



House Bill 52

Sponsor Statement

“An Act providing that operation of the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery in Kachemak Bay is compatible with the functions of Kachemak Bay State Park; and providing for an effective date.”

House Bill 52 seeks to save Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery by providing a land swap in the Kachemak Bay State Park with other state lands.

Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery, located in Tutka Bay, is a State-owned and Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association operated facility. This facility has been in operation since the late 1970s originally under ADF&G. CIAA has been operating this facility since 1991. This hatchery is a pink salmon facility with the permitted capacity to incubate up to 125 million eggs.

There are currently two legal issues with the Tutka Bay Hatchery within the Kachemak Bay State Park:

1. The hatchery constitutes an unconstitutional disposal of legislatively designated lands; and
2. Because the hatchery constitutes a disposal of legislatively designated lands, it requires an LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) conversion to cure the disposal. A conversion includes finding alternate lands that can be added to Kachemak State Park and thus “replace” the state park lands “lost” by the hatchery.

Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery also supports the sockeye salmon production at Trail Lakes Hatchery for the lower Cook Inlet stocking sites. This happens because the sockeye salmon fry raised for the lower Cook Inlet sites are transferred from Trail Lakes Hatchery to Tutka Bay Lagoon hatchery for release. The adults return to Tutka Bay Lagoon, where hatchery staff take the eggs and milt and then send them back to Trail Lakes Hatchery.

Alaska’s salmon hatcheries account for the annual equivalent of nearly 5,000 jobs and \$218 million in total labor income, including all direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts. A total of \$600 million in annual economic output is connected to Alaska salmon hatchery production.