

PROPOSAL 41

5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.

Close a portion of Tutka Bay to commercial fishing for salmon as follows:

Reinstate the head of Tutka Bay by closing productive waters as follows:

Under 5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters. (d) Southern District:

ADD: (4) waters of Tutka Bay southeast of 59 25.50' N. lat.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Tutka Bay is located in ADFG's Legislatively designated Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. 5 AAC 95.610, The Critical Habitat Management Plan Goals and Policies, gives ADFG guidance that:

"Priority should be given to encouraging rehabilitation of depleted indigenous fish populations"; and "Recognize cumulative impacts when considering effects of small incremental developments and action affecting critical habitat resources."; and "protect natural substrate and aquatic vegetation...to maintain aquatic habitats."

The issue is to prioritize regulations to protect habitat for depleted species from cumulative impacts of CIAA's hatchery cost recovery seine net lead lines scraping the aquatic substrate and vegetation, The head of Tutka Bay is a rare highly productive vegetated salt marsh. It functions as a delta used as cover for predator avoidance by valuable depleted shellfish, crustaceans, and larval fishes as aid to prioritize their rehabilitation. This delta is a valuable rearing, spawning, reproductive concentration habitat as designated by ADFG. The Tutka Head End, and Southern Glacier Creeks that flow into the head of Tutka Bay are nominated ADFG anadromous waters contributing wild coho, chum, pink and dolly to the collective mixed stock fisheries. This wild fish diversity of species requires priority management not to sacrifice resources, but to recognize cumulative impacts affecting resources.

PROPOSED BY: Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries Inc.

(EF-F23-126)
