

Homer, Alaska

July 24, 1992

Boat trip to Halibut Cove, Kenai Peninsula, left 12:35 A.M. from Homer Spit. First stop Gull Island. These town boats, of which there are at least 20-30 a day, plus private boats and kayaks (worst offenders) approach the Gull Island from all sides and from as close as 20' for larger boats and contact by smaller boats. As we approached 2 kayakers cruised the south side and on several occasions disrupted nest with the end of their paddles. At this time approx. 2000 birds were in air on S side island and less than 50 on north side. There should be a law that boats or kayakers can not approach closer than 300' or more. Close contact humanizes birds and disrupts their normal interactions which are adapted for balanced inter-relationships, for example what would result if birds on Gull Island should accept mans trust at 10' away and then translate this trust to interaction with bald eagles who in turn would ^{also} nest on Gull Island. Both species have an instinctual tolerance for each other and if either species changes this tolerance the interaction will falter. Another example is the sea otter that leisurely floated as tour boat passed 15' away. I hope the otter is more cognizant of a killer whale at such close quarters.

Photos of Gull Island in Kachemak Bay: (film numbered backwards)
 920724-18 Annette, face of cliff with approx 1000 black-legged
 920724-14 E end Gull Island and natural bridge, Kittiwakes
 tufted puffin inhabit soil below vegetation top island. Glaucous-winged gulls dominant bird on outlier to right. Photo to N.

Entering the Narrows of Halibut Bay (part of bay S of Ismailof Island). Photo 920724-11 of natural bridge N of W entrance of The Narrows. Rocks mainly metamorphic. Sitka spruce miocene plateau N side Kachemak Bay.

Photo 920724-7 at W end Ismailof causeway with gulfweed stamining rock weed, Fucus distichus the blades of the mature plant end in warty, swollen tips that produce gametes. This plant is well developed in Kachemak Bay and is a bright yellow. Steve and Mary live just beyond to E on blue ridge on N side Kachemak Bay.

Photo 920724-6 of residence E side causeway of Ismailof Island.
 Photo 920724-4 Annette and I on board walk in front museum or reception building. We are on W part of Ismailof Island, E end beyond to E. Causeway off Annettes shoulder an Indian midden that extends across causeway. Artifacts from this area (in museum)