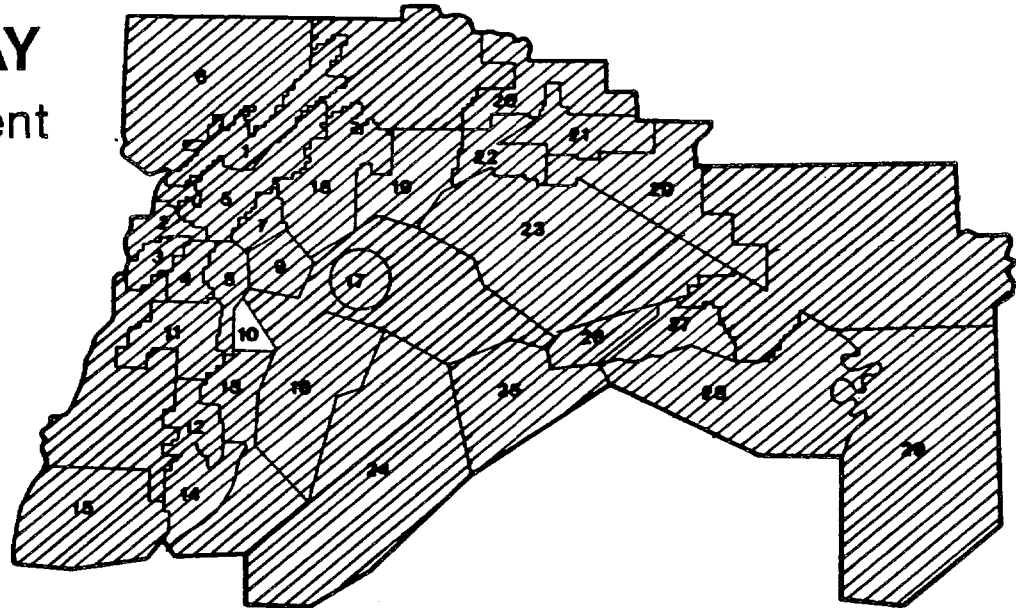

MAIN BAY

Management Unit 10



Background

The USFS manages the uplands in this management unit. The federal land is open to mining and is expected to be managed without timber harvest for the life of this plan. A state-run hatchery is located on federal land in Main Bay and operates under a permit from the USFS. The unit contains no areas with significant known mineral values. State selections in Main Bay and Falls Bay were relinquished because the selection purposes -- fish hatcheries -- were not consistent with the USFS interpretation of allowable selection purposes of section 6(a) of the Statehood Act (see chapter 5). Hatcheries can be authorized on federal land by the USFS.

This area contains the only limited-entry set-net fishery in Prince William Sound. Thirty-one limited-entry set-net permits exist for the Eshamy district, which runs from the northernmost part of this unit to Point Nowell in Management Unit 13. In recent years, much of the fishing activity has concentrated in Main Bay where the ADF&G operates the hatchery. Approximately 28 leases for shore

fisheries exist within this management unit. Some fishermen are usually on-site from June to early September. The Eshamy district also receives concentrated use by the commercial drift net fishermen.

Although recreation watercraft frequently pass by this area, it receives only modest public use because of its close proximity to more attractive stopping spots, such as Culross Passage and Eshamy Lagoon, and because of the commercial fishing activity.

Management Intent

Tideland management will emphasize use of the tidelands to support the commercial fishing industry, maintenance of the habitat, and public access to campsites and anchorages for recreation and sport-fishing use. Except for lands in subunit 10A, state lands will remain open to mineral entry. Because of incompatibilities with existing recreation use and because nearby private land is likely to be used for commercial recreation, floatlodges and

similar commercial recreation facilities are prohibited throughout this unit.

Additional management intent is described below for three subunits. The intent for **Subunit 10D**, the general use area, is reflected in the previous paragraphs.

Subunit 10A - Main Bay. ADF&G operates a salmon hatchery on federal land in Main Bay. Tidelands include most of the hatchery-harvest area maintained by ADF&G for the salmon hatchery. The returning hatchery-released salmon are naturally separated from wild stock, and during fishery openings, the bay receives concentrated commercial purse seine and drift net fishing. Main Bay also supports dense concentrations of rearing juvenile salmon when the hatchery releases smolts in the spring.

The fish hatchery and the fishery it supports are dependent upon the adjacent tidelands. Tidelands will be managed to maintain the productivity of anadromous fish habitat and the use of the bay for commercial fishing. Tideland facilities are allowed in the bay, but only if compatible with the needs of the commercial fishery. To protect these tideland resources and to prevent conflicts with the hatchery and the fishery, tidelands in the subunit will be closed to mineral entry.

Subunit 10B - Falls Bay. These state tidelands will be managed for multiple use with emphasis on public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat and harvest. ADF&G has identified a potential hatchery site on federal land in Falls Bay. Management will avoid long-term leases or permits that might foreclose its eventual use for a hatchery.

Subunit 10C - Lighthouse-Crafton Island. West of Port Nellie Juan Light is a crossing point where small boats await favorable weather before crossing Port Nellie Juan. The area is also used for subsistence seal and deer hunting by residents of Chenega. The waters west of Crafton Island performs the same "await the weather" function for crossing of Knight Island Passage. These areas should be

managed to maintain their present use including the anchorage near the Port Nellie Juan lighthouse. This intent is not meant to restrict the set-net use of these areas.

Management Guidelines

Public Notice (all subunits). Public notice issued under AS 38.05.945 for leases within this management unit should contact the Prince William Sound Setnetters Association, Cordova District Fishermen United, or a similar group representing commercial fishing interests in the unit.

Floating Facility in Main Bay (Subunit 10A). A floating facility to support the set-net fishery is allowed in the Main Bay subunit if access to the uplands for this purpose is denied by the USFS. The facility may include a washeteria, storage, store, or similar service useful to the set-net fishery. An upland location on USFS land or adjacent to the fish hatchery is preferable to a tideland location. DNR will consult and coordinate with the USFS on the siting and guidelines for the facility.

Conflicts with the Hatchery Harvest Area (Subunit 10A).

1. Disease, Pollution and Productivity. Because of the concentration of hatchery stock, the following uses will not be allowed if there is a feasible and prudent alternative: uses with the potential to transmit disease to the concentrated hatchery stock; uses that significantly reduce the productivity of the salmon hatchery by competing with the available food supply or by other means; and uses that could cause significant water pollution.

2. Interfering with the Commercial Fishery. Because hatchery harvest areas, particularly the nearshore areas, receive dense concentrations of gill net and purse seine commercial fishing activity, any tideland facility (rafts, floats, mooring systems, etc.) that would obstruct the commercial fishing use of the

area should not be located in these areas if there is a feasible and prudent alternative.

Mineral Closure - (Subunits 10A and 10C). The tidelands within Subunit 10A will be closed to new mineral entry because the hatchery and the fishery it supports are critically dependent on the salmon habitat within the estuary, including habitat for the growth of juvenile salmon. Any mineral extraction activity that could disrupt those resources may jeopardize the significant state investment in the hatchery. To protect important salmon spawning and rearing habitat, and to prevent conflicts with those resources, the estuary in Subunit 10C (81) will be closed to new mineral

entry. The boundary of the closure is described in Appendix D.

The complete set of guidelines is presented in Chapter 2; any of these guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit. Guidelines most likely to apply are listed below:

- Fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas
- Floating residential and commercial facilities
- Recreation, tourism, cultural, and scenic resources

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 10: Main Bay

<u>SUBUNIT</u>	<u>LAND OWNERSHIP</u>	<u>LAND USE DESIGNATIONS</u>			<u>COMMENTS</u>
		<u>Primary Surface Use²</u>	<u>Prohibited Surface Use</u>	<u>Subsurface¹</u>	
10A Main Bay	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Closed	Existing state hatchery; state selection was relinquished.
10B Falls Bay	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Open	Potential hatchery site; state selection was relinquished.
10C Lighthouse/ Crafton Island	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest Public recreation	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Estuary closed	
10D Remainder of Unit	State-owned tidelands	Habitat & harvest	Commercial recreation facilities Floatlodges	Open	

¹All areas are available for leasing of leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals.

²Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits that are not specifically prohibited, may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, management guidelines of this unit, and relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2. See Chapter 2, pages 2-11 and 2-12, for floathome policies. Trapping Cabin and Remote Cabin permits will not be given in the planning area. See guideline B-3, page 2-39.

Resource Information Summary¹

Management Unit: 10. Main Bay					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife ²	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement ³	Forestry ³
10A Main Bay (tidelands)	Estuaries; deer concentrations; sport fishing; existing fish hatchery; set-net sites; commercial fishing	Infrequent dispersed recreation	No known minerals	--	--
10B Falls Bay (tidelands)	Deer concentrations; potential fish hatchery; set-net sites; deer; commercial fishing	Infrequent dispersed recreation	No known minerals	--	--
10C Lighthouse/ Crafton Island (tidelands)	Estuary; seal haul-out; deer concentrations; purse seine hookoffs; set-net sites; deer; commercial fishing	Crossing point important for small boats	No known minerals	--	--
10D Remainder of Unit (tidelands)	Set-net sites; deer; seals; commercial fishing	Dispersed recreation	No known minerals	--	--

¹ This resource summary describes only the resources for state uplands and tidelands.

² Resource list includes Crucial, Prime, and Important habitats as defined by ADF&G (see Appendix E). Anadromous fish streams are not listed; they exist in most subunits. See ADF&G anadromous fish stream catalogue.

³ Land offering and timber harvest do not occur on tidelands. Therefore, settlement and forestry resources are not rated for tideland subunits.