

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Planning Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, KPB Assembly

THRU: Peter A. Micciche, Mayor *AM*
Robert Ruffner, Planning Director *RR*

FROM: Samantha Lopez, River Center Manager *SL*

DATE: August 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2024- 25 , Amending KPB 21.18.025 to address adoptions and deletions of anadromous waters within the South District of the KPB 21.18 Appendix that have been identified in the "Atlas and Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fish" published by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (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 (“ADFG”) 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, the 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 South District.

KPB 21.18.030(D) requires that the River Center review ADFG’s additions & deletions to the Catalog every three years, and present those changes to the Assembly. After a thorough review of those changes, the River Center identified the majority of changes as extensions of waterbodies already listed the KPB 21.18 Appendix, with only a few new waterbodies.

Your consideration is appreciated.