

PROPOSAL 25

5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.

Close waters of Tutka Bay southeast of 59 degrees 26.50' N. lat., as follows:

The anadromous waters at the head of Tutka Bay need to be placed in closed water status.

Under (d) Southern District: ADD:

(4) waters of Tutka Bay southeast of 59 degrees 26.50' N. lat.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Closed waters status is required as in neighboring bays, to protect the shallow bench at the head of Tutka Bay for rearing and spawning crustaceans and anadromous fish in essential habitats in marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems. The Head of Tutka Bay is a very productive shallow rare vegetated salt marsh delta and rearing grounds for many crustaceans and larval fishes.

Lead lines from seine nets up in these shallow headwaters, as well as along the coastlines, scrape the bottom of the essential habitat where species of rearing young and aquatic vegetation used as predator avoidance get damaged.

Tutka Bay is a silled fjord of shallows and deeps recognized for its high productivity located in the essential habitats of legislatively designated (LDA) Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, State Park lands and waters; NOAA Habitat Focus Area; and The National Estuarine Reserve. Art VIII Sec 7; AS 38.04.070; AS 41.21.131; AS 41.21.990; AS 16.20.590; AS 16.21.500; AS 16.20.580; AS 16.05.020; AS 16.05.050; AS 16.05.255; AS 16.20.520; AS 16.20.530; 5 AAC 95.610

The portfolio of salmon systems at the head of Tutka bay is significant to the LDA Park and CHA waters. This watershed has a number of anadromous streams where coho, chum and pink have been observed from multiple observers since the 1950's and documented in the AWC catalogue since 1975.

Anadromous waters catalog codes of Tutka Head End, and Southern Glacier Creeks flow into this shallow bench proposed as closed waters southeast of **59 degrees 26.50' N. lat.;**

- 241-16-10136 chums pink dolly's
- 241-16-10120 pink dolly's
- 241-16-10130-2010 chum coho pinks dolly's
- 241-16-10130-2031 chum pink dolly's
- 241-16-10130 chum coho, pink dolly's

PROPOSED BY: Nancy Hillstrand

(EF-F19-100)
