the repeal claim what they want is "equal access." That is a load of crap. Over 99% of Alaska waters are open to jet skis.

The right of free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment of the US Constitution is not absolute—it does not give someone the right to go into a crowded theater and yell "FIRE!" just to see what will happen. Or to incite violence.

When one is granted the privilege of driving a car, they cannot drive anywhere, any way, and at any speed they want. Laws and regulations are put in place to protect the public and the environment.

PWCs are dangerous, noisy, and destructive to habitat.

The American Medical Association once reported: "The rate of emergency department-treated injuries related to (personal watercraft) is about 8.5 times higher than the rate of those from motorboats."

According to US Coast Guard statistics, jet skis represent roughly 10 percent of all boats, yet are involved in approximately 30 percent of all boating accidents.

The Kawasaki Ultra S 550's 65.5 mph on the radar gun, and the Kawasaki manual says: "Leave 348 feet to come to a stop." That's longer than a football field, without steering, without control.

And according to an article posted on The University of Vermont, personal watercraft like a jet ski greatly contribute to the contamination of our seas. This will directly damage the critical habitat of Kachemak Bay.

There is no legitimate, reasonable, compelling or defensible argument for allowing PWCs in Kachemak Bay, and I strongly urge you to reject this proposed rule change.

Sorry, not a fan. My personal observation of PWC - or jet ski - was on Duck float streams in southern Missouri where I grew the first 55 years of my life...fly fishing and canoeing. The nature of the equipment, and the mindset of most of the operators I witnessed, are reason enough for me to oppose this change. They tore up gravel beds, drained oil in the water, chased nesting cranes, caused unsafe wakes, and forced others to leave if they wanted to fish, picnic, swim, birdwatch, etc.

And yes, they are terribly loud.

Six years ago, we looked at a house on a lake with float planes on it. A friend said we’d be making a huge mistake: "it’s not the planes, it’s the damned jet skis!" We didn’t buy there. I have no doubt much of the opposition is "Not in my back yard", due to noise. Sometimes NIMBY isn’t wrong, but it seems to me there are plenty of other reasons.

I oppose lifting the ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay. Please leave a little bit of AK as serene and quiet as it all should be!
online PN  Jeff Ham
Atlanta, GA, US
I have seen first hand the effects of jet skis on and in critical habitat. It only takes a few to destroy what is and has been an
integral part of a very unique eco-system.
They are going to be driving fast and generally in groups, going places boats would not generally go, creating wakes that are
giving to set up river banks. Disturb both fish and wildlife that would otherwise have been left undisturbed.
Sea Otters, Sea Lions, Seals, Whales, Porpoises, Birds of every type are going to be harassed just by the very nature of how jet
skis are generally operated. It is just human nature to get on a jet ski and go places nobody else can get to and to go fast.
Jet ski refueling is notoriously dirty in that they almost always overflow into the water. (My parents owned and operated a
supply store/fuel dock) it was rare for a jet ski not to spill fuel. Imagine a perpetual sheen on the waters surface & banks of the
Fox River Flats.
Who is going to enforce the rules and keep the fish and wildlife as well as the critical habitat they depend on; safe from the
abuses that we all know are going to occur if this ban is lifted?
We all know that our enforcement resources are already stretched thin and there won’t be any more in the near future so it’s
not open a can of worms by changing the rules now just so a few people who have the ability to enjoy this amazing place
already can do so on a piece of machinery that invites the abuses mentioned above.

People spend thousands of dollars to go across the Bay and enjoy the peace and tranquility of Kachemak Bay State Park.
Imagine setting on the shore of Halibut Cove Lagoon at half tide watching a dozen Sea Otters with pups sleeping, feeding,
grooming when a few jet skis come flying up the channel right for the Otters at the outflow of the lagoon. Not a picture of the
pristine tranquil wilderness we claim to have or be, nor a State that's truly caring for the wildlife it's mandated & entrusted to
protect.

online PN  Jonathan
Tacoma, WA, US
I believe the ban on jet skis should not be lifted

online PN  Laura Salah
Concord, CA, US
Please respect the serenity and beauty of kachemak bay. Don't allow personal thrill watercrafts.

online PN  Jack Dempsey
Anchorage, AK, US
I am opposed to opening these areas to jet skis. These areas were designated as Critical Habitat for a reason, and they are
currently co-existing with boating and other uses. The information we have now continues to show that allowing jet skis on
up to of the other uses would substantially diminish these Critical Habitat areas for wildlife resources that depend on them. It
does not take an expert to see this.

Allowing jet skis in these sensitive areas would essentially be an attack on our public resources, and would degrade or
destroy these areas. Sure, once the damage is done, we could ban jet skis and try again to add more restrictions on other
access to recover these areas. But this trial and error method is idiotic when it is clear this will negatively affect these
areas and only benefits a very small group who are either ignorant of the potential impacts or just really selfish and don’t really
care about these Critical Habitat. This would be terrible management. It is also clearly at odds with the majority of the
people of Alaska, which makes me and I hope other Alaskans reconsider how we vote in upcoming elections. These decisions
should be a stain on the legacy of those that implement them.
While PWCs can be an enjoyable experience for thrill-seekers and first-timers alike, they can be detrimental to the wildlife in the area. I have spent several summers working, volunteering, and exploring coastal Alaska, and nothing compares to the beauty and serenity that is present in Kachemak Bay.

Had I not experienced the area firsthand, I would probably not think anything of the ban. However, over the past several years, I have spent a lot of my time working around national parks and performing conservation work from the Gulf Coast of Texas to the bay areas of Alaska. No two places are the same, but all hold their own sense of beauty and diversity. Something I noticed around Kachemak Bay, though, is that it holds a special kind of peace. I spent a couple summers assisting in sea kayaking tours and saw more wildlife than I could have ever hoped to have seen. My boss attributed it to the stillness of the area; the slow and silent pace of kayaks (and even larger boats or skiffs that are meant to transport people) is not nearly as threatening to wildlife as jet skis and other personal watercraft. Not only is the speed and sound threatening to sea life, the sound also wards away rare sea birds that people travel from near and far to see. Also, PWCs have the added potential effect of transporting more invasive species to the coasts of Alaska. While you may do everything in your power to prevent it, there is no guarantee that this will eliminate such a drastic potential threat.

I am certainly not an expert; I only know what locals tell me and what my own research has shown me. However, based on the sources I do have knowledge of, repealing the PWC ban not only harms wildlife through noise, pollution, and disruption of habitat, it also has the ability to negatively impact local culture and small business. People come to these areas to experience Alaskan beauty; there is truly nothing like it. However, if PWCs turn wildlife away and disrupt natural habitat, what is there left to draw people in? Additionally, this can negatively affect local kayak companies whose large source of income is from those who venture out to experience the exact things that PWCs have the potential to ruin.

We live in a dangerous time. Wildfires storm across Australia and rains—not snow—showers Antarctica. Climate change is real, and although this may only be a small influence in the grand scheme of things, that is also the same way of thinking that has led us to this point of time. Please, do not repeal the PWC ban. Do what you can to preserve the coasts of Alaska. Do what you can to preserve local culture and business. Do what you can to set an example.

I oppose lifting the ban on PWCs in Kachemak Bay.

As a resident of Homer and someone very heavily involved in the tourism industry, I most certainly oppose the lifting of the restrictions on PWCs. People come out here to enjoy the peace and quiet that comes with Kachemak Bay. Furthermore, I hope you have considered mixing 60 mph PWC’s with 2 to 3 mph kayaks—this is a disaster waiting to happen.

With all that said, if the ban ends up still being lifted, there needs to be two things: Strict controls and strict enforcement. How are you going to ensure that this does not happen? I’ve been to areas that are heavily dependent on tourism and often PWC operations are limited to a ‘box’ they can play in—if they get out of the box, they are ushered back in.

If this is not done right, you will be complicit in any injury (or worse) that occurs. Is it worth it? And do you have a comprehensive plan in place for enforcement?

I SUPPORT the removal of the prohibition on personal watercraft use in the Fox River Flats and the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat areas.
My name is Jeff Johnson. I was the first park ranger at Kachemak Bay State Park, serving there for 10 years. I was also the first Boating Law Administrator for the State of Alaska as we became the last state to establish a boating safety program. As such, I actively represented Alaska on a wide range of recreational boating issues on the state, western region, and national levels for 20 years, including serving as president of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council to the US Coast Guard. Over that time I have worked closely with some of the most respected boating professionals in the country.

The purpose of my email is to express to you, as a former ranger, resource manager and boating professional, any restrictions on activities in state land and water should be justified based on science or strong evidence and, if that evidence exists, there are a myriad of ways to manage those activities—short of general prohibitions.

I was dismayed when the “Jet Ski” (a brand name used by the name) ban was put in place on Kachemak Bay not because I am a PWC advocate or against resource protection or public safety but because the “science” presented at the time did not and still does not support a complete closure. Even the National Park Service’s, who’s mission is generally more directed to resource protection, has walked back these kinds of closures in part because of weak evidence. I believed then and still do, that public waters of the state should be available for activities such as recreation and transportation by all boaters, with reasonable and enforceable regulations to protect public safety and our natural resources. In my view, a complete closure to PWCs on Kachemak Bay was a solution for a problem that did not actually exist. If a state resource manager sees we are key enough to simply close state lands and waters to public use as a solution to our challenges (instead of carefully considering the evidence), we fail to do our jobs and fall far short of the public trust.

While I know and respect many of the Kachemak Bay PWC ban supporters (we have a place in Homer) I believe public access to and enjoyment of our state lands and waters should be promoted, with reasonable protections. If and when protections are justified, they should be based on solid evidence and common sense, not on ideology, opinion or interest group pressure.

I have seen first hand what jet-skis can do in a similar area. At Resurrection Bay in Seward, I watched as two jet-skis zoomed around in waters where there were sea otters and sea lions swimming around. The operators seemed to have no regard for the possibility that they could hit one of these animals or that they were disturbing them. As a visitor, it was shocking to me.

I have no use or interest in jet-skis or any other PWCs. They are wasteful, dangerous, and manipulative. In my opinion a common sense solution was not even attempted.

I urge ADF&G to follow the democratic processes in place. To not repeal the ban! If those opposed to the ban want to change it, they need to go through the proper channels that are in place to make a fair and appropriate argument. If PWCs are allowed into Kachemak Bay, there needs to be funds ready for management and enforcement, regulations for usage and enjoyment of the area.

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Please leave the restrictions as they were for the past decades and keep jet-skis out of Kachemak Bay!
I live on Kenai Lake in Cooper Landing and am so grateful that personal watercraft are banned on our lake. When I visit friends and family in the lower 48, it’s appalling to see the lakes and oceans infested with “jet skis” going round and round recklessly and constantly. It reminds me of the stock car races I grew up with in central New York.

Kachemak Bay is an amazing marine wildlife habitat. People from around the world visit the area to experience the pristine setting for waterfowl and marine life.

I urge you to protect this Alaskan treasure and continue the ban on personal watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Areas.

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I am writing to oppose the opening of Kachemak Bay to Personal Water Craft (PWC). Below I have listed the reasons why I oppose PWC in Kachemak Bay. We have been through this process many times before with the same result, NO PWC in Kachemak Bay. Why are we doing this again?

Our state is under severe financial strain and adding an activity that will cost more to regulate is not fiscally responsible. We cannot pay for the basics of health, education, transportation and safety for our residents. The additional cost of enforcement for a pleasure vehicle is NOT where we should be spending money. If we are not going to increase enforcement then they cannot pay for the basics of health, education, transportation and safety for our residents. The additional cost of enforcement for a pleasure vehicle is NOT where we should be spending money.

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I am opposed to personal water craft in the KBay Critical Habitat based on evidence of potential harm to the environment.

1. The state cannot afford to enforce regulations.
2. Current businesses operating in Kachemak Bay will be negatively impacted by the presence of PWC, including eco-tourism, kayaking tours, and lodges.
3. PWC are not compatible with the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat designations.
4. The safety record for PWC is well documented and they are not safe.
5. PWC impact on wildlife will be significant, including otters, whales, seals, sea lions, and birds.
6. IF Fish and Game proceeds with the opening of Kachemak Bay to PWC they should all be 4 strokes.

In summary: The ban on PWC in Kachemak Bay should stay in place because:

1. PWC are allowed almost everywhere in Alaska except Kachemak Bay. Leaving one place that does not allow PWC is reasonable.
2. Current businesses operating in Kachemak Bay couldn’t handle personal water craft then and even more so now.
3. We should be talking about limiting the traffic that is already in the bay each season not how to add to the problem.

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I have kayaked Kachemak Bay almost 50 years. The lobbing from the personal watercraft users are trying to change something that is a recent phenomenon and clearly impacts the wildlife and the sustained life style of the residence of Homer. I oppose the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

The potential adverse risk to the ecosystem for the mere entertainment of a minority of citizens is allowable. Please oppose lifting of the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.

I understand the balance between individual freedom and environmental protection, but I do not believe the personal watercraft are allowed is irresponsible and shortsighted.  Being born and raised in Alaska, I value the natural beauty that is so unique to our state. That beauty will not last if we allow a small group to destroy it. The Department has heard over and over again from Alaskans wanting to continue the ban, which naturally would fall in line with the majority of citizens, the wildlife is with you, Kachemak Bay is with you.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issue of lifting the ban on personal watercraft (PWC) in Kachemak Bay. As an Alaskan for the better part of fifty years, I care deeply about her public lands and waterways and understand the difficulty of management under political pressure.

Allowing "personal watercraft" should not be about "equal access". An educated, trained biologist dedicated to the protection and sustainability of ecosystems, I respect you also know this. To compare the impact of high speed, erratic motion watercraft to non-motorized recreationists is a false equivalency, as it is for motorized boats going somewhere with a purpose. The Department has heard over and over again from Alaskans wanting to continue the ban, which naturally would fall in line with your education, training and true dedication to protection of wildlife as the priority. For myself, the priority should be sea mammals surfacing in peace, shallow fish and water birds not harassed by confusing, high speed, erratic motion caused by personal watercraft users. Proponents argue there will be few users and only occasional use...... Something to consider is, if the ban is lifted, how long before there will be a local business opening to rent these PWC to anyone happening to visit Homer. No doubt, this will "negligently" increase the frequency impact, along with unconfirmed abuse of boundaries, etc. This is not speculation. It has happened many times in many areas of America's public lands. It would seem to me this should be a serious consideration for continuing the ban.

Managing wildlife and the ecosystems upon which they depend, while at the same time managing sensible human access and impact, is no small task. But, this is the task you face every day. I commend the Department for staying strong by keeping this ban, in spite of political pressure, and respectfully request you continue to resist and follow this, your highest calling. The Department has heard over and over again from Alaskans wanting to continue the ban, which naturally would fall in line with the majority of citizens, the wildlife is with you, Kachemak Bay is with you.

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I opposed lifting the ban on personal watercraft (PWC) in Kachemak Bay. As an Alaskan for the better part of fifty years, I care deeply about her public lands and waterways and understand the difficulty of management under political pressure.
Blaine Sisson
Chicago, IL, US
ksisson@gsi.net

Chad Devore
Hampton, VA, US
cdevore173@gmail.com

Anchorage, AK, US
andrews@aptalaska.net

Wasilla, AK, US
iladillon@gmail.com

Anonymous User
Wasilla, AK, US
1

Kristen Shake
Klahanie, WA, US
IF you think the majority of ALASKANS are in favor of personal watercraft (pwc), then you are not listening to basic facts. I have
I believe PWC should be aloud

Cptgreg@alaska.net

I support the repeal of the personal watercraft ban. Katchemak Bay is large and should be available to multiple user groups. I
I feel very strongly that personal watercraft SHOULD NOT be allowed to operate in Katchemak Bay. The nature of personal

Raveningirdwood@gmail.com

I am opposed to Personal Watercraft (i.e. PWC) operations in the Fox River and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat areas. By
I do NOT support lifting this ban.

Julie Robinson
Juneau, AK, US
julie@robinson.com

The benefits gained by a limited few users of PWC, do not outweigh the detriment that will be caused to other user groups
I strongly oppose changing this policy. Katchemak bay has been subject to extreme environmental stress in the last few years

Ila Dillon
Fairbanks, AK, US
nossis4@gci.net

I strongly oppose changing this policy. Katchemak bay has been subject to extreme environmental stress in the last few years.
I don't see a significant difference between the operation of a watercraft and a small skiff. The modern watercraft are quiet

Anonymous User
Anchorage, AK, US
1

Anonymous User
Chicago, IL, US
1

Chad Devore
Kathaleen, WA, US
1

Steven DeVries
Juneau, AK, US
1

Cptgreg@alaska.net

I agree that these areas should not be restricted and not limited to just boats. Their new pwc are more than capable and don't
I strongly support the idea of the personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay and should be available to multiple user groups. I do

Green Enthusiast
Kathaleen, WA, US
1

Green Enthusiast
Anchorage, AK, US
1

John Robinson
Anchorage, AK, US
1

Greg Sutter
Hampton, VA, US
GregS@alaska.net

I strongly oppose personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay and oppose the repeal of the ban. I have lived in Sedro for 35 years,
I strongly support lifting the ban.

Andrews Robert
Crag, AK, US
Andrews@aptsalaska.net

Personal watercraft are little more than casual thrill rides. They are loud and intrusive and dangerous to wildlife. They do not
I am opposed to Personal Watercraft (i.e. PWC) operations in the Fire River and Kachemak Bay Critical habitat areas. By

Sa Dillon
Arvada, CO, US
sa@dillon@gmail.com

I love to be able to take my pwc out on the bay. As I do prince williams sound.
I support the idea of the personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay and should be available to multiple user groups. I do

The silent majority like me refuse to understand political appointees decisions to lift bans on pwc in Kachemak bay. Do you
I strongly support the idea of the personal watercraft ban in Kachemak Bay and should be available to multiple user groups. I do

I am opposed to Personal Watercraft (i.e. PWC) operations in the Fire River and Kachemak Bay Critical habitat areas. By
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Zimmer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dori54@gmail.com">dori54@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Please keep the ban on jet skis (personal watercraft) on Kachemak Bay and Fox River Critical Habitat Areas in place. Jet ski use is a threat to fish and wildlife as well as to other human users of these areas. Jet skis pollute the air, make sound pollution, damage shallow water habitat for aquatic life, and create a personal physical threat to other humans wading swimming, kayaking, and floating and fishing in small minimally maneuverable watercraft. Jet ski use also interferes with virtually every other human, as well as animal, enjoyment in the area in which they operate. Let's make sure to keep it that way! Jet skiing in the water. Jet ski dikes tearing up and destroying landscape, should be limited to a small controlled area and be licensed and operated only by licensed operators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Donald Martin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:necoconstruction@syracuse.com">necoconstruction@syracuse.com</a></td>
<td>Open it up to equal access! It's not just for the ENVIRONMENTALIST &amp; SEA LIFE - do enforcement on speed if necessary... Kachemak waters are for ALL MARINERS!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Reish</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rose@earthlink.net">rose@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>I have keypaded in this bay and seen others hugging their babies, cross leaping in the waves and battle eagles soaring overhead. Motorized devices such as jet skis will interfere with the habitat of these beautiful animals. The ban was put in place for a reason. Let's make sure to keep it that way!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm R Herstand</td>
<td>ekath@<a href="mailto:herstand@gmailemail.com">herstand@gmailemail.com</a></td>
<td>The ban should not be lifted. I have seen jet skis around Kachemak Bay and these boats are going faster and in shallower water than any other boat. Besides the great potential to harm wildlife, they often travel in nearly the same paths as kayaks, which definitely is a user conflict. Nearly everyone I have spent time on the water with thinks they are obnoxious and wishes they were banned in more places, not less.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Harman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:almarman@gci.net">almarman@gci.net</a></td>
<td>It is not public water/why should you tell us we can not ride there? Keep the ban!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake Whittaker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:802yakeem@UMNH.ORG">802yakeem@UMNH.ORG</a></td>
<td>No, please do not allow personal water craft on a bay, fast boats is going to harm the users... just take a look at lake and the issues there. Right now I do not own a boat but having to dodge sticks on small, fast and loud water craft make me shudder. It will do nothing for the enjoyment of the area and add nothing to the economy of Homer. Out because some group has donated to the idiot in the governors office does not mean it makes good policy nor sense. Where is the federal environmental study on this proposal?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous User</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>I oppose the repeal of the personal watercraft restriction for Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. I appear to have no basis on factual evidence that this restriction is no longer needed - at least no facts were provided in this notice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Bell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lauren4118@gmail.com">lauren4118@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>I do not support the move to repeal 5 AAC 110 I do not support allowing personal watercraft in the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Rose</td>
<td><a href="mailto:40244@msn.com">40244@msn.com</a></td>
<td>Strongly oppose the proposal to lift ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. I don't want to hear the annoying sound of jet skis when I visit Homer or other places on the Bay. Also, I think the negative impact on wildlife would be unacceptable. Thank you for your consideration of my remarks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Ethem</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>Personal watercraft should be allowed in Kachemak Bay. They are not the loud machines they once were. They have 4 stroke motors now that are very quiet. They are bigger now almost to the point of being more of a stiff size than a personal watercraft size as people once knew them. This larger size makes them more stable. They do have jet drives that have impellers so the worry of people running over otters, seals, or whales is not as much a concern with prop strikes. The impellers can get damaged if run in to shallow of water because impellers and sand don't like each other. I don't think there is a real concern about these personal watercraft running along the beaches or up streams. Jet skis also don't like bay so again that would probably keep them from running in close to beaches in many areas. Over the years of all the water taxi running up and landing on the beaches in Kachemak Bay I have left much bottom paint and pieces of props as the props hit bottom in shallow water. The personal water craft do not have much of a wake and never have so saying the wake was going to end the shoreline was never a good argument. I do think there should be a educational component to the use of personal watercraft when they are allowed on the bay. The safety troopers are at the ramps on the big holidays to talk to and educate boaters so they could as easily talk to the folks showing up with personal watercraft. Making sure they are safe to go on the water and have PFD's and be licensed and operated by licensed operators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous User</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>The proposed regulation change is 8 advised and a terrible idea. Large parts of Kachemak Bay are an estuary and as such drain completely of tidal waters. At certain tide levels, the flora and fauna of the Bay is barely covered and extremely susceptible to irreparable harm. Personal watercraft are able to run in these shallow conditions and cause such harm. Other small craft, such as jeffs and other boats don't have such shallow draft and would not and, historically, have not caused such harm. The proposed regulation change should be promptly withdrawn and never brought up for discussion again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Sutizer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:daniels@possea.ru.net">daniels@possea.ru.net</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**John Lang**
Wasilla, AK, US

Personal watercraft (PWCs) are Boats and they should not be discriminated against. PWC owners pay the same fees as every other boat owner. They are more than just "Thrill Craft" as some opponents would have them painted as. PWC are a viable port of transportation and I have personally ridden my PWC hundreds of miles in the ocean, and used them to access hunting, fishing and camping locations, we even fish right off them.

Those who are prejudiced to PWC will say statements like this.

"PWC traffic capability to execute rapid changes in speed and direction in nearshore shallow waters, continues to have a high-potential to impact habitats, marine organisms, wildlife, and other traditional user groups and those cannot be easily mitigated." That kind of rhetoric is pure conjecture. There has never been any scientific studies that prove those kind of prejudice statements. In fact in every case when studies were taken the exact opposite was discovered.

In 1086 the Blue water network filed a lawsuit against the National Park Service (NPS) to get the NPS to BAN PWC in the All National Parks.

In 2000 the National Park Service made a settlement with the blue water network that said in order to allow continued PWC use in the parks a study had to be completed. The settlement agreement was in response to a lawsuit that challenged the above NPS decision to allow continued personal watercraft use in 21 units while prohibiting personal watercraft use in other units. The settlement agreement specified that there would be no PWC use within any unit of the National Park System after September 15, 2002, without a comprehensive environmental analysis and a rule allowing that use in the unit. Under the requirements of the settlement agreement, each environmental analysis must, at a minimum, evaluate personal watercraft regarding eight resource topic: impacts on water quality, air quality, sound, wildlife, wildlife habitat, shoreline vegetation, visitor conflict, and visitor safety.

Of the 21 units originally considered in the service-wide rule for continued PWC use, five units have made an administrative determination not to complete the rule making process to allow PWCs.

**Bill Brock**
Fairbanks, AK, US

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my continuing support of the current regulatory bans prohibiting the use of personal watercraft in this unique, beautiful, and quiet area.

As a resident of a boat and plan only access community in southern Kachemak Bay, I oppose the proposal to allow personal watercraft use in Kachemak Bay. The ban is foolish and holds no merit.

**Rick Green**
Homer, AK, US

I am against Jet Skis in Kachemak Bay. As a 37 year Alaskan I know what a yahoo from Anchorage on a Jet Ski will be like. I know Charley who runs the IET Ski tours in PWS and he’s a clown and shouldn’t be allowed on the water. Plus he drive too fast on his daily commute from Hope because he’s always late. Please save Ak from itself and do not allow Jet Skis in Kachemak Bay.

**Marianne Aplin**
Homer, AK, US

I'm in favor of a repeal of this rule. Please get rid of it.

**Warren Brown**
Homer, AK, US

I fully support the use of personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay. The ban is foolish and holds no merit.

**Eric Knudtson**

**John Lang**
Wasilla, AK, US

**Bill Brock**
Fairbanks, AK, US

**Shaulane**

**Rick Green**
Homer, AK, US

**Marianne Aplin**
Homer, AK, US

**Warren Brown**
Homer, AK, US

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Fairbanks, AK, US

**Shaulane**

**Richard Green**

**Marianne Aplin**
Homer, AK, US

**Warren Brown**
Homer, AK, US

**Eric Knudtson**
I fully support repealing the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay. There is no good reason to have them banned. Modern PWC are safer, more efficient, and would be a great option for transportation within the Bay Area. PWC have 4 stroke engines that meet strict emissions standards and are very fuel efficient. There is no legitimate reason to currently using the bay often have 2 stroke motors or large gas or diesel motors with no emissions systems installed. Modern PWC are safe, affordable, clean, and would be a great option for transportation within the Bay Area. PWC are safe, affordable, clean, and would be a great option for transportation within the Bay Area.

I emphasize my support in changing the regulations regarding PWC use in Kachemak Bay. There are many cabins and personal watercrafts please. Thank you. The noise would disrupt wildlife, and people living along the bay, like me!! I am against allowing jet skis into Kachemak Bay. PWC are safe, affordable, clean, and would be a great option for transportation within the Bay Area.

It is clear that the request for this change was not generated from the community. In fact, the Homer community has made it clear multiple times that it supports a ban on these watercraft. This change in the regulations should not be implemented.

Please continue the ban on personal watercraft on Kachemak Bay. There are no good reasons to ban a specific user group from accessing the bay. PWC are safe, affordable, clean, and would be a great option for transportation within the Bay Area.

First of all, why oh why did you decide that 30 days of public comment was a good idea over the holidays?? Likely on purpose to make people think that they had no time or opportunity to address the ban? Why not extend the public comment period? Because the ban is no longer than 30 days. The public comment needs to be extended.

Thank you for taking the time to review this email and seeing the value of the proposed changes. It's also economically beneficial to support this proposed change to the affected commercial enterprises in the area, as myself and others have spent thousands of dollars to operate our PWC businesses. I believe that the ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay is unjustified.

I'd like to vote to open up personal watercraft for Kachemak Bay! Thankyou for your time and effort in reviewing the public comments. I hope that you will consider the input of the public in your decision-making process.

I fully support repealing the PWC ban in Kachemak Bay. There is no good reason to ban personal watercrafts from Kachemak Bay. PWC are safe, affordable, clean, and would be a great option for transportation within the Bay Area.
I think that lifting the ban would help the community by providing more recreational activities. I also believe it would help the local economy.

I think the ban should be lifted because personal watercraft would not impact the habitats of Kachemak Bay or surrounding areas directly and it would boost economics of the surrounding areas. So in my opinion there is no reason personal watercraft should be excluded in this area.

I think this should be passed because personal watercraft would not impact the habitats of Kachemak Bay or surrounding areas directly and it would boost economics of the surrounding areas. So in my opinion there is no reason personal watercraft should be excluded in this area.

Well personally I don't understand the reason that there is a ban on what people are calling thrill crafts. I feel that just like the Fairbanks, AK, US

I think that lifting the ban would help the community by providing more recreational activities. I also believe it would help the local economy.

I feel that just like the ban on what people are calling thrill crafts. I feel that just like the ban on what people are calling thrill crafts.

I'm opposed to opening Kachemak Bay to the use of jet skis. Their use in a critical habitat area is incompatible with the purposes set out for critical habitat areas, is detrimental to wildlife and specific wildlife habitat needed for nesting, feeding and sanctuary. Jet skis create noise pollution that degrades the experience of non-motorized users. Additionally, they pose a threat to small craft users such as kayakers.

I'm opposed to opening Kachemak Bay to the use of jet skis. Their use in a critical habitat area is incompatible with the purposes set out for critical habitat areas, is detrimental to wildlife and specific wildlife habitat needed for nesting, feeding and sanctuary. Jet skis create noise pollution that degrades the experience of non-motorized users. Additionally, they pose a threat to small craft users such as kayakers.

I urge you to reconsider; do not repeal.

I urge you to reconsider; do not repeal.

I do not support allowing personal watercraft usage in these critical habitat areas. I do not support allowing personal watercraft usage in these critical habitat areas.

I urge you to reconsider; do not repeal.

I do not support allowing personal watercraft usage in these critical habitat areas. I do not support allowing personal watercraft usage in these critical habitat areas.
As a long time fisherman and boater in Alaska and Kachemak Bay, it is my opinion that allowing PWC into the critical habitat area will be detrimental to the peaceful enjoyment that leads so many people visit this area. It will lead to increased impact on wildlife which is contrary to the entire point of having a critical habitat area in the first place. Alaska is a huge place, and it is entirely appropriate to set aside a tiny percent of this land and water as refuges from thrill seekers on noisy machines. Nobody is asking for a statewide ban, just that this small slice of nature be preserved to the best of our ability.

Yes, there are safety concerns and eventually a PWC user will die out there on the bay. Somebody will fall of a ski which won’t stop, or will run out of fuel at dusk, or will misjudge a change in weather. Perhaps there will be a crash between skis which is a common occurrence between PWC riders. Most likely the deceased will be a tourist on a rental, but these are mistakes locals can certainly make as well. Opening up cold ocean water to beginners with no boating experience will cost lives. This is Alaska though, where we each take safety into our own hands, and I’m sure the rental company will have a very broad safety waiver.

Yes, there will be harbor conflicts as PWC are launched, increasing ramp wait times, along with unsafe behavior navigating out of the harbor. Only the most experienced and prepared PWC users will be tuned to channel 16 as they head out into the bay. It is plainly obvious there will be regular conflicts with the current harbor users. Picture a couple of beginners tipp’d over in the middle of the harbor entrance after losing their balance, as charter boats or the Seldovia ferry try to slow to a stop and perform avoidance maneuvers. This is an accident waiting to happen.

Even given all these other negatives, I primarily oppose this measure because of the impact on the mammals and birds of Kachemak Bay. You know, and I know, it is only a matter of time before a group on PWC tries to slalom between a pod of humpbacks, or tries to play tag the otter. Kachemak Bay is a special place today and the far side of the bay is a step back in time. Please preserve this unique spot, to the best of our ability, by not overturning this ban.
I am not in favor of the proposed changes that would allow motorized personal watercraft to utilize the Fox River Flats and especially the Kachemak Bay. I believe that they are a major marine safety consideration and will severely impact wildlife, especially sea otters and sea birds.

These craft move substantially faster and maneuver incredibly quickly and much of the time they are known to operate their craft in an unpredictable fashion. The Homer area is teaming with personal and commercial watercraft and the harbor area and Homer Spit are already crowded during busy times. The marine mammals and seabirds are typically not affected by the slower moving and larger watercraft that can see coming and easily avoid. The slower moving boat traffic is able to plan ahead and adjust course when needed to avoid collisions with the mammals and other watercraft.

Adding a faster moving and small difficult to see watercraft to the equation, especially in rougher conditions, will only increase the chances of mishap or injury to mammals.

I am also concerned about the damage they could do to the environment in the shallow areas of the pristine coves and bays due to their ability to travel in extremely shallow waters using water jet propulsion. Also, the potential of a group of these craft to affect migrating salmon patterns and areas where salmon pool and rest would be great.

I'm generally not a person in favor of banning specific classes of anything however I believe that adding personal watercraft usage to these areas is not a prudent decision to make.

There are so many reasons that allowing personal watercraft like jet skis into the pristine waters of Kachemack Bay is a terrible idea and should NEVER be allowed, I am not sure where to begin.

First, the noise. The relentless sound of loud powerful jet engines is not only detrimental to the enjoyment of the quiet wonder of the area that humans enjoy, but what about the myriad of wildlife that live on, in and around these waters. Thousands of species of fish and sea mammals and birds will be hugely affected by this change.

Second, the pollution. More fossil fuels, more chances for spills and accidents.

Lastly, the disruption to non-motorized water sports like kayaking, paddle boarding and sailing will be forever changed with the addition of high-powered buzzing jet skis all around.

Please leave the restrictions as they are and protect the pristine wilderness that we all enjoy in and around Kachemack Bay.

I fully support the right for people to have and use personal watercraft within the kachemak park.

I am writing in support of the repeal on the administrative codes (05AAC95.310, 11AAC20.115 and 11AAC20.215 on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area. Finally, an administration that is not prejudiced and understands access. Any conservation concerns area already addressed in regulations that apply to all boats which includes personal watercraft, airboats, etc. Separate regulations do not need to be addressed regarding each individual type of watercraft.

It seems that because no one can find valid current scientific studies regarding boats, especially watercraft on the impact to fish, wildlife and other biological resources, the members of Cook Inlet Keeper have just decided to label personal watercraft as thrill craft portraying the owners/operators as some kind of renegade. Quite frankly, we believe this shouldn't even be up for consideration!
Meg Cicciarella  
Anchorage, AK, US  
megcicciarella1@gmail.com  

I wholeheartedly oppose the use of personal watercraft on Kachemak Bay.

Apart from the fact the water is way too cold for that (— wetsuits not withstanding — the Bay not suited to small craft such as jet ski, for the same reason one wouldn't use one in the open ocean), public, first responder, and marine animal safety is endangered.

The regulatory and budget impact on the State, Borough, Feds, and City of Homer is too great to make rescinding the PWC ban worthwhile.

Finally, people don't need to be allowed to do whatever they want to whenever they want to do it. Leave Kachemak Bay alone and use jet skis in the warm waters of places set up to safely accommodate this kind of activity.

Rod Hoffman  
Anchorage, AK, US  
rhoffman@ak.net  

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megcicciarella1@gmail.com  

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Antoinette  
Supplemental OPN  
Barbara  
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The noise level throughout the Bay would increase significantly, reducing the current relaxing and peacefulness of the Bay which is a major draw for tourists throughout the Bay. Allowing personal use watercraft would also open access to virtually every corner of the Bay and have a detrimental effect of the wildlife and resources throughout the area. Such impacts include added stress on wildlife caused by noise and the presence of people in areas otherwise very difficult to access. Increased hunting and fishing pressure would also result from the lift of the ban.

This is simply a very BAD idea.

I am against opening the Fox River flats and Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat areas to personal watercraft. These craft are designed for high speed operation as their reason for existence, not as a means of transporting people or materials from point A to point B. There is already an enormous area open for personal watercraft use in Kachemak Bay so use in Critical habitat areas is not necessary. Increasing the risk of harm to already stressed wildlife cannot be justified.

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This is simply a very BAD idea.

I am opposed. The science is clear about the habitat and personal watercraft. No!

Anthony Lastufka

As a local resident of Homer I am opposed to ANY changes to the current regulations. In my opinion, it is a small group with outside interests and people uninformed of the importance of keeping current regulations in place to protect our wildlife in Kachemak Bay. We have watched as ATV's and vehicles violate our current laws and regulations and that are ALREADY in place that damage beaches in our area.

If you change current regulations, I will never forgive you.

Drew Carey

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I am a life long Alaskan, Master ship Captain with generations of my families living here since homesteading in Homer years before Alaska statehood. This is to support the repeal on the ban of PWCs or motor vessels in Kachemak Bay.

1. Current Personal Water Crafts (PWC) are certified as "Motor Vessels" by the USA and State of Alaska and are actually cleaner and quieter than a majority of the vessels that currently operate in the bay.
2. To assist in economic vitality, individuals who purchase PWCs may have higher disposable incomes than many of the regional operators.
3. Statistics on PWC owners indicate that they are better educated, more environmentally and ecologically aware, as well as more respectful of the marine wilderness than many boat owners including those who operate legally in Kachemak Bay.
4. It is discriminatory to enforce a law where USA abiding citizen cannot enter the port of Homer on their legal registered "Motor Vessel" if they are sitting on it instead of in it!
5. The Homer spit sunk during the 64 earthquake and US Federal funds were utilized to rebuild our way back from that day. a. There is NO sign at the top of Homer hill that states NO "Motor Cycles" allowed to enter Homer if "sitting" on their motor vehicle. (If so, Federal funds would be cut off) b. However this current law is stopping "Motor Vessels" from entering or leaving on its Federally funded water ways that are needed to enter or depart Homer harbor
6. A few ignorant individuals who held authority to promote their personal and hidden objectives without scientific research is what should be banned
7. Homer "Where the Land ends and the Sea begins" unless of coarse you are sitting on your Motor Vessel?
8. This repeal should not be confused with allowing illegals to enter the port of Homer, but rather allow those that actually live here access to where the Sea begins.
9. The current law is not taking into account the navigable waters of the Bay
10. If there is concerns of Illegal activity or harm that will be allowed then these areas of activity or harm should be addressed individually. Instead of stopping this activity.
Please do not allow personal watercraft jet skis in Kachemak Bay. The original regulation prohibiting this activity was done in full coordination and with full support of ADF&G based on known adverse impacts of such use on wildlife and other uses of the Bay.

Laura Hahn
I am writing to oppose the proposed lifting of the existing ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. My family runs a rental cabin service on Hesketh Island and a large part of our income is dependent on Kachemak Bay remaining a pristine wildlife area that attracts ecotourism. I am deeply concerned that the introduction of jet skis into the area would be devastating for the ecosystem, the wildlife, and my family's income. I urge you to please keep the ban in place and help protect Kachemak Bay as a nature sanctuary.

Laura Hahn
I am writing to encourage you to keep jet skis from Kachemak Bay. I’ve visited various places during 3 different trips to Alaska. Much time was spent bicycling, camping, canoeing and the like. I enjoy the serenity, beauty and quiet. After several days in the Nome area in August 2018, I had the great privilege to spend time on the Kenai Peninsula. This included a day kayaking on Kachemak Bay. What a beautiful, peaceful and quiet place. We saw sea otters and eagles. We enjoyed a peaceful lunch along the shore.

Please keep Kachemak Bay a quiet peaceful place.

Mary Lynch
I am writing to oppose the proposal to open the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat area to Jet Skis (PWC). I urge you to retain the current regulation of prohibiting such watercraft from our critical habitat area.

Please prohibit jet skis from Kachemak Bay.

PWC after 5 pm comments
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Please prohibit jet skis from Kachemak Bay.
I wish to express my opposition over the use of personal watercraft (jet ski) in Kachemak Bay. I own property on MacDonald Spit and do not wish to see our environment filled with personal watercraft in either Sailors Cove, Halibut Cove, etc. to properly respond to accidents involving these types of watercraft. Yes, boats too can have accidents, but they typically are much slower moving, and therefore the opportunity to have run-ins is statistically much lower. In Sailors Cove - boats enter into the area at a reduced speed and are respectful of the boats that are buoyed or moored. Smaller personal watercraft would have a field day inside the sandbar wreaking havoc on the boats in the bay.

I urge the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to not allow personal watercraft - jet ski type - equipment use in the greater Kachemak Bay area.

On a 2nd note, it is terrible to see people using drones to film Eagles, and other wildlife on our beaches. It should be investigated as harassment to wildlife. It is also invasive to property owners to have these drones flying over our property. If you need examples - please contact me.

Meg Eggleston
megael@gmail.com
Anchorage
6771 Louden Cir
Self I hope missing the deadline by 20 minutes will be OK. I have enjoyed birding on the Homer Spit many times a year since 1979. The incredible flings of shorebirds that used to pause on the Spit during migration have been reduced to small numbers. But they are still seen. And they need their rest. I totally worry for them if jet skis are permitted.

I also worry for the recreational salmon fishing people who cannot afford to go out on a charter but can do some pretty great fishing from the Spit. I don’t suppose the salmon would enjoy swimming amidst jet skis. My third concern for myself and others is the simple problem of noise pollution. At 67 years old I still prefer to camp in my tent on the Spit during my summer visits. The sound of jet skis would be totally offensive to my need for listening to the surf, experiencing the natural sounds. And to me, the sounds of fishing boats belong.

Rob Shively
rob-shively@comcast.net
Kasilof AK

I would be very disappointed were jet skis to be permitted in the Kachemak Bay critical habitat area. I realize you have already learned of many good reasons why so many of us are opposed to repealing the ban. I could cite all of them; instead, I will simply say my main concern is that jet skis would entirely transform the whole wild aura of Kachemak Bay. Rather than feeling like I were touring a pristine, natural environment, with all the peaceful wonders of nature, I would feel I were somehow out of place in a “Cancun North” party haven for adrenaline and alcohol junkies gone wild. Some places are simply meant for certain things and not for others. Cabo San Lucas, Cancun, Lake Powell, and even Big Lake and Longmere Lake are apt destinations for the jet ski horde. Kachemak Bay is not. Let’s not ruin it simple as a small but vocal group of niche users can go nuts there.

Meggie O’Brien
maggie.Obrien@usda.gov
Anchorage

I am against jet skis in Kachemak Bay!!

The Board of Fish has a constitutional obligation to maximize the benefit of fisheries for all Alaskans. In Upper Cook Inlet, that benefit is maximized when the resource is made directly available to each of us - that means we need more fish in the rivers and greater access to personal use fishing throughout Cook Inlet. We want healthy, sustainable fisheries, and that means we all need to share in the work of conservation and strengthen Conservation Corridors. As an Alaskan angler, I support the proposals that work towards those goals and I encourage the Board to support proposals 78, 88, 121, 129, 154 and 195.

Thank you for your time, and your service to Alaska.

PWC after 5 pm comments
Barbara Pitman
bpitman@hotmail.com
MacDonald Spit

No jet skis in Katchemak Bay!!

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Anchorage

No jet skis in Katchemak Bay!!

I have enjoyed birding on the Homer Spit many times a year since 1979. The incredible flings of shorebirds that used to pause on the Spit during migration have been reduced to small numbers. But they are still seen. And they need their rest. I totally worry for them if jet skis are permitted.

I also worry for the recreational salmon fishing people who cannot afford to go out on a charter but can do some pretty great fishing from the Spit. I don’t suppose the salmon would enjoy swimming amidst jet skis. My third concern for myself and others is the simple problem of noise pollution. At 67 years old I still prefer to camp in my tent on the Spit during my summer visits. The sound of jet skis would be totally offensive to my need for listening to the surf, experiencing the natural sounds. And to me, the sounds of fishing boats belong.

Meg Eggleston
megael@gmail.com
Anchorage

Hello – I hope missing the deadline by 20 minutes will be OK. I have enjoyed birding on the Homer Spit many times a year since 1979. The incredible flings of shorebirds that used to pause on the Spit during migration have been reduced to small numbers. But they are still seen. And they need their rest. I totally worry for them if jet skis are permitted.

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PWC after 5 pm comments
Robert Shively
shivelyrob@comcast.net
Kasilof AK

I would be very disappointed were jet skis to be permitted in the Kachemak Bay critical habitat area. I realize you have already learned of many good reasons why so many of us are opposed to repealing the ban. I could cite all of them; instead, I will simply say my main concern is that jet skis would entirely transform the whole wild aura of Kachemak Bay. Rather than feeling like I were touring a pristine, natural environment, with all the peaceful wonders of nature, I would feel I were somehow out of place in a “Cancun North” party haven for adrenaline and alcohol junkies gone wild. Some places are simply meant for certain things and not for others. Cabo San Lucas, Cancun, Lake Powell, and even Big Lake and Longmere Lake are apt destinations for the jet ski horde. Kachemak Bay is not. Let’s not ruin it simple as a small but vocal group of niche users can go nuts there.
Sharon Whytal  
PO BOX 1529  
Homer ak 99603  
I have written and testified three times in the past against jet skis in the fragile Kachemak Bay. Please do not let this happen.  
The law is clear: the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.” Alaska Statutes 16.20.500 (emphasis added).  
The science clearly shows jetskis and PWC’s are NOT compatible with the purpose of the Kachemak Bay & Fox River Flats Critical Habitat to protect fish and wildlife, including a recent 2019 National Park Service EIS, a detailed 2017 literature review by ADF&G, and in the opinion of ADF&G’s own staff experts.  
Over 99% of Alaskan waters are open to jet ski use. The unique natural values of Kachemak Bay attract tens of thousand of tourists and Alaskans each year, and help drive our local economy. It makes no sense to threaten our resources and our economy so a few people can play on jet skis.

Clarence Crawford  
5500 East 104 Avenue  
ANCHORAGE AK 99507  
Please add this to the list of opponents to allowing jet skis into Kachemak Bay.  
The reasons are many:  
1. There is a well established history of opposition to this use.  
2. Unlike Prince William Sound, Kachemak Bay is a compressed and relatively confined area. Though it is in a high-quality environment, it is not a wilderness. The sensitive biological areas are well-known within the Department of Fish and Game. In addition, there are numerous residences and recreational cabins. Not only would the sensitive biological areas be affected, but also the quality of life for those residents and visitors. In my case, our property in Sadie Cove fronts an area barely a mile wide. Recreational boats and fishing boats can come there and be Notice not to; also, those boats are there for a clear and legitimate purpose. The purposes of using jet skis are entirely different and unacceptable.  
3. Kachemak Bay includes forms of aquaculture, such as oyster farming, that jet skiers are apt to disturb. Someone out for ajoyride could easily blunder into those floating pens.  
4. The precedent of banning jet skis is long-standing and well-documented. To add to my first point, it is perverse for the Dunleavy administration to propose something that benefits few people and harms many.

Donna Bartman  
P.O. Box 400  
Kasilof, AK 99610  
Please do not repeal the ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. I have recreated on the bay for about 30 years in kayaks, inflatables, skiffs, etc. and I would like to continue to see wildlife, enjoy the serenity, and not have jet skis zooming around. Yes, I am concerned about the critical habitat, the safety of boaters, waterfowl and marine mammals populations. Please find another place for the personal watercraft group to use. NOT Kachemak Bay. Thank you.

Lane Bottemiller  
516 W 15th Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Please continue to support your long-standing commitment to the diverse, productive and precious water-ways of Alaska. Here is another Alaskan against allowing PWCs in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats.  
You’ve heard and know all the arguments on both sides. Here is why my voice matters: I came to Alaska in 2004 to work in tourism and Alaska has been my home ever since. People come to visit our beautiful state — and that includes folks by the tens of thousands drawn to the Kachemak Bay area — because of the pristine and serene experiences that can be enjoyed here. I think we can all agree that there is something extra special about the bay. And that makes it worth the extra attention and dedication to KEEPING IT SPECIAL. By special, I mean — like MOST residents of the area— quiet and protected from noisy water craft that are disruptive to people and wildlife.  
I LOVE renting jet skis - I've used them in big noisy places like Mexico and Lake Tahoe. I would even love to rent a jet ski here in Alaska. Somewhere OTHER THAN the bay.  
There are rules and procedures in place. It's the democratic process of affected parties finding compromise. This apparently way too-run on the public process is out of line with fairness and the spirit of community that we value so highly here in Alaska.  
Bottom line:  
1) Please give your best effort to re-direct all agency efforts towards the public process in decision-making while using your publicly funded power of office to gently push back to the the action that seek to bypass a fair discussion.  
2) Please make every effort to keep those noisy, disruptive vessels out of waterways that have such close proximity to quiet homes, businesses and wildlife.

Jose Heredia  
Heredia, Jose <JoseHeredia@ferrellgas.com>  
My last two vacations were to Alaska. The most memorable was a quiet and peaceful kayaking and fishing in Kachemak bay and Sadie Cove.
Jan Stewart  428 Scott Park Drive  Iowa City, Iowa 52246

Last year I visited Homer and the Kachemak Bay area and enjoyed the true beauty of nature and the animals in the area while kayaking and touring the region.

I am now writing to request that you extend the ban on jet skis in the region. High speed jet skis tend to congregate in small areas and shallow waters, drive in circular patterns, and jump wakes. In 2001, the State of Alaska went through a rigorous public process, and the overwhelming majority of comments favored a ban on jet skis in Kachemak Bay. And please remember that the purpose of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area is to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.

Gerald R. Brooks  715 Muir Avenue, Kake, Alaska 99611-8816

Dear Sirs:

I submit the following statement concerning this matter and request that it be recorded and considered when the final decision on this matter is made.

I believe that the use of "personal watercraft", also known as "jet skis", is a totally incompatible use of the area concerned. I urge that these devices be totally prohibited from entering or remaining in the area of Kachemak Bay that is under State of Alaska jurisdiction.

Karl Stupka, Sr.  Karl Stupka | karl@ncsol

I am writing on behalf of my father Karl Stupka (I am also named Karl Stupka). He is the owner of a small plot located off Bear Cove. Located at: 59°43'13.3"N 151°01'06.9"W

Soon I will also be a joint owner of the land. We are working on the paperwork but we are both very busy and located on opposite coast of the continental states. One day we plan to establish a small dwelling or structure on the property.

He wanted to make sure I expressed his objection to the proposal to allow Jet Skis to operate in the bay. He agrees with the statements made in the letter inquiry letter you sent and does not want to open the bay to that type of disturbance.

He is not equipped to correspond through email so I am voicing his concern as his representative. If possible please respond with your receipt of this correspondence so I can let him know his concerns were heard.


See message: RE: Continue the BAN on Jet Skis and PWC in Kachemak Bay.mcg in PWC after 5 pm comments


See message: RE: Jet ski ban in PWC after 5 pm comments


See message: RE: Jet Skis on Kachemak Bay.mcg in PWC after 5 pm comments


See message: RE: Jet Skis and PWC Kachemak Bay.mcg in PWC after 5 pm comments


See message: RE: Jet ski.mcg in PWC after 5 pm comments


See message: RE: No Jetskis in Kachemak Bay.mcg in PWC after 5 pm comments


See message: RE: Support ban on personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay.mcg in PWC after 5 pm comments

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society  KBCS Jet Ski Free Zone Paper Petition

KBCS Jet Ski Free Zone online petition