

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 21.373. Trail Lakes Hatchery Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Bear Lake Special Harvest Area to exclude fresh waters that are currently open to salmon sport fishing, as follows:

5AAC 21.373 [b] [1] is amended to read:

5AA 21.373 Trail Lakes Hatchery Salmon Management Plan [b] [1] Bear Lake Special Harvest Area: the marine waters of Resurrection Bay, in the Eastern District north of a latitude of Caines Head at approximately 59 58.93’ N. lat. And the fresh waters of Bear Creek, Salmon Creek, and Resurrection River downstream from and including the Bear Lake weir, **excluding the freshwaters downstream from the Seward Highway and downstream from Nash Road to the ADF&G fresh/salt water boundary markers.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Trail Lakes Hatchery Salmon Management Plan. Modify the Bear Lake Special Harvest Area to exclude the fresh waters that are currently open to salmon sport fishing below the Seward Highway Bridge.

The current Bear Creek Special Harvest Area [SHA] does not accurately reflect the commercial and noncommercial use that occurs in the common property fisheries that Cook Inlet Aquaculture [CIAA] supports in the North Gulf Coast.

Within the Bear Lake Special Area defined by 5 AAC 21.373[e][4], CIAA may harvest salmon on or after the third Monday in May [by emergency order] using purse seines, hand purse seines, beach seines and weirs.

Concurrently, there exists a special freshwater fishery defined in 5 AAC 56.122[a][9][D] where “the waters downstream from the Seward Highway and downstream from Nash Road are open to sport fishing for salmon, except king salmon from June 16-December 31; only single hook, artificial lures may be used; the bag and possession limit is three salmon per day of which only 2 may be coho salmon” This fishery is in an area that is defined as fresh water down to the where ADF&G places the fresh/salt water boundary markers. This small area is the only portion of the Resurrection Bay drainage that is open to sport fishing for salmon.

This proposal would remove waters from the Seward Highway down to the ADF&G fresh/salt water boundary markers from the current Bear Creek SHA so that the SHA would accurately reflect commercial and noncommercial use. This proposal would not affect the prosecution of either fishery in any way.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Fish And Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F16-059)
