

News Release

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Net pens to be moved back into Tutka Bay Lagoon

Two Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) net pens from Tutka Bay Lagoon that originally were moved to the head of Tutka Bay are now secured at the mouth of Tutka Bay Lagoon. The pens will be moved back into the lagoon as soon as the tides allow. This move comes after notification by Ninilchik Charters yesterday afternoon that the pens were no longer moored at the head of Tutka Bay and appeared to be floating freely. CIAA mobilized immediately and found the net pens were dragging anchor in the strong winds that occurred yesterday and had drifted up the bay.

This emergency action by CIAA came at the same time CIAA was considering where to move the net pens due to compliance issues with permitting. Although CIAA placed the net pens where they believed the pens were supposed to go, it was determined by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) that the net pens needed to be moved. There has been confusion among ADNR, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and CIAA about the placement of the net pens. CIAA is committed to following its permits and was preparing to move them to an appropriate location when the anchors dragged.

The net pens are intact and the 2 million pink salmon fry in the pens appear to be unaffected. CIAA's board of directors will be reviewing this operation to determine a coordinated strategy for going forward with net pen placement in future years.

CIAA would like to thank Ninilchik Charters for their assistance and board member Mark Roth for mobilizing his boat and crew to address the situation.
