

**Kachemak Bay State Park
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 21, 2012**

1. Call to Order

- a. Members Present:** Steve Schultz, Mike Flora, Glenn Green, David Taylor, Roger MacCampbell, Mako Haggerty.
Not Present: Mike Hueper, Nancy Hilstrand and Roger MacCampbell.
Guest: Pam Russell, State Parks Permitting Officer.

2. The Minutes from the February 8, 2012 were approved as written.

3. Agenda was amended to add under old business, the brochure review and the Cook Inlet Aquaculture submitted an application to install a 300 foot by 100 foot broad pen in Halibut Cove Lagoon. The agenda was approved as amended.

4. Correspondence- No Correspondence

5. Introduction of Visitors- Mark Munro (commercial operator), Kris Holdried (NOAA scientist) , Glenn Howell (ADF&G Biologist), Roberta Hyland (Kachemak Bay Conservation Society), Larry Smith (member of the public), Caroline Cherry and Gary Fandrei (CIAA- Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association) and Beaver and Jessie Nelson (Commercial Fisherman)

6. Committee Reports

a. Operations Reports

Eric Clarke was back to work on March 1st and is busy hiring the trail crews. Bobby Hickman will be helping with trail crews and we are looking to have 7 to 8 new trail crew members. Eric is working on several projects and will be attending training April 11th through 13th in Anchorage.

Roger is getting ready for the 2012 season and working on several projects from the Shorebird Festival, which is scheduled to be on the weekend of May 12th, 2012, to the Trails Day event which is on June 9th, 2012. Projects include yurt inspections and replacing mooring buoys in the State Park that have disappeared. A copy of the operation report was given to the board.

The State Park Director, Ben Ellis had a whirlwind trip in Juneau. He met with approximately 45 legislators. He reported that there has been discussion about funding some new ranger positions throughout Alaska State Parks including a Kachemak Bay position.

Roger has been working with the Deputy Director, Claire LeClair on revising regulation 11AAC20.110 to include additional aircraft use in Kachemak Bay. Some of the recommendations include Grevingk and Wosnesenski which are currently closed to aircraft landing.

Mark Munro, a commercial operator in the Kachemak Bay State Park Area gave comment to encourage State Parks to open more lakes to aircraft landing.

Roger has also been working on defining what a gravel bar is for general regulations. We all know that a gravel bar is along a river or stream.

The Water Trail Committee is currently working on developing a logo. The next meeting has been set for April 25th and 26th, 2012 at Islands and Oceans Visitor Center.

- b. Friends Report-**Melissa Wrightman and Mako Haggerty have been working on Trail Day and have asked Roger and Jack Sinclair to serve coffee at the booth.

7. Old Business

- a.** Shafford Heights is closed to public comment and is currently awaiting a decision from the Director of State Parks.
- b.** Board member applications-No new applications have been received at this time.
- c.** Diamond Creek-This area is currently schedule for hazard tree removal.

- d. Letters to Paul Seaton- Mako Haggerty is currently working on letters to Paul Seaton and Director Ben Ellis explaining the operation of the Kachemak Bay State Park area and the benefits of adding an additional Park Ranger to that area.
- e. Pancake Breakfast- The breakfast is scheduled for May 12th, 2012. The Organization Committee needs a confirmation and payment of the board's interest to participant in this year's event. Steve Schulz, Mako Haggerty, Dave Taylor and Glenn Green have volunteered to be on that committee. Dave Taylor will send out an e-mail to set a time and date.
- f. CIAA Net Pen Permit-Gary Fandrei and Caroline Cherry –handed out a summary of operations for the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery. The net pens would be in place in the lagoon from mid-May to late June. It would take approximately two days to place the pens in the lagoon and two days to remove the pens from the lagoon. The pens are 50' by 50' in size. For the 2012 season, just one net pen would be placed in the lagoon and then in the 2013 season, four, 50' by 50' net pens would be placed in the lagoon. This is a project that is currently being funded by the fisherman's 2% enhancement tax. This will benefit both the CIAA and fisherman, so at first only two permits would be issued for the cost recovery. As the project grows there could be as many as 82 permits issued. For the 2012 season, 302 million pink salmon egg fry would be released and for 2013, 30 million pink fry would be released. It is predicted that only approximately 1% of the returning hatchery fish would not be recovered.

The question was asked if it could be moved to some other location.

At the time the plan was being developed the Fish and Game Board looked at several locations and it was determined that Halibut Cove Lagoon fit all of the requirements.

The question was asked if it is possible to move the net pens outside the lagoon.

The concerns were that wild fish and hatchery fish would mix during time of return. The other concern was once the fish are placed in the lagoon for the two month period before release, they would be imprinted to return back to the lagoon.

The question was asked how often the fish will need to be fed after being placed in the pens.

They would need to be fed three times a day.

There was concern about oxygen levels being depleted, which could possible cause hypoxia and a dead zone for benthic (bottom dwelling) species. The recommendation by the board was to add a special stipulation to the permit that would require CIAA to take water samples during the two month period the pens are in the lagoon. It was also a recommendation by the board to have the State Park permit be an annual permit and not long term, such as 5 year permits.

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society submitted a letter with concerns in regards to this purposed project. A copy of the letter will be available at the next meeting.

Mako Haggerty made a motion in support of the permit application.

Glenn Green seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mako believes that the lagoon is big enough to support both the pens and the public use of the lagoon.

Willie stated that he would vote against the permit being issued. He also stated that the park was established not only for recreational use, but also for commercial fishing users and that the park should not be used as the backbone for a fundraiser for the commercial fishing operations. This project is inconsistent with the purpose of the park.

Much of the discussion at the table was the mission statement of the park and what is the future of the park resources.

Also discussed was the process of moving the pens outside of the lagoon. CIAA needs to have the management plan amended in order for them to consider a new location. This process includes getting approval from the Commissioner of Fish and Game.

A friendly amendment was added to Mako's motion to add a water quality stipulation to the permit and to only issue permits for a one year period.

Steve Schultz seconded the motion.

After further discussion, Mako withdrew the motion with the amendment from the table to let CIAA find a possible solution to move the pens outside the lagoon. Nancy made a motion to postpone discussion on the permit until next meeting.

Willie Dunn seconded the motion.

It was agreed by all board members to table the discussion to next months meeting.

8. New Business

- a. Chugachik Campground- Mako Haggerty made a motion to send a letter to State Parks in support of establishing the old campsite and Chugachik Island.

Steve Schultz seconded the motion.

Discussion-Friends of Kachemak Bay would aid in sponsoring the state in establishing a location in conjunction with the water trail committee.

The board voted and the motion passed.

- b. Visitors Counts-Roger presented some maps to show the growth of the Kachemak Bay area. The Commercial Use Cabins are filling up. There is plenty of growth over the passed twenty years.
- c. Ski Trail-The crew is working on brushing the trail for the 2013 season.
- d. Trails Day is June 9th, 2012 and the committee is working on ideas for the booth. Mako presented a shirt that will be available on trails day for \$15.00 each.

9. Comment and discussion by Board Members – no comments.

10. Adjournment- Willie Dunn made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Before the motion was seconded Beaver Nelson asked the board to reconsider the decision about the Halibut Cove Lagoon net pens, because with time running out, CIAA needs to know as soon as possible what direction they would need to go.

After further discussion Mako made a motion that CIAA try to move the net pens outside of the lagoon. If they are unable to make that decision this year, CIAA needs to explain the reasoning why they cannot be moved and State Parks will considered issuing a one year permit with special stipulations that water sampling be required during the time the pens are in the lagoon and that only a one year permit would be issued with the caveat that CIAA find an alternative place in 2013.

Glenn Green seconded the motion.

The vote was taken 5 members passed the motion and two opposed.

Willie Dunn made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mike Flora seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

- a. **Date/Agenda of Next Meeting April 11th, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.**