

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Planning Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter Ribbens, Assembly President
Members, KPB Assembly

THRU: Peter A. Micciche, KPB Mayor *PAM*
Robert Ruffner, Planning Director *ARR*

FROM: Samantha Lopez, River Center Manager *SL*

DATE: August 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2025- 20 , Amending Borough Code, KPB 21.18.025, Regarding Anadromous Waters within the West District of the KPB 21.18 Appendix (Mayor)

The Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) is home to vital watersheds that our salmon require to spawn, rear, and grow in. Maintaining watershed connectivity via riparian habitat buffers along anadromous waterbodies is one crucial tool that has proven to aid in sustaining the Kenai Peninsula's salmon populations. It is important that these buffers are developed in ways that allow property owners to freely recreate while also maintaining a healthy riparian habitat that benefits our salmon.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) maintains the "Atlas and Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fish" (Catalog), and makes annual additions and deletions based on data observed in the field. In 2014, KPB opted to maintain its own list of anadromous waters, known as the KPB 21.18 Appendix, which is categorized into three geographical districts: South, West, and North. This ordinance addresses the additions and deletions within the West District.

KPB 21.18.030(D) requires that the KPB Planning Department River Center Division reviews ADF&G's additions and deletions to the Catalog every three years and present those changes to the Assembly as proposed amendments to KPB 21.18. After a thorough review of those changes, the majority of proposed waterbodies are branches and extensions of waters already listed in the KPB 21.18 Appendix. There are 102 extensions and branches off of regulated streams, 19 streams and 24 lakes proposed for addition.

Your consideration is appreciated.