

PROPOSAL 39

5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.

Amend the list of waters closed to commercial fishing for salmon in Cook Inlet as follows:

5 AAC 21.350 is amended to read:

...

(d) Southern District

...

(9) waters of Humpy Creek south of a line from 59° 40.10' N. lat., 151° 09.70' W. long., to 59° 40.10' N. lat., 151° 08.10' W. long., and east of a line at 59° 40.10' N. lat., 151° 09.70' W. long., to 59° 39.30' N. lat., 151° 09.70' W. long.;

(10) waters of Tutka Bay southeast of a line at 59° 25.51' N. lat., 151° 19.01' W. long., to 59° 25.14' N. lat., 151° 19.51' W. long.;

(e) Kamishak Bay District

...

(3) waters of Iniskin Bay north of a line from a point at 59° 43.85' N. lat., 153° 22.60' W. long., to 59° 43.85' N. lat., 153° 27.12' W. long., and east of a line from 59° 43.85' N. lat., 153° 22.60' W. long., to 59° 42.89' N. lat., 153° 22.60' W. long.;

(8) waters of Rocky Cove inshore of a line from 59° 26.98' N. lat., 153° 44.36' W. long., to 59° 26.37' N. lat., 153° 43.92' W. long.;

(9) waters of McNeil Lagoon and bay inshore of a line from 59° 7.52' N. lat., 154° 15.00' W. long., to 59° 07.40' N. lat., 154° 14.20' W. long.;

(10) waters of Bruin Bay inshore of a line at 59° 22.28' N. lat., 154° 04.95' W. long., to 59° 20.80' N. lat., 154° 04.95' W. long.;

(11) waters of Knoll Head Creek north of a line at 59° 37.80' N. lat., 153° 30.24' W. long., to 59° 37.80' N. lat., 151° 31.94' W. long., and west of a line from 59° 37.80' N. lat., 153° 30.24' W. long., to 59° 38.21' N. lat., 153° 30.24' W. long.;

(12) waters of Brown Peak Creek north of a line from 59° 32.60' N. lat., 153° 44.30' W. long., to 59° 32.60' N. lat., 153° 42.50' W. long.;

(13) waters of Amakdedori Creek west of a line from 59° 17.10' N. lat., 154° 07.10' W. long., to 59° 16.10' N. lat., 154° 07.10' W. long.;

(f) Outer District

...

(15) waters of South Nuka Bay east of a line from 59° 18.62' N. lat., 150° 42.86' W. long., to 59° 18.13' N. lat., 150° 43.11' W. long.;

(16) waters of James Lagoon west of a line from 59° 34.11' N. lat., 150° 23.04' W. long., to 59° 33.05' N. lat., 150° 24.74' W. long.;

(17) waters of Shelter Cove south of a line from 59° 17.30' N. lat., 151° 13.90' W. long., to 59° 17.30' N. lat., 151° 14.80' W. long., and west of a line from 59° 17.30' N. lat., 151° 13.90' W. long., to 59° 17.03' N. lat., 151° 13.90' W. long.;

(g) Eastern District

...

(4) waters of Aialik Bay and lagoon north of a line from 59° 52.58' N. lat., 149° 44.62' W. long., to 59° 52.75' N. lat., 149° 44.12' W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal describes regulatory closed waters in areas previously identified using only physical markers. The regulatory marker program in Lower Cook Inlet ended in 2008. Following this, at the 2013 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, regulatory closed waters were established for sixteen areas that had previously been identified using physical markers. Some of these markers were referenced in regulation, other markers were not identified in regulation. Approximately a dozen markers that had not historically been identified in regulation were retired with the intention that closed waters in those areas would be defined using the general closed waters definition found in 5 AAC 39.290. Most of those markers were not removed due to their remote locations and it was determined they would be allowed to deteriorate in place. There has been confusion in recent years that specific closed waters points were not codified in regulation and commercial salmon fishery stakeholders have indicated that clear latitude and longitude points defining closed waters are preferred to the language in 5 AAC 39.290. This will aid in enforcing commercial salmon fishing closed waters in Lower Cook Inlet.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F23-006)
