

Introduced by: Chesley
Date: 03/02/21
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent, 1 Abstained

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2021-017**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATIONS AND
OPPOSING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF KACHEMAK
BAY STATE PARK AND STATE WILDERNESS PARK THAT WOULD NEGATIVELY
IMPACT TUTKA BAY LAGOON HATCHERY**

- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska Division of Natural Resources (DNR) recently proposed a management plan with the intent to adopt, which includes effective elimination of the "Fishery Enhancement - Hatcheries" category with respect to Kachemak Bay State Park (Park) and its Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery (TBLH); and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska created its first state park, Kachemak Bay State Park, in 1970 using boundaries suggested by Senator Clem Tillion of Halibut Cove; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska created the Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement, and Development (F.R.E.D.) in 1971 and charged it to (1) develop and continually maintain a comprehensive, coordinated state plan for the orderly present and long range rehabilitation, enhancement and development of all aspects of the state's fisheries for the perpetual use, benefit, and enjoyment of all citizens, and revise and update this plan annually; (2) encourage the investment by private enterprise in the technological development and economic utilization of the fisheries resources; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska F.R.E.D. division began building salmon hatcheries in 1973 and built TBLH in 1975-76, it being the sixth hatchery they built; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska contracted with Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) to operate TBLH in July 1991; and
- WHEREAS,** CIAA is a private, non-profit, regional aquaculture corporation that works with regional stakeholders to engage in salmon fisheries enhancement and habitat work throughout the Cook Inlet region for the benefit of salmon and all the groups who use salmon; and
- WHEREAS,** CIAA discontinued operating TBLH after the 2004 fry release due to pink salmon prices falling to 4¢/lb.; and

WHEREAS, 5 AAC 40.300. Establishes Regional Planning Teams (RPT) a regulation which states, "The commissioner will establish regions and regional planning teams for the primary purpose of developing comprehensive salmon plans for various regions of the state";

WHEREAS, the provisions of 5 AAC 40.300 - 5 AAC 40.370 govern the structure and functions of each regional planning team and the development of a comprehensive salmon plan for each region; and

WHEREAS, the Cook Inlet RPT is made up of six members, three from ADF&G and three from CIAA, has met since at least 1981, and has approved the TBLH operation plans annually; and

WHEREAS, inside the boundaries of the Park are numerous private property holdings, many of which have houses and other improvements and, specifically, Tutka Bay has 20 private property lots; and

WHEREAS, harvests from CIAA hatchery programs are part of the Cook Inlet salmon processor business plans and closing TBLH would cause economic harm to the local processing sector; and

WHEREAS, there are 82 Lower Cook Inlet salmon seine permits and the owners of each of those and their crew would be harmed if TBLH closes;

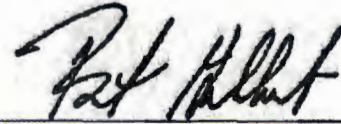
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly supports regional aquaculture associations in general and Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery in particular.

SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly supports scientific and unbiased methods to assess the impact of Tutka Bay Hatchery and its programs on marine ecosystems.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 2ND DAY OF MARCH, 2021.



Brent Hibbert, Assembly President

ATTEST:



John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Endnotes

- Johannsen, Neil C. *Management Plan for Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park, introductory letter, March 1995*
- Fair, Clark. *How Alaska's State Parks Came to Be*, September 8, 2020 *Peninsula Clarion*
- Roys, Robert S. *Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development Report to the 1976 Legislature*, p1,
- Roys, Robert S. *Report to the 1975 Legislature Concerning the Activities of the Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development*, p45 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries, February 10, 1975
- Bucher, Wesley A. and Hammerstrom, Lee. *1991 Lower Cook Inlet Area Annual Finfish Management Report*, p33, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries, February 1993
- Stopha, Mark. *Alaska Salmon Fisheries Enhancement Annual Report 2017*, p81, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries, March 2018.
- Holland, J.S. Ph.D. and McKean, Marianne. *FRED 1991 Annual Report*, p33, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development. January 1992
- Hammerstrom, Lee F. and Dickson, Mark S. *2004 Lower Cook Inlet Area Annual Finfish Management Report*, p94, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries, March 2005
- Dean, Ashley and Shwartz, Mark. Stanford News Service, news release from *Salmon Aquaculture in the Pacific Northwest: A Global Industry*, in the October 2003 *ENVIRONMENT* magazine. 9-22-03
<https://news.stanford.edu/pr/03/salmon924.html>

- Hollowell, Glenn; Otis, Ted; and Ford, Ethan. *2012 Lower Cook Inlet Area Finfish Management Report*, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries. October 2013
- No author given. *Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, 2013 Annual Report*, p10
- No author given. *1981 Annual Report*, CIAA, Committees, p

Yes: Bjorkman, Carpenter, Chesley, Cox, Derkevorkian, Dunne, Elam, Hibbert
No: None
Absent: None
Abstained: Johnson