



HOUSE BILL 52

Presentation regarding Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery

Sponsor: Rep. Sarah Vance, Dist. 31

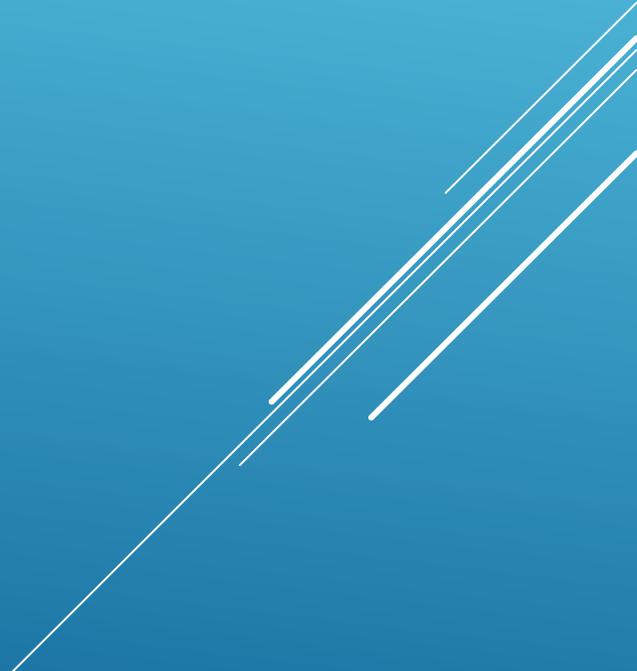


Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery was operated by the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game from 1975 - 1991.

The Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) assumed operation of the Tutka Bay Lagoon hatchery in 1991 from ADF&G because of the reduction in their funding at that time.

Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery is a state-owned facility.

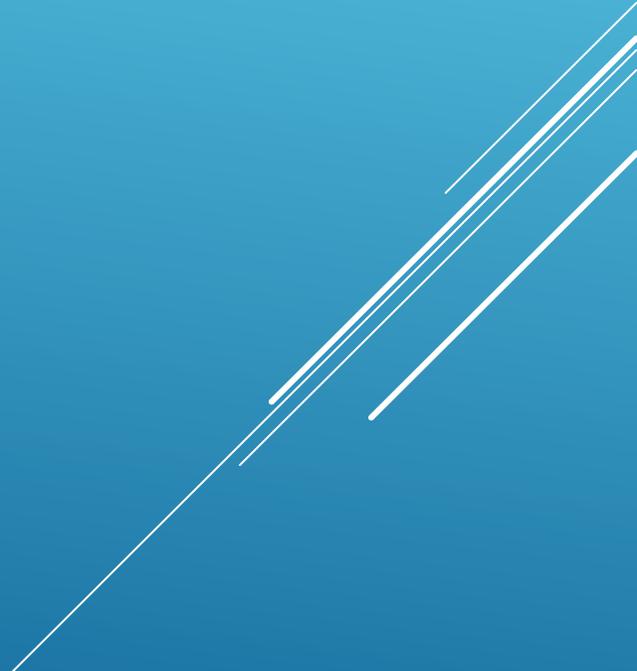
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There is a 1991 agreement between State Parks, ADF&G, and CIAA.

The agreement states “The Tutka Bay Fish Hatchery provides an important public service through the production of salmon for commercial and sport fisheries in the Lower Cook Inlet Area” and “the Tutka Bay Fish Hatchery is compatible with the purposes of Kachemak Bay State Park as set out in statute and the park management plan of 1989.”

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Question: Do these statements affirm the operation was compatible with the values and purposes of the Park and the operations should continue?

The 1995 Management Plan explicitly identifies fishery enhancement as a goal for the Park, and repeatedly characterizes fishing as an important recreational and commercial activity in the Park in general and Tutka Bay in particular. It specifically references CIAA's Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery, extolling its virtues as an attraction for visitors:

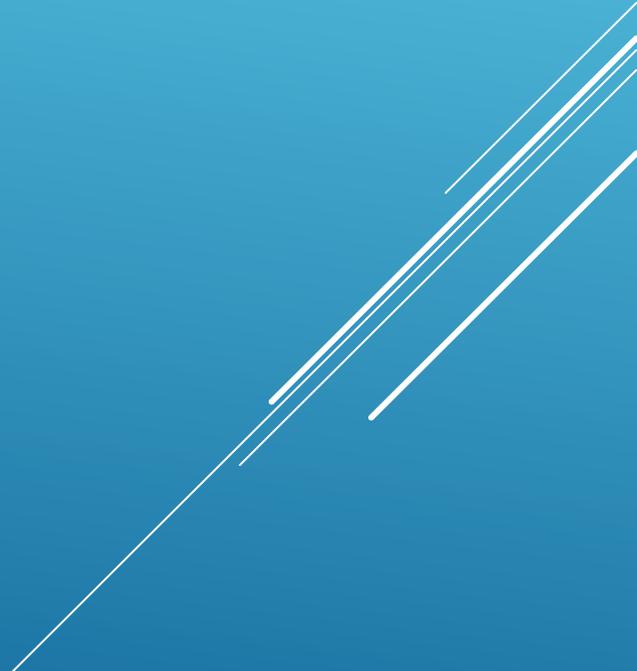
*“Formerly operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Tutka lagoon hatchery is now operated by the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. **The hatchery has provided an important sport and commercial pink salmon fishery, attracting many commercial and sport fisherman to the area.**”*

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CIAA is managed by a board of stakeholders that make the decisions regarding cost recovery to fund projects and investments for the future.

For example, cost recovery funds provide for the China Poot sockeye along with many other habitat and restoration activities.

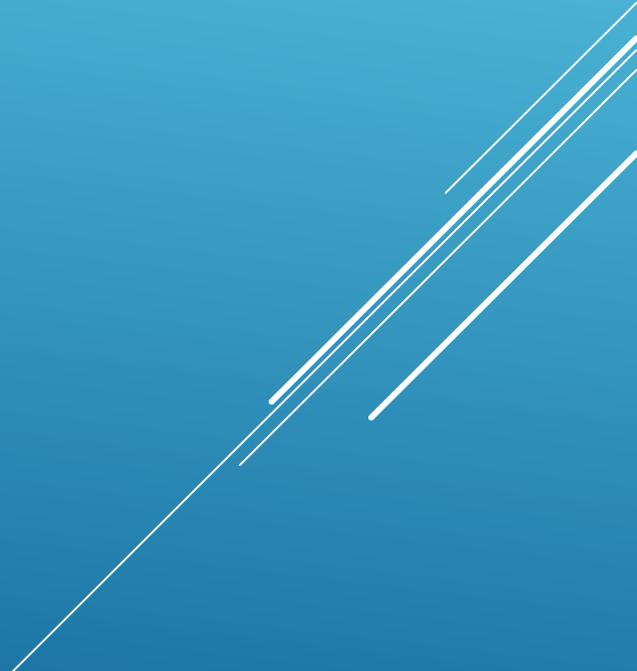
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Tutka Bay Lagoon is also a remote rearing site for sockeye salmon smolts.

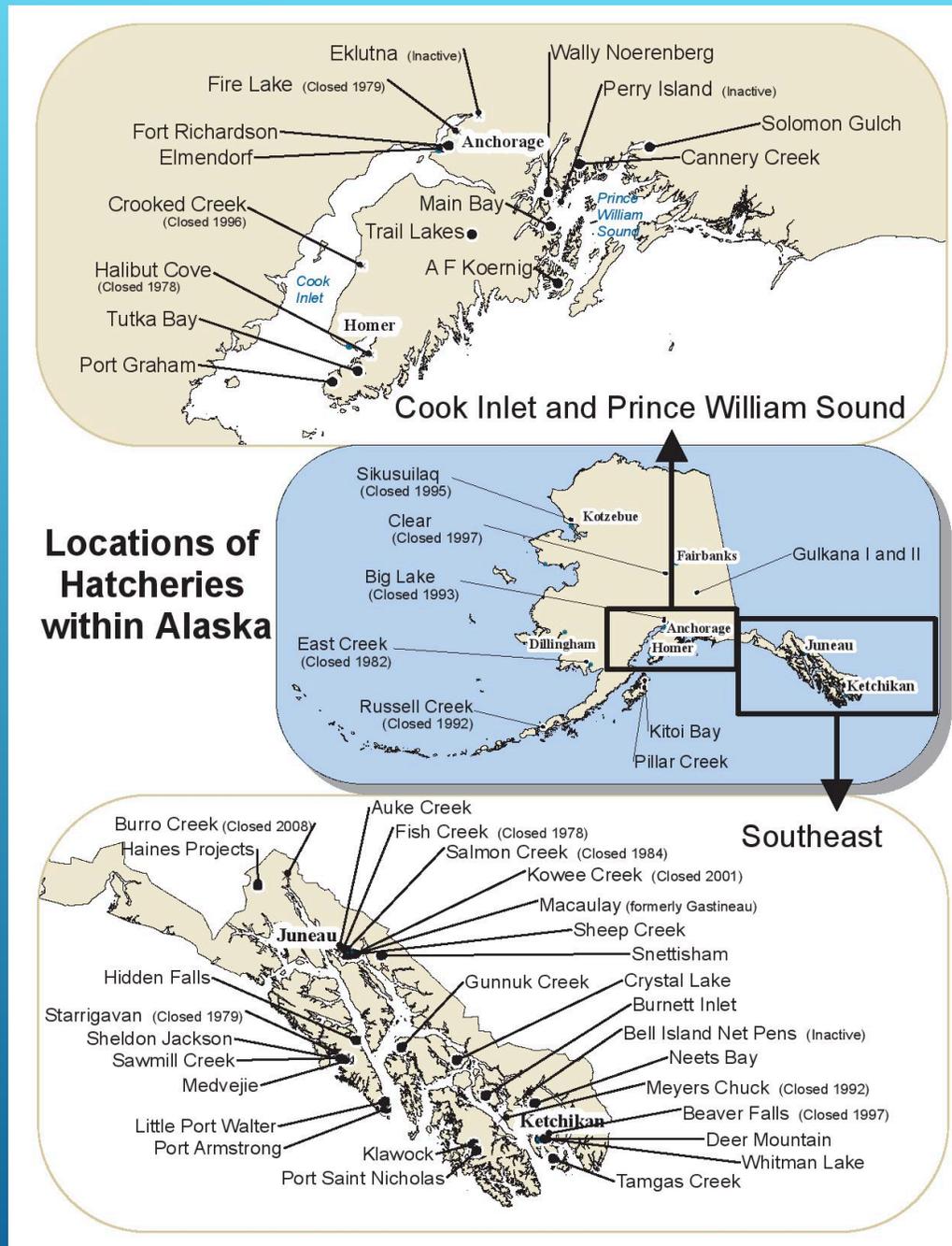
Future returns from smolts released into the lagoon are used as a brood source for China Poot, Hazel, and Kirschner.

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Dozens of hatcheries are operating in Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound and Southeast currently. This bill will protect the hatchery system in Alaska.

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THANK YOU

