

Proposal 13 intention was to reflect the division of Upper Cook Inlet and Lower Cook Inlet for the purpose of using areas of jurisdiction in emergency closures by advisory committees.

The Board of Fisheries used to have one Cook Inlet meeting, but because of the complexity of the regulations and the volume of proposals received, they divided the meetings into Upper and Lower Cook Inlet.

The proponent of Proposal 13 did not intend to remove ACs from commenting on all of Cook Inlet or the emergency order. The proposal was not well written. The intention was to refine the ACs to those closer to the bodies of waters of Upper and Lower Cook Inlet.

The current regulations pertaining to Cook Inlet are as follows:

5 AAC 97.005. Areas of jurisdiction for advisory committees For the purpose of emergency closures on taking fish and game during established seasons, the following areas of jurisdiction are established for the advisory committees specified in this section:

(1) finfish

(E) Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Area (i) all waters of Alaska north of the latitude of Cape Douglas and west of the longitude of Cape Fairfield; (ii) fish and game advisory committees with concurrent jurisdiction are Seward Advisory Committee, Cooper Landing Advisory Committee, Kenai/Soldotna Advisory Committee, Mt. Yenlo Advisory Committee, Homer Advisory Committee, Anchorage Advisory Committee, Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee, Central Peninsula Advisory Committee, Seldovia Advisory Committee, Denali Advisory Committee, Tyonek Advisory Committee, and Susitna Valley Advisory Committee;

What the proposer's wanted was to reflect as follows:

(The Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Management Area consists of that portion of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of the Anchor Point Light and is divided into the Central and Northern districts. Central District is approximately 75 miles long, averaging 32 miles in width. Northern District is 50 miles long, averaging 20 miles in width.

All 5 species of Pacific salmon, razor clams, Pacific herring, and smelt are commercially harvested in UCI. Since the inception of a commercial salmon fishery in 1882, many salmon gear types, including fish traps, gillnets, and seines have been employed with varying degrees of success. More than 1,300 drift and set gillnet limited entry fishing permits have been for the UCI area, contributing about 10% of salmon permits issued statewide. Sockeye salmon are most important in terms of their economic value. Commercial harvests of razor clams date back to 1919. Harvests have fluctuated from no fishery to a harvest in excess 500,000 pounds, driven largely by market demand. Small commercial harvests of smelt, locally known as hooligan, and a herring bait fishery also occur.)

Fish and game advisory committees with concurrent jurisdiction are: Cooper Landing, Kenai/Soldotna, Mt Yenlo, Anchorage, Mat Valley, Denali, Tyonek, Susitna Valley

The Lower Cook Inlet (LCI) Management Area is comprised of all waters west of the longitude of Cape Fairfield, north of the latitude of Cape Douglas, and south of the latitude of Anchor Point. Area marine waters vary from the numerous fjord-like bays along the north Gulf of Alaska coast to the moderately protected waters of Kachemak Bay and the high-energy shoreline of Kamishak Bay. The majority of freshwater drainages are short, coastal streams dominated by pink salmon, however all five Pacific salmon species are present in LCI waters, with chum and sockeye salmon adding significant value in most years. Fisheries enhancement has played a major role in LCI salmon production for over three decades, at times contributing up to 90% of the harvest, thus providing a significant portion of the average annual commercial ex-vessel value. The LCI area offers a wide variety of commercial fishing opportunities for salmon, groundfish and scallops. Historically, the area supported herring as well as several crab and shrimp fisheries, but these fisheries are currently closed while stocks rebuild. These varied resources are protected, maintained, and improved through efforts by the area management and research staffs based in Homer.

Fish and game advisory committees with concurrent jurisdiction are: Seward, Homer, Central Peninsula, Seldovia, Kenai/Peninsula, Cooper Landing