COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
between the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
Habitat Division
and the
Alaska Department of Natural Resources,
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

This cooperative agreement is designed to assist the agencies in cooperatively managing the area of overlap of the Kachemak Bay State Park and the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. The agreement pertains to the responsibilities of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Division and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation within Kachemak Bay and in no way alters existing authorities and responsibilities either between or within the agencies.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has a legislatively mandated responsibility to manage the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (AS 16.20.590); and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) has a legislatively mandated responsibility to manage the Kachemak Bay State Park (AS 41.21.130-143); and

WHEREAS, portions of Kachemak Bay are designated as both state critical habitat area and state park; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to have maximum consistency between state park and state critical habitat area regulation and administration; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the ADNR/Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) and the ADF&G/Habitat Division to coordinate administrative efforts in managing overlapping portions of the state park and state critical habitat area;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION AGREES:

1. To consult with ADF&G, through the Habitat Division, in the development of a management plan for Kachemak Bay State Park.

2. To seek the advice of ADF&G, through the Habitat Division, on regulations and major park policies and decisions which apply to the portions of Kachemak Bay which are designated both state park and state critical
habitat area. These include the management of mariculture, sport fishing charters or other commercial operations, and the development of park facilities when habitat values or use conflicts can reasonably be anticipated to be affected.

3. To monitor tideland and water use activities, to report any special area permit violations or other resource management problems within the area covered by this agreement promptly to the Habitat Division, and to coordinate compliance operations where appropriate.

4. To review and comment on state critical habitat area management plans, regulations, major policies, or decisions and permits for that portion of the critical habitat area which is in the state park.

5. Comply with the notice and, if applicable, ADP&G special area permit requirements of AS 16.20.520-530 and 5 AAC 95 for park developments, uses, and activities in the critical habitat area.

THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, THROUGH ITS HABITAT DIVISION, AGREES:

1. To consult with DPOR in the development of a management plan for the state critical habitat area.

2. To monitor multiple use activities, to report state park permit violations or other resource management problems in the portion of Kachemak Bay which is a state park to DPOR, and to coordinate compliance operations where appropriate.

3. To review and comment on state park management plans, regulations, major policies or decisions, and permits for the portion of the state park which is in the critical habitat area.

4. To seek the advice of DPOR on regulations and major policies or decisions which apply to the portion of the critical habitat area that is in the state park (such as mariculture, habitat enhancement activities, introduction of non-native species or placement of structures or facilities).

5. To apply for a park use permit when required under 11 AAC 18.010 for developments or uses and activities in the state park.
10. The effective date of this agreement shall be from the date of final signature.

Don W. Collinsworth
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Lennie Gorsuch
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Natural Resources