



Kodiak Island Borough
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September 28, 2018

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
 Alaska Board of Fisheries
 P.O. Box 115526
 1255 W. 8th Street
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Jensen and members of the Board of Fish:

The Kodiak Island Borough and City of Kodiak represent the Nation's largest Coast Guard Base, nearly 14,000 residents and 298 local commercial salmon permit holders in the Kodiak Archipelago. Additionally, the Kodiak Island Borough represents seven rural villages. As the second largest fishing port for landings in the nation and with the largest fleet in Alaska, Kodiak, its local governments, and its residents are dependent on abundant, sustainable fisheries for economic health and cultural wellbeing. Salmon and salmon fisheries are vital to the community, and the enhancement projects conducted by the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA) play an integral role in the continued sustainability and health of our salmon resources. The Kodiak Island Borough and City of Kodiak wish to commit its support to KRAA and the enhancement and research projects it operates.

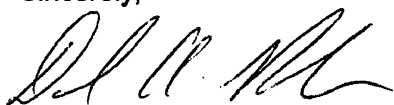
For over 35 years KRAA has been involved in salmon fisheries, research, monitoring, rehabilitation, and enhancement. During that time, KRAA has not put their efforts solely into programs for commercial production. In the early years of the Association, in partnership with ADF&G, numerous rehabilitation projects were conducted in the Archipelago, and today, KRAA conducts limnology and water sampling in Kodiak sockeye salmon nursery lakes to monitor system health and productivity. In addition, KRAA has developed projects and returns that provide important subsistence resources directly to villages such as Larson Bay, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions. KRAA's sport fish programs also create opportunities for local residents and help generate tourism dollars as they create king salmon and rainbow trout opportunities (in partnership with ADF&G Sport fish) on the Kodiak Road System and contribute thousands of coho to the road system and nearby waters.

The programs that benefit Kodiak's local subsistence and sport fisheries are financed in part through partnerships, but the majority of expenses for those programs are paid for by KRAA, and, by association, by the commercial fishermen of Kodiak. Meanwhile, as a long-term average, KRAA generates over \$3 million in ex-vessel value annually for Kodiak's commercial fishery, and a recent draft study by The McDowell Group has identified that from 2012-2017 the value of KRAA salmon returns has averaged approximately \$7 million annually. That contribution provides a stabilizing force for the salmon fishery and the local economy. In fact, KRAA's Board of Directors had the foresight to recognize that the disastrous 2016 pink salmon season could lead to shortfalls in 2018 and decided to forgo pink salmon cost recovery this year. As a result, Kodiak commercial salmon fishermen were able to put over 3.2 million fish in their nets with a preliminary estimation of \$4.5 million in ex-vessel value. Combined for all species, KRAA's contribution to the commercial salmon fisheries of Kodiak in 2018 has a preliminary estimated value of \$6.5 million. This is a critical contribution in a year in which naturally producing stocks did poorly, and in many cases the hatchery production made a difference between losing money and breaking even or even profiting in 2018.

In addition to ex-vessel value, KRAA's contribution to the commercial salmon fishery contributes even greater economic output and activity through first wholesale value and beyond. KRAA supports stable production and jobs for processors and processing workers and those monies flow out through the community and generate ongoing economic activity. The Association goes beyond the salmon it produces by providing direct employment for up to 45 people per year with payroll figures in excess of \$1.8 million. In addition, KRAA spent over \$750,000 with local vendors and well over \$1 million within the state of Alaska in 2017.

The programs and hatcheries of the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association were developed by and with the oversight of ADF&G. These programs have been tailored to this region to fit the needs and interests of its residents and fishing community. The Kodiak Island Borough and City of Kodiak lend KRAA full support and would encourage the Board of Fish to take no action that would limit production or inhibit the ability of KRAA to meet the established goals for the Kodiak Island Borough, City of Kodiak, or the Kodiak Management Area. The Kodiak Island Borough and City of Kodiak believe the existing permitting process allows for sufficient regulatory oversight and review by ADF&G and would encourage the Board of Fish to familiarize itself with the supporting science and the individual programs of each region before considering action that could have unintended negative consequences for a given region.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Rohrer, Mayor
Kodiak Island Borough



Pat Branson, Mayor
City of Kodiak