

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 77.545. Kachemak Bay Personal Use Dip Net Fishery Management Plan.

Redefine the Kachemak Bay Personal Use Dip Net Fishery area as follows:

This fishery was developed with the intent to provide a harvest opportunity for commercial use. It has become marginally profitable as a commercial fishery, but it is relied on by local residents as an important food source obtained through personal use dip netting. It has become even more important due to the closure of King salmon fishing in local streams and areas of salt water.

Due to the high number of participants, in a very confined space, it has become a public safety and resource allocation issue. Snagging is permitted, by residents and non-residents, in a narrow arm of the bay to the mouth of the stream. Since dip netting is closed to non-residents, they commonly wade across areas of shallow brackish water and form a snagging picket line. Salmon are prevented from moving into the freshwater where they can be harvested by the dip netters.

Additional snaggers are lined up on steep rocky banks trying to intercept the fish. Dip netters must move to and from the freshwater past a gauntlet of lead weighted treble snag hooks. Many of these folks are novice fishers, focused on the fish, and not the dip netters that are trying to pass behind them on the steep slippery banks.

Much of this issue could be resolved by moving the snag line markers away from the stream mouth, by an additional 300 ft from their present position.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Resolve a user conflict:

The popularity of the China Poot red salmon terminal fishery has grown tremendously over the years. The stocking program began in 1976 by ADF&G. It continues today by Cook Inlet Aquaculture.

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