

Kenai Peninsula Borough

*144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669*



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

4:00 PM

Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers

Legislative Committee

Brent Johnson, Chair

Jesse Bjorkman, Vice Chair

Willy Dunne, Member

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolutions

- *b. [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 (Chesley)

Attachments: [Resolution 2021-017](#)
[Memo](#)

- *c. [2021-018](#) A Resolution Asking the US Secretary of Commerce to Consider Vetoing the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Adoption of Measures that Will Close Commercial Salmon Fishing in the Cook Inlet Exclusive Economic Zone (Dunne, Johnson, Mayor)

Attachments: [Resolution 2021-018](#)

Introduced by: Chesley
Date: 03/02/21
Action:
Vote:

**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:

Johni 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:

No:

Absent:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Hibbert, Assembly President
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Lane Chesley, Assembly Member *LC*

DATE: February 18, 2021

RE: Resolution 2021-017, 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 (Chesley)

Kachemak Bay State Park is in the process of rewriting its Management Plan. The Park was created in 1970 and Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery (TBLH) was built in 1975-76. The State of Alaska (State) was the creator of both entities and the State managed both until 1991 when the State was abandoning all salmon hatcheries that contributed to commercial fisheries. The abandonment has been completed, long ago. At this time there is not a single State operated hatchery in Alaska with a salmon enhancement program intended to benefit a commercial fishery. Instead, the State supports Regional Aquaculture Associations and also a few private, non-profit (mom & pop) hatcheries.

Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) took over operation of TBLH in 1991, at about the same time it took over operation of two other State-owned hatcheries. Also, at about the same time, farm-raised salmon hammered the price of Alaska salmon. By 2004 the price of the pinks cost recovered at TBLH fell to 4¢/lb.! So CIAA discontinued operation of TBLH.

By 2011, however, the fate and popularity of pink salmon in the marketplace soared. Pink salmon were selling for 37¢/lb. and CIAA reopened TBLH. Alaska Department of Fish and Game encouraged the move and the State loaned CIAA money to accomplish needed renovations. The State also funded grants for state-owned hatcheries, including TBLH after 2011. About 2017 CIAA was able to adapt

TBLH to a fresh water egg-take (gamete collection) increasing the survival rate of eggs. The sky seemed blue and years of struggle were freshened with hope.

And now news comes that TBLH is no longer welcome in the Kachemak Bay State Park. A hatchery doesn't fit the view shed of a "scenic" park according to a document from State Parks and comments from others. Actually, TBLH cannot be seen from Tutka Bay. Other people claim hatchery pink salmon are negatively impacting ecosystems that other marine animals and other salmon depend on. To that end we can discuss various studies and scientific data, which contradict this theory. That is the issue before the Assembly today.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Introduced by: Dunne, Johnson, Mayor
Date: 03/02/21
Action:
Vote:

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2021-018**

**A RESOLUTION ASKING THE US SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO CONSIDER
VETOING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL'S
ADOPTION OF MEASURES THAT WILL CLOSE COMMERCIAL SALMON
FISHING IN THE COOK INLET EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE**

- WHEREAS**, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act or MSA) directs the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to prepare a fishery management plan for each fishery under its authority that requires conservation and management; and
- WHEREAS**, the Council, at its December 7, 2020 meeting, selected Alternative 4 amending the Fishery Management Plan for the salmon fisheries that occur in waters of Cook Inlet; and
- WHEREAS**, Alternate 4 will close the Cook Inlet Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to all commercial salmon fishing; and
- WHEREAS**, the commercial fishing industry has been an important economic activity for 138 years, providing many jobs for Kenai Peninsula residents; and
- WHEREAS**, the commercial fishing industry provides a large tax base for the Kenai Peninsula Borough in the form of property taxes, personal property taxes and raw fish tax; and
- WHEREAS**, commercial fishing in the EEZ has occurred to some extent for over a hundred years, and has been a main area for salmon harvest since 1947; and
- WHEREAS**, for the existing processors to produce a high-quality product it is important that they receive fish in an orderly and timely fashion; and
- WHEREAS**, the drift fleet in Cook Inlet is an integral gear group that has a substantial harvest in the lower inlet (overlapping with the EEZ); and
- WHEREAS**, the local borough government has expressed interest in maintaining a healthy economy and jobs would be reduced if the Council's adoption of Alternative 4 were enacted; and

WHEREAS, if Alternative 4 is enacted, it will eliminate jobs in the commercial fishing and processing sectors, eliminate jobs in all the support industries, and cause harm to all the coastal communities in the Kenai Peninsula Borough;

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

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly asks the US Secretary of Commerce to consider vetoing the North Pacific Management Council adoption of Alternate 4.

SECTION 2. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption.

SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution be submitted to Alaska Congressional Delegation, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan and Representative Don Young.

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

Brent Hibbert, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk

Yes:

No:

Absent: