

From: [Sen. Click Bishop](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: HB82 SB62
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022 11:44:16 AM

From: Shelley Gill <whaledetective@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 11:06 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB82 SB62

Dear Senators,

If passed SB 62 will be in **direct conflict with Alaska Statute 16.20.500**, which states that the purpose of the Kachemak Bay CHA is to “protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.”

It is also in direct conflict with the statutory purpose of every other State Park, Game Refuge or Sanctuary, Critical Habitat Area where it would be applied.

Every business community along the shores of K Bay and lower Cook Inlet will be economically harmed by HB 82 and SB 62. These poorly thought out bills not only **threaten the livelihood** of commercial, sport and subsistence fishermen, as well as local guides, lodges, B&Bs, and charter boat companies whose businesses depend on protected lands and waters, their passage would have a chilling effect on ALL tourism related businesses. Talk about killing one of the few diversified economies in the state...

I have studied marine mammals in Prince William Sound and Kachemak Bay sine the early 1990’s through the nonprofit Winged Whale research. We have already seen how seismic surveys kill both cetaceans and zooplankton, disrupting the food chain. We counted three dead endangered Cook Inlet belugas on

the beach after Hilcorp's Polarcus came through three years ago. Biologists estimate for every beached whale 100 die and sink. **Seismic surveys** have no place in Kachemak Bay CHA, or any of Alaska's State Parks and Reserves.

Hilcorp cannot be trusted to operate safely under our Critical Habitat Area. In 2017, we saw them leave a leaking gas pipeline go un-repaired for over 4 months, while it leaked 100,000 cubic feet per day. According to Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation records, over the course of operations in Alaska, which began in 2012, Hilcorp is responsible for over 90 crude oil spills or discharges, including spilling 10,000 gallons on Alaska's North Slope in 2015. Their record is so bad that the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has concluded that Hilcorp has a culture of disregard for regulatory standards: **"The disregard for regulatory compliance is endemic to Hilcorp's approach to its Alaska operations...Hilcorp's conduct is inexcusable."**

The company is underbonded and has an abysmal environmental record all over the country. The only good thing about Jeff Hildebrand is his donut shop in Woodlands, TX.

Hilcorps **horizontal drilling generally goes together with fracking.** According to the US Energy Information Administration, hydraulically fractured horizontal wells accounted for 69% of all oil and natural gas wells drilled in the United States in 2016, and the trend was steadily increasing. The average water withdrawal in a horizontal drilling and fracking operation is **3 million gallons per well** and can be up to 16 million gallons. Where will the water come from? In the case of Kachemak Bay, most likely from The Anchor River, which has its own Critical Habitat Area upstream, which would be impacted

from these withdrawals.

Large-scale water withdrawals to support drilling and fracking under Alaska's protected lands will mean **drawing down water tables** in and around protected lands—which in turn will lead to warmer water in streams and lakes, harm to essential fish habitat, wetlands and peatlands. Our warming and drying climate can not take this stress. Remember the Swan Lake fire? Forests are drier, water tables are lower.

As Alaskans we need to continue to **safeguard our protected lands and waters**. Alaskans want wild places, wild salmon, big game, their supporting industries, and our Alaskan way of life. The bills jeopardize Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, as well as Alaska's State Game Sanctuaries, State Game Refuges, State Parks, and other Critical Habitat Areas. And drilling in an area Alaskans have historically tried so hard to protect is wrong. Oil is a losers game at this point. Alaska should not spend another dime on fossil fuels and should immediately revoke all subsidies for dirty energy and invest in renewables. And vote NO! on these shortsighted bills.

[Read this. Get educated about fossil fuels.](#)

<https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2022/03/climate/gray-whale-pacific-arctic-climate-change/>

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Sent from my iPad