

Members of the Board:

My name is Beaver Nelson. I am from Homer and a Cook Inlet seine permit holder. I am also speaking for the Cook Inlet Seiners Association which has a membership of about 40 members.

Testimony in SUPPORT of Proposal 77:

The West Arm of Port Dick is the most prolific producer of wild pink salmon in Lower Cook Inlet with 3 drainages responsible for virtually all production. These are the Headend Creek, Middle Creek and Island Creek each of which has its own set of closed water areas to protect escapement.

The West Arm is currently divided into a Northern and Southern section which was intended to allow a common property fishery in the Southern section early in the run while allowing incoming fish unobstructed access to the 3 producing areas along the north shoreline.

A problem with the North-South division is that it does not allow for independent management of the 3 producing drainages. Either all are open or all are closed. It is further complicated by the Headend stream being earlier run timing and Island Creek being later. Chum salmon runs can also be very strong in some years but quite variable between the different drainages.

This, however, is not the primary reason for a change from the North-South sections. As presently described, this line is identified as a straight line between 2 points identified by Lat-Long only. The points are in open water with no visual points of reference and the line is about 5 miles long. Sometimes it is closer to the north shore and sometimes closer to the south shore. Without a GPS chart plotter, a fisherman has no way of knowing for sure if he is in legal waters. Looking up and down the bay at other boats, it is difficult to determine if they are legal or not because of a lack of visual references. This makes for a lot of "grey area" fishing and accusations among the fleet as to who is fishing legally. Much of the fishing is done on small, open mini-seiners or "jitneys" which do not have much in the way of electronics.

By creating 3 sub-sections with boundaries running north and south rather than the one east - west line, many problems are alleviated. First, the boundary lines would be less than 1 mile long and easily referenced by shoreline features; and second, each sub-section can be managed independently for escapement.

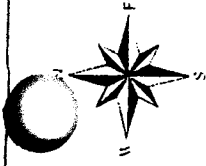
All in all, this proposal would enable more precise management by Fish and Game and relieve a ton of stress on fishermen trying to fish legally in an area without visual references. The Port Dick North-South section line has generated the most negative comments to the the Cook Inlet Seiners Association.

Proposals 82, 82 & 84 - **SUPPORT** - the Salmon Hatchery Management Plans for the 3 Hatcheries operated by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association.

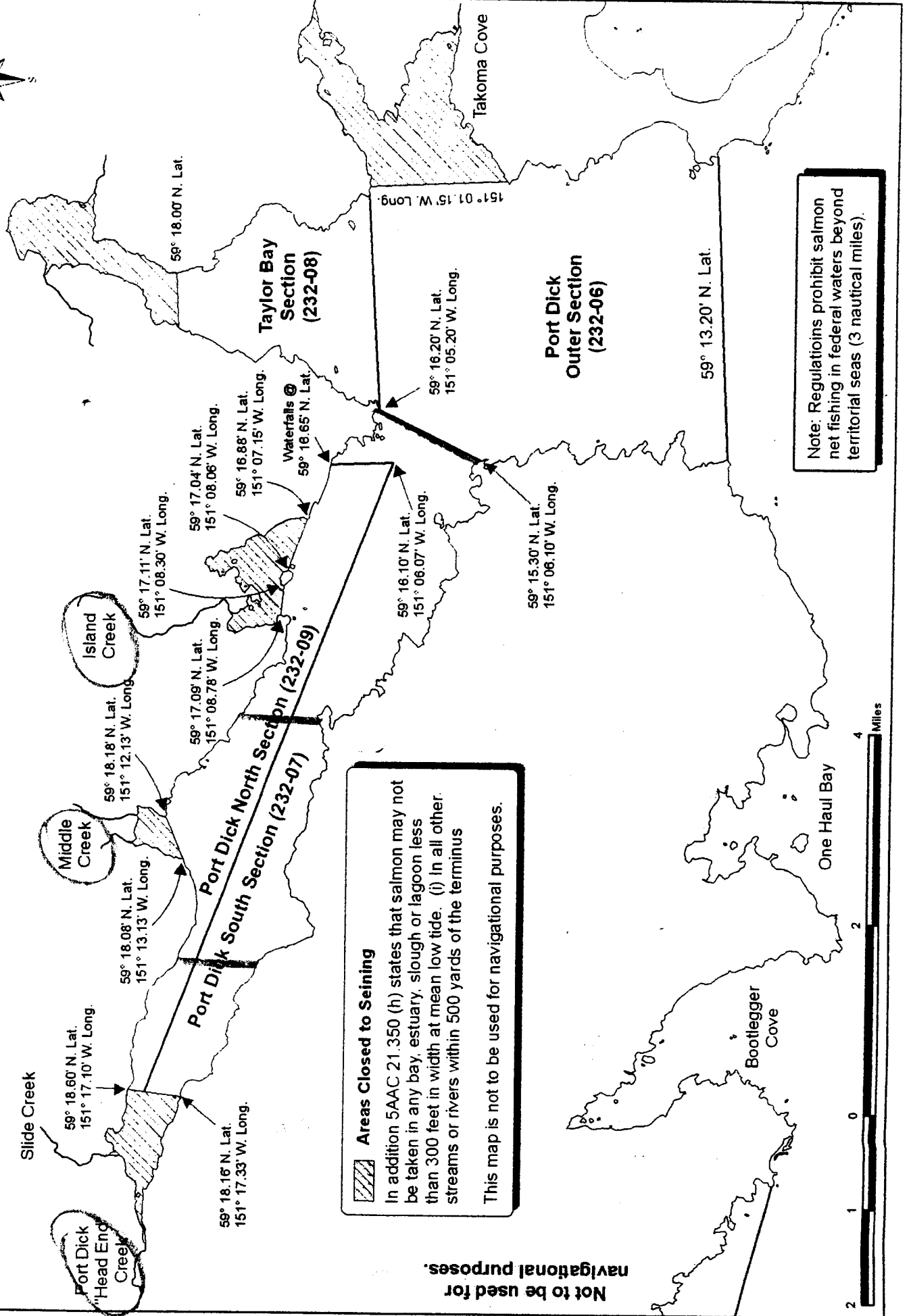
Proposal 85 -

Speaking for myself, I would amend the proposal to closing sport fishing in Resurrection River for sockeye when the Cost Recovery and Common Property fishing is closed due to escapement concerns for hatchery broodstock.

Port District Statistical Area Chart (3 of 4)



Not to be used for navigational purposes.



Areas Closed to Seining

In addition 5AAC 21.350 (h) states that salmon may not be taken in any bay, estuary, slough or lagoon less than 300 feet in width at mean low tide. (i) In all other streams or rivers within 500 yards of the terminus

This map is not to be used for navigational purposes.

Note: Regulations prohibit salmon net fishing in federal waters beyond territorial seas (3 nautical miles).



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