SENATE COMMITTEE

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

DATE: 3/21/90 FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3-29-90
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 4-3-90

Resources Committee considered SB 528

Shellfish mariculture within the Kachemak Bay State Park; efd.

and recommended:

[✓] replace with _____ CS SB528 (Res) [✓] same title [ ] new title

[ ] attached amendment(s)

[ ] _____ letter of intent adopted

[✓] do pass

[ ] do not pass

[ ] no recommendation

[ ] individual recommendations

[ ] further referral to _____

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department(s)/Date: Department(s)/Date:

[ ] fiscal note(s) _____ [✓] zero fiscal note(s) DNR, F+G

[ ] appropriation-no fiscal note [ ] Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING ~~DO PASS~~:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Vice Chair: Signature and Recommendation

STATE OF ALASKA

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

400 WILLOUGHBY AVE.
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1796
PHONE: (907) 465-2400

March 30, 1990

MAR 30 1990

The Honorable Bettye Fahrenkamp
Alaska State Senator
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Fahrenkamp:

For several years, the issuance of park use permits authorizing small-scale shellfish mariculture on 20 acres of Halibut Cove Lagoon (Kachemak Bay State Park) has raised substantial controversy.

There is a substantial legal question whether such permits are compatible with the purposes for which the park was established. Current regulations limit permits to two years, creating a difficult tenure period for economically successful mussel propagation.

SB 528 essentially declares that the commissioner "may" set aside up to 20 acres in Kachemak Bay State Park for shellfish mariculture. It solves the legal "compatibility" question over this existing use.

We recommend the following changes:

> (b) Notwithstanding AS 41.21.130 - 41.21.134 the commissioner of natural resources may set aside up to 20 acres of Kachemak Bay State Park for shellfish mariculture, and the commissioner may issue long-term commercial use permits for shellfish mariculture under AS 41.21.026 - AS 41.21.030 within the 20 acres set aside for this purpose."

This wording allows DNR to manage this program within the park. The Department of Fish and Game still has Title 16 sign-off approval on what we do since the area is also a designated critical habitat.

10-J9LH

With this new wording above, the Department of Natural Resources supports SB 528.

We look forward to working with you on this legislation. If you should have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Lennie Gorsuch
Commissioner

STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION : SB 528

PUBLISH DATE :

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 30-Mar-90

Agency Affected: Natural Resources

Title: An Act relating to shellfish mariculture within Kachemak Bay State Park

BRU: Land & Water Mgmt
Parks & Outdoor Rec

Sponsor: Rules Committee

Components: Land & Water Mgmt

Requestor: Resources Committee

Parks Mgmt

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS,CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Larry Ostrovsky

Phone : 465-2400

Division: Commissioner's Office

Date : 30-Mar-90

Approved by Commissioner: for Lennie Gorsuch

Date: 30-Mar-90

Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by preparer) :
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

6-2365E
Bradley
4/2/90

Original sponsor(s): Rules/Legislative Budget & Audit Committee

IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 528 (Resources)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to shellfish mariculture within the Kachemak Bay State Park; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 41.21.132 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) Notwithstanding AS 41.21.130 - 41.21.134, the commissioner may set aside up to 20 acres of the Kachemak Bay State Park for shellfish mariculture, and the commissioner may issue long-term commercial use permits for shellfish mariculture under AS 41.21.026 - 41.21.030 within the 20 acres set aside by the commissioner.

* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

March 21, 1990 SENATE JOURNAL p. 2957

SB 528

SENATE BILL NO. 528 by the Rules Committee by request of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee, entitled:

"An Act relating to shellfish mariculture within the Kachemak Bay State Park; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Resources Committee.

April 3, 1990 SENATE JOURNAL p. 3187

SB 528

The Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 528 (An Act relating to shellfish mariculture within the Kachemak Bay State Park; and providing for an effective date) and a majority of the committee recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 528 (Resources)

and do pass. The report was signed by Senator Kerttula, Vice-Chair, and concurred in by Senators Eliason, Zharoff and Sturgulewski.

Zero fiscal notes for SENATE BILL NO. 528 and the Committee Substitute published today from Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Game.

SENATE BILL NO. 528 was referred to the Rules Committee.

STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION CS SB 528 (Res) (a)
PUBLISH DATE: 4/3/90

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 30-Mar-90
Title: An Act relating to shellfish mariculture within Kachemak Bay State Park
Sponsor: Rules Committee
Requestor: Resources Committee

Agency Affected: Natural Resources
BRU: Land & Water Mgmt
Parks & Outdoor Rec
Components: Land & Water Mgmt
Parks Mgmt

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS,CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Larry Ostrovsky
Phone: 465-2400
Division: Commissioner's Office
Date: 30-Mar-90

Approved by Commissioner: Lennie Gorsuch
Date: 30-Mar-90
Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

Changes in CS SB 528 (Res) have no fiscal impact. This fiscal note is appropriate. Projections of no fiscal impact would continue through 1996.

STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CS SB 528 (Res)(b)
PUBLISH DATE: 4/3/90

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date:
Title: Relating to Shellfish Mariculture Kachemak Bay State Park
Sponsor: Rules
Requestor: Legislative Budget & Audit

Agency Affected: Fish and Game
BRU: Division of Habitat

Components: Habitat

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No FY 90 impact.

Prepared by: Molly McCammon
Phone: 465-4100
Division: Commissioner's Office
Date: 04-02-90

Approved by Commissioner: [signature]
Date: 4/3/90
Agency:

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

Changes in CS SB528 (Res) have no fiscal impact. This fiscal note is appropriate. Projections of no fiscal impact

MEMO

NO. OF PAGES 1

STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: SB 528
PUBLISH DATE: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Relating to Shellfish Mari-culture Kachemak Bay State Park
Sponsor: Rules
Requestor: Legislative Budget & Audit

Agency Affected: Fish and Game
BRU: Division of Habitat
Components: Habitat

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No FY 90 impact.

Prepared by: Molly McCammon
Phone: 465-4100
Division: Commissioner's Office
Date: 04-02-90

Approved by Commissioner: [signature]
Date: 4/3/90
Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

FAX TRANSMITTAL MEMO
TO: Nancy
DEPT: _____ FAX #: 463-4867
FROM: Molly PHONE 465-4100
cc: Joe

NO. OF PAGES

Kathy
464

Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association
12304 Hilltop Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

March 10, 1990

Senator Jay Kertulla
P O Box v
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Kertulla,

The members of Kachemak Bay Shellfish Mariculture Association (KSMA) are continuing to work toward resolving the issue of shellfish mariculture compatibility with Kachemak Bay State Park. We would like to inform you that the Kenai area superintendent of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's Kachemak Bay State Park has decided not to reissue, beyond Nov 1990, the mussel mariculture permits that have been located and permitted within the Kachemak Bay State Park's Halibut Cove Lagoon for the past two years. This is being done even though the Park actively advertised for applicants and encouraged entrance into the area. Furthermore, the cultivation of mussels was going on in the Halibut Cove location even before the park was given jurisdiction of the waters due to the rich, world class nature of the area's waters. This decision has been made without any communication between mariculturists and the park and with little justification as to the reason why. Out of all the comments received in the visitor log at the ranger cabin in Halibut Cove Lagoon during the past two years, only one had any negative comments regarding mariculture.

We would appreciate your assistance in preserving our fledgling industry in which we have invested thousands of dollars per permittee along with countless hours of work. We are still seeking legislation which would mandate the compatibility of shellfish and marine plant farming with only the twenty acre portion of the park where we are currently operating. This is the small portion of Halibut Cove Lagoon which has been set aside after careful study by both ADF&G's Habitat Division and DNR's Division of Parks. We have no interest in mandating compatibility for the entire park but only would like to preserve our small area where we have been for years.

KSMA recently met with DNR Commissioner Lenny Gorsuch, and representatives from DNR's Division of Land and Water Management and Division of Parks on March 5th. In that meeting DNR and KSMA's board of directors came up with a legislative change which DNR would support and which both DNR and KSMA believe would ammend the situation.

The change would involve a simple one paragraph change to the existing Kachemak Bay State Park bill. The basic form is as follows:

> The Department of Natural Resources is authorized to set aside up to twenty acres of Halibut Cove Lagoon for shellfish mariculture in accordance with AS 38 (Existing mariculture regulations).

We believe a variation of this sentence could be added to the legislation authorizing purchase of the Seldovia Native Association lands. Perhaps there is other legislation which this could be added to and would work as well.

The business of growing shellfish is what got KSMA members together, from Homer to Halibut Cove to Anchorage, and we would much rather be doing that rather than politicking. Although we do appreciate the opportunity to work with you, we are losing valuable seasons of work on the biological portion of our business. This problem has put the shellfish mariculture industry in Southcentral Alaska back a good two years. KSMA would appreciate your assistance and if we we can provide any additional information, please let us know. Similar letters have been sent to Representative Mike Navarre and Senator Paul Fischer.

Sincerely,

Joe Banta, Vice-President
Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association

KSMA
Position Statement

*Shellfish and marine plant mariculture is the only type of mariculture supported by KSMA

*Shellfish and marine plant mariculture is a low impact, low tech method of mariculture that is absolutely dependent upon clean and unpolluted waters.

*KSMA is committed to mariculture that is not detrimental to the surrounding marine environment.

*KSMA supports an industry that is based upon the concept of small, artisanal, co-op organisations with membership composed of local residents.

*KSMA board members all hold college degrees in biological sciences, and work in the fields of fisheries and marine biology.

*KSMA board members are environmentally concerned citizens. One member is on the board of directors for the Northwestern Region of the National Wildlife Federation, another is on the board of directors of Trustees for Alaska, and the other two are members of Alaska Center for the Environment.

*KSMA believes that shellfish and marine plant mariculture is compatible with state park guidelines, when it is carefully planned and located.

*ADF&G's Habitat Division has determined that Halibut Cove Lagoon is one of the best places in Kachemak Bay for minimizing user conflicts, and this is due to the fact that the Division of Parks did a long carefully planned analysis when they located the site in Halibut Cove Lagoon.

*Because shellfish and marine plant mariculture is totally dependent upon pristine water, the industry can be an ally to those concerned about potential pollution from sources such as mining, logging, and petroleum development.

*There is a great deal of educational value in shellfish and marine plant mariculture, as it combines the concepts of growing organisms together with the complexity of the marine environment. These are two areas that would be of great interest to students or park visitors. This type of mariculture also reinforces the importance of protecting our waters from pollution. KSMA would welcome educators interested in using facilities for educational purposes.

*KSMA is establishing operating standards for all its members who are permitted to operate within Kachemak Bay State Park so as to provide a self policing mechanism which promotes the lowest impact on a visual and biological level.

3.27.90

APR 2 1989

Dear Bettye,

The following issues address the realities of the Kachemak Bay State Park. How much it cost the state per visitor in the kachemak Bay State Park, how many are targeted for land use and how many are fishing in the saltwaters of the park, and what services are supplied by state parks for each of the intrest groups.

Persons targeted for land use, hiking, glacier climbing etc. I will be using numbers taken by charter boats only. Because of our extreme tide and weather problems people seldom leave boats unatended.

Water taxi--------1988-360 1989-309
Lodge -visitors---1988- 72 1989- 72
Misc. ------------1988-100 1989- 75

Total land traffic-----1988-532 1989-456

Motor boat traffic specificly headed for park waters not passing through to get to a summer cabin or residence. and kayaks. This is information from A.D.F. & G.

Claming by charter-1989--120 1989---70
Tutka bay hatchery-1988-2575 1989-3000
H.C. lagoon Kings-- 2600 2200
Chinapoot Reds---- 1200 1200
Hummpy Creek -- very little activity
(these I believe are slightly high numbers just by comparing H.C. Lagoon with local opinion)
Kayaks who traveled, without water taxi, from Homer
1988-75 1989-120

Total Marine traffic 1988-6570 1989-6590

The actual mail survey shows aproximatly 11,000 finfish particapants and 9,000 shell fish participants in Kachemak Bay, however, these two numbers probably have at least a 90% overlap. Of course Not all of the above are targeted for the KBSP. These are 1987 numbers so they may be off, if anything high.

Numbers of persons taken to the park is from information from actual charter persons.

-----Total traffic in the Kachemak Bay State Park-------
1988=7102 1989=7046

What does the ranger offer in terms of service to these visitors?

Trail enhancement-most park trails were built by locals over the years, and by the 4H kids. Trail system is confined to the Halibut Cove area. Refer to Exibit (B)

Emergency assistance- It is difficult to reach the ranger by radio or boat because of location. Of course boat breakdowns are taken care of by RESQUE 21, and /or locals.

Informing visitors of dangers in the park. There is no information concerning the very dangerous tidal lagoons in the park. There basically is no verbal information unless you get into H.C. Lagoon, one of most dangerous lagoons in the Bay.

The ranger checks for fishing licenses in H.C. lagoon. That fishery is over the end of June.

Actually meeting a ranger on one of the Grewink Glacier trails would be unusual because their whaler is too large to be safely left beached. This confines the ranger to the lagoon trail system which get about 50-100 visitors per year, highest percent of traffic going to the Grewink Glacer area.

Information offered in Park Brochure pertains to land use only. The ranger himself is no seaman and seems oblivious to the dangers on the sea. Perhaps because he is operating a $50,000 whaler that was designed to be safe for anyone. He is also hauling park voluneers, people who simpley need a ride, and other rangers for free and with no Coast Gaurd liscense.

The Kachemak Bay State park cost the people of the state a very tidy sum of money.

Two boat stalls in the Homer harbor----------888.30
This isn't extra trancient fees
1. 18' aluminum HN-3229
2. 17'whaler AK1643k - For one ranger-
3. 27' Blue aluminum
Annual upkeep and deprciation would average---15,000
Electricity at H.C.ranger cabin in 1989------ 1143.83
Jan and Feb of 1990 was 291.34
The New Ranger Cabin in H.C. lagoon ----------5000.00
Food and Fuel for Ranger&Volunteers----------3000.00
Truck -depreciation and repairs----------6000.00
Rangers part time salery & benefits 6 mo.----23491.57
Hidden expenses, travel etc.----------1000.00

Total expenses----------55523.70
this is not including extra months or other rangers

This looks like each visitor to the Kachemak Bay State Park costs the state of Alaska 7.88. I may remind you the

the Ranger is available to only 2300 persons so in all honesty it's 23.14 per person.

What has the Park Service actually accomplished over the past 4 years, in the KBSP? Two functioning trails were built and one of those paralels an existing trail. One other trail built up a mountain but has a dead end. Out houses were built in H.C. lagoon. Trail markers we out on all the existing trails, and annual brush out done. This cost the state aproximatly $200,000 (being conservative). That is one heck of a lot of money. Many local persons would love to bid on a job like that.

Is the KBSP having a tramendous increase in traffic? NO, I feel the reason for no increase in park use is the tremendous increase in (destination) attractions around the bay. Four years ago I would have taken at least 300 people to the park many of which were student groups, large family outings, etc. There are now more accomodating facilities around the Bay. For example I have had a 40% increase in business over the past 2 years and a decrease in camper traffic. I believe this trend will continue as private enterprise developes.

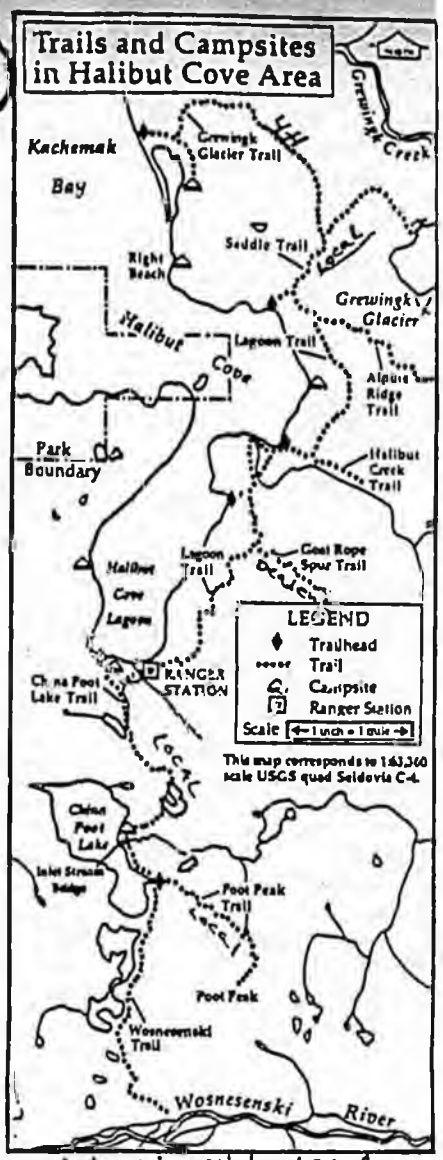
Also keep in mind our adverse weather and tide conditions. The majority of use in the KBSP is on the ocean not upland streems and lakes. Because of the unique problems here on the Bay development cannot take place like it has on the Kenai river for instance, and there for should not be subject to the same type of regulation. The parks persons stated that 11 AAC.12.340 (19) was adopted to satisfy regulation needs on the Kenai river. I feel that any (Commercial) activity associated to the KBSP is incidental (for example, on a rough day a halibut charter fishing off of Glacier Spit) and should fall under -ordinary- use. If Parks wants some information from park users have questionaires available at the Homer chamber of commerce on Homer Spit. Currently the Ranger in Homer not only is not on the Spit but several miles out of town.

The example of the over blown STING that I recieved for taking a few people to the park for free, seems to indicate a frantic need to substanciate an existence. Another perception could be that the Kenai Rangers are over staffed and have a lot of extra cash. The sting cost aproximatly $20.00, involved aproximatly 40 persons, and 9 of the 10 Rangers from the Kenai division.

Sincerely,

Marian T Beck

Marian T. Beck



The park's trails receive little maintenance and often climb over steep, rugged terrain. Routes may be hidden at times by fallen trees or tall grass. Exposed rocks and roots, and wet, boggy areas are common. Depending on the trail taken, you may need to cross several glacial streams. Following is a partial list of the park's trails. Hiking times given are the minimum needed by a person in good physical condition without a pack to hike the trail one way. For more information, contact a state park ranger in Homer or Halibut Cove Lagoon.

Grewingk Glacier *(3.5 miles)*

built by 4H

Rating - *easy*

Hiking Time - *1 hour, 20 minutes*

This is an easy hike over flat terrain, through stands of spruce and cottonwood and across the outwash of the Grewingk Glacier. It offers superb views of the glacier and surrounding area. There is a small campground about ten minutes from the trailhead, and another at Right Beach, a favorite water taxi drop-off point. Right Beach is accessible by land only from the north and only at low tide. Rock cairns mark the trail across the outwash of the glacier. Access to the glacial ice is difficult and hazardous due to the slide area on the south and steep cliffs on the north. There is a stream near the junction of this trail and the Saddle Trail.

Saddle Trail - *miles)*

built by Locals

Rating - *e*

Hiking Time - *inutes*

This hike leads over the saddle between Halibut Cove and the Grewingk Glacier and is steep on the Halibut Cove side. The Saddle Trail accesses the Alpine Ridge and Lagoon Trails and also connects with the Grewingk Glacier Trail. No transportation is available from the trailhead to Glacier Spit or Halibut Cove unless you have made prior arrangements. It is not possible to hike the beach from the trailhead to the Right Beach campsite due to steep cliffs. The Saddle Trail trailhead is a popular spot to land boats during bad weather. Please respect private property near this trail.

Access to the Park

Access to the park is by boat or airplane, as there are no roads to the park. Air charters, water taxi services and boat rentals are available in Homer.

Alpine Ridge Trail *(2.0 miles)*

Rating - *moderate to difficult*

Hiking Time - *1 hour, 40 minutes to*

Built by LOCALS *get above timberline*

This steep hike begins at the high point on the Saddle Trail and follows a ridge up through spruce and alder stands to the alpine tundra and its many wildflowers. Slippery vegetation may make footing difficult on steeper slopes. Once above timberline, the views of the Grewingk Glacier on one side and a deep glacial valley on the other are spectacular. Rock cairns mark the alpine part of the trail, but picking out some landmarks will make it easier to find the end of the trail for the trip back down. Remember that alpine areas are extremely fragile; please practice minimum impact camping.

Lagoon Trail *(5.5 miles)*

Rating - *moderate to difficult*

Hiking Time - *5 hours*

From the junction with the Alpine Ridge Trail, the Lagoon Trail winds along Halibut Cove and passes through a wet, boggy area to the Halibut Creek Trailhead and delta. You may be able to ford the river at the low tide line but the water can be high, depending on the weather. Pick up the trail again by walking upstream (on the south side) about 200 yards or walk around the delta on the tide flats. A series of steep switchbacks then leads through a spruce forest up to where the trail intersects Goat Rope Spur Trail at 1200 feet. The trail continues downhill and south, across Falls Creek and on to the end of the lagoon and the ranger station. Here you may take the stairs down to the stream where a sign directs you to the China Poot Lake Trail.

Goat Rope Spur Trail *(0.5 miles)*

This is a Dead end

Rating - *difficult*

Hiking Time - *1 hour*

This is a short, steep trail through alders that begins at the highest point on the Lagoon Trail. It leads hikers up through a "notch" and to the alpine areas where the trail ends. Take your camera for pictures of the view.

China Poot Lake *(2.5 miles)*

original built by Locals

Rating - *easy to moderate*

Hiking Time - *1 hour, 15 minutes*

This trail begins at Halibut Cove Lagoon and passes three lakes beneath China Poot Peak. You reach the first lake after 15 minutes of hiking uphill. The trail crosses the lake outlet stream just before reaching the lake and continues through forest and bog for 30 minutes to the second lake - Two Loon Lake. China Poot Lake is another 30 minutes away through more spruce and muskeg.

Poot Peak *(2 miles)*

Built by Locals

Rating - *difficult*

Hiking Time - *3 to 4 hours roundtrip*

This steep, slick, unmaintained route begins across the China Poot Lake inlet stream bridge and heads up to timberline. Climbing the 2100 foot peak is hazardous due to shifting scree and rotten rock. Hand and foot holds are poor at best and worse in wet weather. Your efforts will be rewarded above timberline with superb views of Wosnesenski Glacier and Kachemak Bay.

Wosnesenski Trail *(2 miles)*

Goes to nowhere

Rating - *easy to moderate*

Hiking Time - *1 hour, 15 minutes*

Begin this trail where it meets the China Poot Peak Trail, about 10 minutes after crossing the inlet stream bridge at China Poot Lake. This fairly easy trail winds along the shoreline of three lakes formed by a geologic fault. You will find a good camping area in a stand of cottonwoods by the lake after about 25 minutes on the trail. After another 25 minutes of hiking, the trail climbs over a low saddle and drops down into the valley. Be careful if you decide to cross the rivers while exploring the valley. Glacial rivers vary in depth and current depending on the weather, but the water level is usually lower in early summer and much higher in July and August. Choose a slow-moving, shallow spot to cross; water above thigh level is too hazardous to cross. A pair of tennis shoes will make crossing these icy rivers easier.

Marian V Beck
Halibut Cove, Ak
99603

Bettye. Fahrenkamp
Pouch V
Juneau, Ak
99811

Alaska State Legislature

SENATE

Official Business

P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SENATE BILL 528

Senate Bill 528 would authorize the Department of Natural Resources to issue permits to shellfish growers to grow mussels in 20 acres of Kachemak Bay State Park. The shellfish growers have been operating in the park under DNR permits for the past two years and their operations have been economic and environmental successes. However, there have been questions over whether DNR actually has statutory authorization to permit this activity. Therefore, the department has notified the permittees that mussel mariculture permits will not be reissued beyond November 1990. Senate Bill 528 provides statutory authorization for these small businesses which have been successfully operating for the past two years. The only 20 acres which are suitable for mussel cultivation in the park is that area which is presently being used for that purpose.

Senate Bill 528 has a "0" fiscal note and is supported by the administration. I urge your support for the bill.

Senator Jay Kerttula

MUSSEL AQUACULTURE IN ALASKA

James E. Hemming
Otter Sea Farms
Anchorage, Alaska

Mussel culture is not new. It began more than 750 years ago in France when an Irish sailor put a fish trap made of wooden poles on the tide flats. Instead of fish, he caught blue mussels when spat settled in great abundance on his poles. Mussels proved to be an easily obtainable food source in France and the Irishman's discovery eventually led to a culture system called the bouchot system, which is still in use in France.

Blue mussels are grown in Washington on Puget Sound. They are also grown commercially along the New England coast, and on oil rigs in the Santa Barbara channel of southern California. Each of these areas has chronic water quality problems.

Alaska has innumerable fiords and protected bays with excellent water quality that should provide suitable sites for shellfish culture. With good planning, technical support, and protective regulations, Alaska could easily become the mariculture center of North America.

Blue mussels are filter feeders, which collect food by straining microscopic organisms from the water they live in. In the wild, mussels occur in the intertidal zone, where they are uncovered part of each day by the tide. This means that they can feed only about half of each day. Because they must filter algae and plankton from the water, they do best in areas with relatively strong currents and good circulation. Wild mussels grow slowly in intertidal zones because they can feed only during high tide. Cultured mussels reach commercial size in 12 to 18 months, whereas wild mussels may require five years or more to reach an equivalent size. If you compare wild versus raft-grown mussels of the same shell length, you will find that the raft-grown mussels yield 40 to 50 percent more meat than their wild cousins, i.e., they are fatter.

Wild mussels attach themselves to rocks and old shell debris on the bottom where they are constantly scoured by sand and gravel moved by tidal currents. If sand grains become embedded in soft tissues, they form tiny pearls or grit that are unpalatable to patrons of fine restaurants. The use of raft or longline culture systems keeps mussels off the bottom, which reduces the hazard of pearl development, and in the water column where they can feed and grow continuously.

Author's address: Otter Sea Farms, 6740 Roundtree Dr., Anchorage, Alaska 99516.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR STARTING A BLUE MUSSEL FARM

The attributes for an ideal mussel farm include:

1. Protection from weather.
2. Excellent water quality.
3. An abundant supply of food organisms and nutrients in the water column.
4. Ice-free conditions.
5. Limited human settlement or development (minimum pollution).
6. Abundant wild mussels for seed stock.
7. Low incidence of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP).

Shelter

A suitable site must have some protection from seasonal storms that may cause damage and make harvesting impossible. Sturdy rafts and longline systems can be used in bays that are not facing directly into the open sea. It is important to define the worst possible wave conditions for the site under consideration before making final decisions to establish a sea farm. On the more exposed sites, longline systems may prove the most practical.

Depth

A minimum depth of 8 to 10 fathoms is required for raft or longline systems, because net tubes containing young mussels are usually 10 to 20 feet in length and the drop line must be kept off the bottom to avoid predation by fish. There also is an advantage to establishing raft or longline systems in areas with water depths greater than those normally used by feeding sea ducks: deep water sites would significantly reduce the risk of sea duck predation on young mussels. Our system is anchored at a depth of 20 fathoms.

Sea Bed Type

The best type of bottom for holding moorings is firm mud or clay. Sand bottoms can also be used but may require burying anchors with diver assistance.

Salinity

Blue mussels can exist in salinities as low as 5 parts per thousand (ppt) but will grow well in salinities of 17

ppt or greater. At our site, summer salinities averaged 26.6 ppt at the surface and 24.5 ppt at 10 feet below the surface. Ocean water is usually considered to be 35 ppt.

Temperature

Mussels survive in temperatures ranging from -4° to 80°F (-20° to 27°C). Mussel growth rates will increase as temperature increases up to about 68° (20°C) provided that sufficient food is available. Temperatures at our location in Halibut Cove Lagoon range between 34°F and 55°F (near 0° to 12.5°C). Summer temperatures averaged 53°F (11.6°C).

Water Quality

It is important to select sites that are free of industrial or sewage pollution. Sewage pollution can be remedied by using depuration, but this is costly. Depuration is the process of moving live mussels from the harvest site to tanks containing sterilized seawater, and holding them there until they are free of coliform bacteria and chemical pollutants. It is necessary to depurate commercially harvested mussels and clams from many locations on the East Coast, and it is a common practice in Europe. In Alaska, we have a great advantage over other locations because most areas are still pollution-free. Alaska regulations require that water samples be taken several times a year from shellfish growing areas.

Water Exchange and Currents

Tidal action and circulation should be adequate to replenish food organisms and to keep the water well oxygenated and to dilute toxic products released by the shellfish themselves. Most sites with moderate currents are suitable for growing mussels except those at the heads of bays where currents may be very slow and where food availability may be limited. If longline systems are used in areas with very strong currents it may be difficult to work the lines.

Feeding Conditions

Mussels feed on runoff from land as well as on the microscopic plants and animals that occur naturally in the water column. The best feeding conditions are usually found adjacent to steep-sided fiords, and poorer conditions occur adjacent to flat or low-lying coastlines.

Growth

In many parts of the world, commercial-sized mussels (1 ½ to 2 inches in length) can be produced within 18 months from spat fall, except in places where salinity is so low that it hinders feeding. At our site, mussels reach commercial size in approximately 12 months.

Seed Supply

Mussel farm sites should be selected close to good natural populations of wild mussels, where wild seed can be collected or spat collectors can be used. Another option would be to purchase spat from a commercial or state-operated hatchery. There seems to be good potential for economic production of spat for purchase by shellfish growers at facilities such as Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka. I think all of the shellfish growers in Alaska would welcome a hatchery and it would probably pay for itself.

Fouling

This includes competitor organisms such as barnacles, tube worms, sea squirts, and kelp. The presence of fouling organisms results in higher maintenance costs. If they affect the appearance of mussels, they may result in lowered market value. However, the presence of plant materials such as kelp increase the organic matter available for mussel feeding. In some parts of the world, kelp culture is an integral part of mussel culture. Finfish farmers and oyster farmers would probably consider mussels vermin. They are one of the chief fouling organisms for various types of three-dimensional aquaculture.

Predators

Common scoters and other sea ducks feed heavily on blue mussels. If they discover a mussel farm, special remedies such as scarecrows or protective netting will be required around the rafts. As mentioned earlier, we found that by setting our rafts in parts of the fiord where our anchors are at depths much greater than the normal feeding range of sea ducks, we have no problem with predation. It is important to understand the natural feeding patterns of sea ducks in a potential sea farm site, so feeding areas can be avoided. If predators discover the rafts, it probably will be necessary to hang nets around raft boundaries. This will increase the level of maintenance labor required to regularly clean fouling organisms from the netting.

Parasites and Diseases

Suspended mussel culture minimizes infection by parasites such as pea crabs and red worms (red worms are actually copepods). It also avoids production of pearl-like particles in the flesh, which are often found in wild mussels as a reaction to both sand bombardment and trematode worm infections. Another problem requiring special attention is related to paralytic shellfish poisoning. This problem is caused by plankton blooms made up of toxic organisms that are ingested by the mussels. The mussels become dangerous to humans for several days or weeks. As a result, it is required by permit to test each shipment of blue mussels before they

can be approved for commercial sale. In selecting sites, it also is important to collect background information on natural levels of PSP in hard-shell clams, cockles, and mussels to be sure that the site is free of problems. At present, the only PSP testing facility is the state laboratory in Palmer. Because of its location, it is time consuming and sometimes costly to obtain test results in a timely manner. Meanwhile, harvested shellfish must be held out of water and artificially chilled. Increased facilities at more convenient locations on the coast would ensure delivery of higher quality product and reduce costs.

Use Conflicts

In selecting a site, careful attention must be paid to other users of the area. These may include commercial fishing operations, gear storage, recreational traffic areas, etc. Such use patterns may not always be obvious and it is important to check with local fisherman and residents before finalizing site selection. As a shellfish grower in Maine puts it, "Musseling in at the expense of traditional communities can only lead to hostility."

We also have learned that mussel farming is compatible with special upland classifications such as state parks and wilderness areas because both parks and shellfish farms have a long-term interest in maintaining very high quality water. Usually this is assured only by restricting upland development and settlement. For example, our operation is within park waters in Kachemak Bay State Park and requires a special land use permit from the State Division of Parks rather than the usual Land and Water Resources Division permit from the Department of Natural Resources. Consider the long-term use potential of your site carefully before making a capital investment.

Access

Shellfish farms should be located close to good commercial transportation. Site feasibility assessments should include the cost of transporting products to market and the distance from reliable road or air transportation.

Permits

Once a suitable site has been found, permits and licenses must be obtained. An Alaska business license is the first step, followed by a tidelands lease, water quality certification, coastal management consistency determination, Corps of Engineers Section 10 Permit for structures in navigable waters, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit, a shucker-shipper permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation, and soon a shellfish farm permit from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). If the sea farmer plans to do anything beyond harvesting and shipping live mussels to market, other permits may be required as well.

At present, it is possible to apply for a shellfish farm permit at any location on the coast. However, there has been no planning by the state to identify areas that are both suitable for shellfish culture and have minimum conflicts with other users. Because of this, we are seeing a flood of applications for shellfish farms in the small lagoon where our farm is located because people don't know where else to go. There will probably be serious conflicts at our site in the very near future.

Before we go much farther with regulations and permits for other species, the state should do a coastal survey to identify areas that are suitable for mariculture and that do not have serious conflicts with other users. This is not difficult to do and would not be very expensive.

Once a survey is done, areas should be zoned for mariculture so new business can have the long-term support needed to assure financing as well as the potential for successful farm operation.

The farm regulations proposed by ADF&G may also create problems, because they would restrict permits to those of us with prior experience in sea farming. This would be good for me but not for newcomers.

There is no specified time limit on ADF&G permits or provisions for removal of facilities such as rafts or longlines when a permit is dropped. This means a flaky operator could abandon his system, leaving the state with the liability for cleaning up the mess. By having a set permit period requiring periodic reviews and by placing the liability for removal of facilities with the permittee, we would see the development of a much more responsible mariculture industry.

Draft regulations also seem to mix finfish culture with shellfish culture, and I don't think the shellfish farmers want their permits tied to the tail of salmon farmers or vice versa. There needs to be a clear definition of what is meant by shellfish.

Regulations also need to require that cultured shellfish seed stocks not endemic to Alaska be certified disease-free before they are introduced into Alaska waters. We don't want to be shut down because someone brings in diseased spat.

If we are going to start a new industry, we need to do it right to assure success.

6-2365E
Bradley
4/2/90

Original sponsor(s): Rules/Legislative Budget & Audit Committee

IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 528 (Resources)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to shellfish mariculture within the Kachemak Bay State Park; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 41.21.132 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) Notwithstanding AS 41.21.130 - 41.21.134, the commissioner may set aside up to 20 acres of the Kachemak Bay State Park for shellfish mariculture, and the commissioner may issue long-term commercial use permits for shellfish mariculture under AS 41.21.026 - 41.21.030 within the 20 acres set aside by the commissioner.

* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association
12304 Hilltop Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

March 26, 1990

MAR 28 1990

Senate Resources Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Fahrenkamp,

The members of Kachemak Bay Shellfish Mariculture Association (KSMA) are continuing to work toward preserving our 20 acre area set aside for shellfish mariculture within Kachemak Bay State Park's Halibut Cove Lagoon. We were very pleased to see SB 528 introduced to address our concerns. We are requesting some minor changes which we feel would help to clarify the bill. They are as follows:

Line 13 "shall set aside up to twenty acres of the Kachemak Bay State Park's Halibut Cove Lagoon..."

We are enclosing a copy of an earlier letter which we sent to Senator Kertulla, which explains our situation, and a copy of our position statement. We would certainly appreciate your assistance with the above proposed ammendment.

Sincerely,

Joe Banta

Joe Banta, Vice-President
Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association

KSMA
Position Statement

*Shellfish and marine plant mariculture is the only type of mariculture supported by KSMA.

*Shellfish and marine plant mariculture is a low impact, low tech method of mariculture that is absolutely dependent upon clean and unpolluted waters.

*KSMA is committed to mariculture that is not detrimental to the surrounding marine environment.

*KSMA supports an industry that is based upon the concept of small, artisanal, co-op organisations with membership composed of local residents.

*KSMA board members all hold college degrees in biological sciences, and work in the fields of fisheries and marine biology.

*KSMA board members are environmentally concerned citizens. One member is on the board of directors for the Northwestern Region of the National Wildlife Federation, another is on the board of directors of Trustees for Alaska, and the other two are members of Alaska Center for the Environment.

*KSMA believes that shellfish and marine plant mariculture is compatible with state park guidelines, when it is carefully planned and located.

*ADF&G's Habitat Division has determined that Halibut Cove Lagoon is one of the best places in Kachemak Bay for minimizing user conflicts, and this is due to the fact that the Division of Parks did a long carefully planned analysis when they located the site in Halibut Cove Lagoon.

*Because shellfish and marine plant mariculture is totally dependent upon pristine water, the industry can be an ally to those concerned about potential pollution from sources such as mining, logging, and petroleum development.

*There is a great deal of educational value in shellfish and marine plant mariculture, as it combines the concepts of growing organisms together with the complexity of the marine environment. These are two areas that would be of great interest to students or park visitors. This type of mariculture also reinforces the importance of protecting our waters from pollution. KSMA would welcome educators interested in using facilities for educational purposes.

*KSMA is establishing operating standards for all its members who are permitted to operate within Kachemak Bay State Park so as to provide a self policing mechanism which promotes the lowest impact on a visual and biological level.

Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association
12304 Hilltop Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

March 10, 1990

Senator Jay Kertulla
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Kertulla,

The members of Kachemak Bay Shellfish Mariculture Association (KSMA) are continuing to work toward resolving the issue of shellfish mariculture compatibility with Kachemak Bay State Park. We would like to inform you that the Kenai area superintendent of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's Kachemak Bay State Park has decided not to reissue, beyond Nov. 1990, the mussel mariculture permits that have been located and permitted within the Kachemak Bay State Park's Halibut Cove Lagoon for the past two years. This is being done even though the Park actively advertised for applicants and encouraged entrance into the area. Furthermore, the cultivation of mussels was going on in the Halibut Cove location even before the park was given jurisdiction of the waters due to the rich, world class nature of the area's waters. This decision has been made without any communication between mariculturists and the park and with little justification as to the reason why. Out of all the comments received in the visitor log at the ranger cabin in Halibut Cove Lagoon during the past two years, only one had any negative comments regarding mariculture.

We would appreciate your assistance in preserving our fledgling industry in which we have invested thousands of dollars per permittee along with countless hours of work. We are still seeking legislation which would mandate the compatibility of shellfish and marine plant farming with <u>only</u> the twenty acre portion of the park where we are currently operating. This is the small portion of Halibut Cove Lagoon which has been set aside after careful study by both ADF&G's Habitat Division and DNR's Division of Parks. We have no interest in mandating compatibility for the entire park but only would like to preserve our small area where we have been for years.

KSMA recently met with DNR Commissioner Lenny Gorsuch, and representatives from DNR's Division of Land and Water Management and Division of Parks on March 5th. In that meeting DNR and KSMA's board of directors came up with a legislative change which DNR would support and which both DNR and KSMA believe would ammend the situation.

The change would involve a simple one paragraph change to the existing Kachemak Bay State Park bill. The basic form is as follows:

> The Department of Natural Resources is authorized to set aside up to twenty acres of Halibut Cove Lagoon for shellfish mariculture in accordance with AS 38 (Existing mariculture regulations).

We believe a variation of this sentence could be added to the legislation authorizing purchase of the Seldovia Native Association lands. Perhaps there is other legislation which this could be added to and would work as well.

The business of growing shellfish is what got KSMA members together, from Homer to Halibut Cove to Anchorage, and we would much rather be doing that rather than politicking. Although we do appreciate the opportunity to work with you, we are losing valuable seasons of work on the biological portion of our business. This problem has put the shellfish mariculture industry in Southcentral Alaska back a good two years. KSMA would appreciate your assistance and if we we can provide any additional information, please let us know. Similar letters have been sent to Representative Mike Navarre and Senator Paul Fischer.

Sincerely,

Joe Banta

Joe Banta, Vice-President
Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association

Kathy
464

MAR 12 1990

Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association
12304 Hilltop Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

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3.27.90

APR 2 1989

Dear Bettye,

The following issues addressthe realities of the Kachemak Bay State Park. How much it cost the state per visitor in the kachemak Bay State Park, how many are targeted for land use and how many are fishing in the saltwaters of the park, and what services are supplied by state parks for each of the intrest groups.

Persons targeted for land use, hiking, glacier climbing etc. I will be using numbers taken by charter boats only. Because of our extreme tide and weather problems people seldom leave boats unatended.

Water taxi--------1988-360 1989-309
Lodge -visitors---1988- 72 1989- 72
Misc. ------------1988-100 1989- 75

Total land traffic-----1988-532 1989-456

Motor boat traffic specificly headed for park waters not passing through to get to a summer cabin or residence. and kayaks. This is information from A.D.F. & G.

Claming by charter-1989--120 1989---70
Tutka bay hatchery-1988-2575 1989-3000
H.C. lagoon Kings-- 2600 2200
Chinapoot Reds---- 1200 1200
Hummpy Creek -- very little activity
(these I believe are slightly high numbers just by comparing H.C. Lagoon with local opinion)
Kayaks who traveled, without water taxi, from Homer
1988-75 1989-120

Total Marine traffic 1988-6570 1989-6590

The actual mail survey shows aproximatly 11,000 finfish particapants and 9,000 shell fish participants in Kachemak Bay, however, these two numbers probably have at least a 90% overlap. Of course Not all of the above are targeted for the KBSP. These are 1987 numbers so they may be off, if anything high.

Numbers of persons taken to the park is from information from actual charter persons.

-----Total traffic in the Kachemak Bay State Park-------
1988=7102 1989=7046

What does the ranger offer in terms of service to these visitors?

Trail enhancement-most park trails were built by locals over the years, and by the 4H kids. Trail system is confined to the Halibut Cove area. Refer to Exibit (B)

Emergency assistance- It is difficult to reach the ranger by radio or boat because of location. Of course boat breakdowns are taken care of by RESQUE 21, and /or locals.

Informing visitors of dangers in the park. There is no information concerning the very dangerous tidal lagoons in the park. There basically is no verbal information unless you get into H.C. Lagoon, one of most dangerous lagoons in the Bay.

The ranger checks for fishing licenses in H.C. lagoon. That fishery is over the end of June.

Actually meeting a ranger on one of the Grewink Glacier trails would be unusual because their whaler is too large to be safely left beached. This confines the ranger to the lagoon trail system which get about 50-100 visitors per year, highest percent of traffic going to the Grewink Glacer area.

Information offered in Park Brochure pertains to land use only. The ranger himself is no seaman and seems oblivious to the dangers on the sea. Perhaps because he is operating a $50,000 whaler that was designed to be safe for anyone. He is also hauling park voluneers, people who simpley need a ride, and other rangers for free and with no Coast Gaurd liscense.

The Kachemak Bay State park cost the people of the state a very tidy sum of money.

Two boat stalls in the Homer harbor----------888.30
This isn't extra trancient fees
1. 18' aluminum HN-3229
2. 17'whaler AK1643k - For one ranger-
3. 27' Blue aluminum
Annual upkeep and deprciation would average---15,000
Electricity at H.C.ranger cabin in 1989------ 1143.83
Jan and Feb of 1990 was 291.34
The New Ranger Cabin in H.C. lagoon ----------5000.00
Food and Fuel for Range &Volunteers----------3000.00
Truck -depreciation and repairs---------------6000.00
Rangers part time salery & benefits 6 mo.----23491.57
Hidden expenses, travel etc.-----------------1000.00

Total expenses--------------------------------55523.70
this is not including extra months or other rangers

This looks like each visitor to the Kachemak Bay State Park costs the state of Alaska 7.88. I may remind you the

the Ranger is available to only 2300 persons so in all honesty it's 23.14 per person.

What has the Park Service actually accomplished over the past 4 years, in the KBSP? Two functioning trails were built and one of those paralels an existing trail. One other trail built up a mountain but has a dead end. Out houses were built in H.C. lagoon. Trail markers we put on all the existing trails, and annual brush out done. This cost the state aproximatly $200,000 (being conservative), That is one heck of a lot of money. Many local persons would love to bid on a job like that.

Is the KBSP having a tramendous increase in traffic? NO, I feel the reason for no increase in park use is the tremendous increase in (destination) attractions around the bay. Four years ago I would have taken at least 300 people to the park many of which were student groups, large family outings, etc. There are now more accomodating facilities around the Bay. For example I have had a 40% increase in business over the past 2 years and a decrease in camper traffic. I believe this trend will continue as private enterprise developes.

Also keep in mind our adverse weather and tide conditions. The majority of use in the KBSP is on the ocean not upland streems and lakes. Because of the unique problems here on the Bay development cannot take place like it has on the Kenai river for instance, and there for should not be subject to the same type of regulation. The parks persons stated that 11 AAC.12.340 (19) was adopted to satisfy regulation needs on the Kenai river. I feel that any (Commercial) activity associated to the KBSP is incidental (for example, on a rough day a halibut charter fishing off of Glacier Spit) and should fall under -ordinary- use. If Parks wants some information from park users have questionaires available at the Homer chamber of commerce on Homer Spit. Currently the Ranger in Homer not only is not on the Spit but several miles out of town.

The example of the over blown STING that I recieved for taking a few people to the park for free, seems to indicate a frantic need to substanciate an existence. Another perception could be that the Kenai Rangers are over staffed and have a lot of extra cash. The sting cost aproximatly $20,00, involved aproximatly 40 persons, and 9 of the 10 Rangers from the Kenai division.

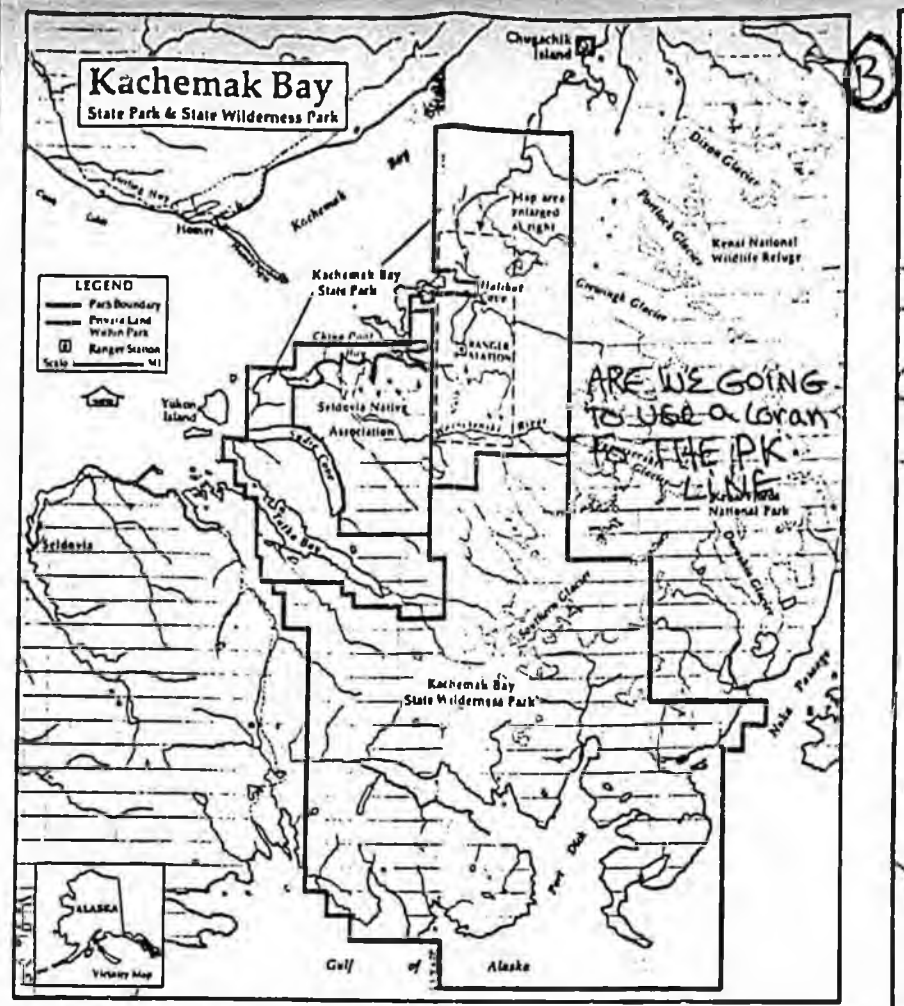
Sincerely,

Marian T Beck

Marian T. Beck

Marian V Beck
Halibut Cove, Ak
99603

Bettye Fahrenkamp
Pouch V
Juneau, Ak
99811



The park's trails receive little maintenance and often climb over steep, rugged terrain. Routes may be hidden at times by fallen trees or tall grass. Exposed rocks and roots, and wet, boggy areas are common. Depending on the trail taken, you may need to cross several glacial streams. Following is a partial list of the park's trails. Hiking times given are the minimum needed by a person in good physical condition without a pack to hike the trail one way. For more information, contact a state park ranger in Homer or Halibut Cove Lagoon.

Grewingk Glacier *(3.5 miles)*

built by 4H Rating - *easy*

Hiking Time - *1 hour, 20 minutes*

This is an easy hike over flat terrain, through stands of spruce and cottonwood and across the outwash of the Grewingk Glacier. It offers superb views of the glacier and surrounding area. There is a small campground about ten minutes from the trailhead, and another at Right Beach, a favorite water taxi drop-off point. Right Beach is accessible by land only from the north and only at low tide. Rock cairns mark the trail across the outwash of the glacier. Access to the glacial ice is difficult and hazardous due to the slide area on the south and steep cliffs on the north. There is a stream near the junction of this trail and the Saddle Trail.

Saddle Trail *(1.0 miles)*

built by Locals Rating - *moderate*

Hiking Time - *25 minutes*

This hike leads over the saddle between Halibut Cove and the Grewingk Glacier and is steep on the Halibut Cove side. The Saddle Trail accesses the Alpine Ridge and Lagoon Trails and also connects with the Grewingk Glacier Trail. No transportation is available from the trailhead to Glacier Spit or Halibut Cove unless you have made prior arrangements. It is not possible to hike the beach from the trailhead to the Right Beach campsite due to steep cliffs. The Saddle Trail trailhead is a popular spot to land boats during bad weather. Please respect private property near this trail.

Access to the Park

Access to the park is by boat or airplane, as there are no roads to the park. Air charters, water taxi services and boat rentals are available in Homer.

Alpine Ridge Trail *(2.0 miles)*

Rating - *moderate to difficult*

Hiking Time - *1 hour, 40 minutes to*

Built by LOCALS *get above timberline*

This steep hike begins at the high point on the Saddle Trail and follows a ridge up through spruce and alder stands to the alpine tundra and its many wildflowers. Slippery vegetation may make footing difficult on steeper slopes. Once above timberline, the views of the Grewingk Glacier on one side and a deep glacial valley on the other are spectacular. Rock cairns mark the alpine part of the trail, but picking out some landmarks will make it easier to find the end of the trail for the trip back down. Remember that alpine areas are extremely fragile; please practice minimum impact camping.

Lagoon Trail *(5.5 miles)*

Rating - *moderate to difficult*

Hiking Time - *5 hours*

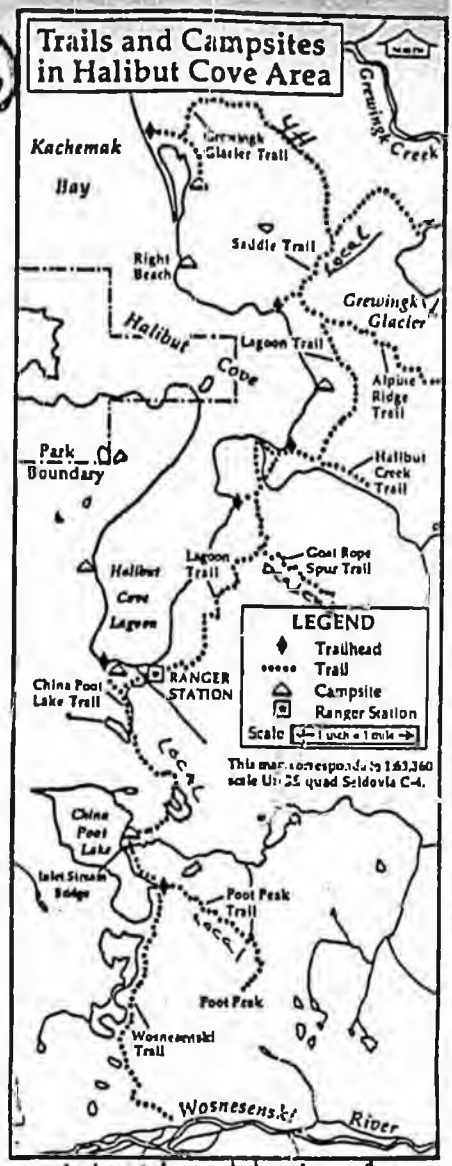
From the junction with the Alpine Ridge Trail, the Lagoon Trail winds along Halibut Cove and passes through a wet, boggy area to the Halibut Creek Trailhead and delta. You may be able to ford the river at the low tide line but the water can be high, depending on the weather. Pick up the trail again by walking upstream (on the south side) about 200 yards or walk around the delta on the tide flats. A series of steep switchbacks then leads through a spruce forest up to where the trail intersects Goat Rope Spur Trail at 1200 feet. The trail continues downhill and south, across Falls Creek and on to the end of the lagoon and the ranger station. Here you may take the stairs down to the stream where a sign directs you to the China Poot Lake Trail.

Goat Rope Spur Trail *(0.5 miles)*

This is a dead end Rating - *difficult*

Hiking Time - *1 hour*

This is a short, steep trail through alders that begins at the highest point on the Lagoon Trail. It leads hikers up through a "notch" and to the alpine areas where the trail ends. Take your camera for pictures of the view.



China Poot Lake *(2.5 miles)*

originally built by locals Rating - *easy to moderate*

Hiking Time - *1 hour, 15 minutes*

This trail begins at Halibut Cove Lagoon and passes three lakes beneath China Poot Peak. You reach the first lake after 15 minutes of hiking uphill. The trail crosses the lake outlet stream just before reaching the lake and continues through forest and bog for 30 minutes to the second lake - Two Loon Lake. China Poot Lake is another 30 minutes away through more spruce and muskeg.

Poot Peak *(2 miles)*

Built by locals Rating - *difficult*

Hiking Time - *3 to 4 hours roundtrip*

This steep, slick, unmaintained route begins across the China Poot Lake inlet stream bridge and heads up to timberline. Climbing the 2100 foot peak is hazardous due to shifting scree and rotten rock. Hand and foot holds are poor at best and worse in wet weather. Your efforts will be rewarded above timberline with superb views of Wosnesenski Glacier and Kachemak Bay.

Wosnesenski Trail *(2 miles)*

Goes to nowhere Rating - *easy to moderate*

Hiking Time - *1 hour, 15 minutes*

Begin this trail where it meets the China Poot Peak Trail, about 10 minutes after crossing the inlet stream bridge at China Poot Lake. This fairly easy trail winds along the shoreline of three lakes formed by a geologic fault. You will find a good camping area in a stand of cottonwoods by the lake after about 25 minutes on the trail. After another 25 minutes of hiking, the trail climbs over a low saddle and drops down into the valley. Be careful if you decide to cross the rivers while exploring the valley. Glacial rivers vary in depth and current depending on the weather, but the water level is usually lower in early summer and much higher in July and August. Choose a slow-moving, shallow spot to cross; water above thigh level is too hazardous to cross. A pair of tennis shoes will make crossing these icy rivers easier.