

PROPOSAL 24

5 AAC 21.372. Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery Management Plan.

Eliminate the Tutka Bay Lagoon Special Harvest Area, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 21.372. To Remove the Tutka Bay Special Harvest Area.

[TUTKA BAY LAGOON SPECIAL HARVEST AREA: THE MARINE WATERS OF TUTKA BAY SUBDISTRICT IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT SOUTHEAST AND SHOREWARD OF A LINE FROM 59_30.23' N. LAT., 151_28.23' W. LONG. TO 59_28.63' N. LAT., 151_30.37' W. LONG., INCLUDING TUTKA BAY LAGOON;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Tutka Bay is a silled fjord recognized for its high productivity located in the essential habitats of a: constitutional Special Purpose Site; legislatively designated Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area' State Park lands and waters; NOAA Habitat Focus Area; and National Estuarine Reserve. Art VIII Sec 7; AS 38.04.070; AS 41.21.131; AS 41.21.990; AS 16.20.590; AS 16.21.500; AS 16.20.580; AS 16.05.020; AS 16.05.050; AS 16.05.255; AS 16.20.520: AS 16.20.530; 5 AAC 95.610

It is inappropriate and against all law to have a Special Harvest Area that removes open access for an exclusive use in Tutka Bay. This is prohibited in Kachemak Bay State Park.

REASON:

Cost Recovery Hatchery activity runs contrary to the original intent of the hatchery which was rehabilitation of depressed salmon fishery. Pinks are not depressed. Pinks are also not preferred. These hatchery fish are being wasted.

This Bay must remain open to traditional fishing during regular fishing days to eliminate this glut of fish that for years simply build up die and float unharvested as wanton waste while waiting for the cost recovery boat to maybe come in to harvest fish. The glut and congestion into the lagoon gets so packed fish back out of there and stray into the anadromous waters at the head of Tutka Bay. These wild streams are being contaminated with high levels of Hatchery straying. Up to 75% was documented in 2015 from a release of half the permitted capacity at Tutka Bay Hatchery. This is caused by congestion. Pinks cannot hold their eggs. Please remove this SHA out of the Kachemak Bay State Park and Critical Habitat Area for open access

PROPOSED BY: Jeffrey Lee

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