

**PROPOSAL 33**

**5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.**

Close the area within a one-mile radius of the end of the Homer Spit to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 21.350 Closed waters.(a) Commercial purse seining shall not be permitted in any of the waters listed in this section.

(d) Southern District

**(9) waters within one nautical mile of Coal Point at 59 36.00'N latitude, 151 24.50'W longitude.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal would amend waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in the Southern District of the Cook Inlet Area to include an area within a one-mile radius from the end of the Homer Spit (Coal Point).

The reasons are twofold; improve management of our recreational sport fisheries and increase boater safety. Because of the high value of Chinook Salmon, it's been observed in recent years that commercial purse seiners are targeting Chinook Salmon in close proximity to the terminus of the Homer Spit nearby the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (aka The Fishing Hole). The lagoon is a very popular recreational sport fishery for both locals and visitors alike. Chinook Salmon return mid-May to early July followed by a run of Silvers mid-July to mid-September.

Closing a one-mile radius around the end of Homer Spit to commercial purse seining would prevent the intentional interception of hatchery Chinook and Silver salmon. The second reason is safety. Floating purse seine nets in close proximity of the busy Homer Harbor entrance present a clear hazard to navigation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen/Todd Jacobson (HQ-F19-025)

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