

From: David Meeler
To: [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Support for KRSA ACR #1 to Halt Expansion of Hatchery Pink Salmon Production in Prince William Sound
Date: Friday, October 5, 2018 1:09:31 PM

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October 5, 2018

Dear Board of Fisheries Comments,

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I support the Agenda Change Request submitted by the Kenai River Sportfishing Association to halt further expansion of the hatchery pink salmon production in Prince William Sound. Specifically, KRSA's ACR #1 seeks prohibit Valdez Fisheries Development Association from incubating, rearing, and releasing pink salmon resulting from 20 million additional egg take capacity permitted in 2018 and cap egg take capacity at the level permitted in 2017.

Hatchery pink salmon from Prince William Sound show very high rates of straying inter-regional straying into Lower Cook Inlet, when compared to intra-regional straying of LCI hatchery pink salmon.

Scientific research and agency reports document adverse impacts on wild salmon from increased food competition in the North Pacific Ocean, where there are record high salmon abundance and commercial harvests, even with an increasingly variable ocean environment. Commercial salmon harvests in Alaska in 2013, 2015 and 2017 were the three highest on record.

Two-thirds of salmon in the North Pacific Ocean are pink salmon, who have an even-odd year cycle. That two year cycle appears to be impacting food availability for other species of wild salmon. In 2018, there were historic restrictions and closures of sockeye and Chinook salmon fisheries across the Gulf of Alaska.

Until there is much more understanding of the marine food chain for all salmon species in the North Pacific Ocean, the BOF must act to halt further expansion of industrial hatchery pink salmon production in Prince William Sound.

I urge the Alaska Board of Fisheries to exercise its full regulatory authority to amend terms of permits relating to the source and number of salmon eggs for private, non-profit hatcheries in Alaska, by accepting KRSA's ACR #1.

Thank you for your time and attention to this most pressing fishery conservation issue.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
David Meeler