

**PERMIT ALTERATION REQUEST**

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**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
PRIVATE NONPROFIT PROGRAM**

**I. IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICANT**

**A. Applicant Information**

<u>Adam Olson</u> Applicant Name	<u>NSRAA</u> Organization	
<u>1308 Sawmill Creek Rd</u> Address	<u>907 747-6850</u> Phone Number	
<u>Sitka</u> City	<u>AK</u> State	<u>99835</u> Zip

**B. Hatchery Information**

<u>Hidden Falls Hatchery</u> Hatchery Name	<u>#28</u> PNP Permit Number
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**II. STATEMENT OF APPLICANT'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- A. Describe the nature of the requested alteration, why you have decided to request it, and what you generally expect to accomplish by the expansion of your program, including answers to the following questions. Will the proposed project affect wild salmon stocks or existing fisheries? How will a significant contribution to common property fisheries be made? How will potential effects and interactions between introduced or enhanced stocks and wild stocks be assessed? What marking and recovery studies are being proposed that will allow the project to be evaluated? What are the potential benefits to fisheries or wild stocks from the proposed project? Has this project been discussed with the department's area or regional management biologists? (Attach additional pages as necessary.)

NSRAA is requesting to add Little Port Walter (LPW) as a Keta stock Chinook release site to the HFH permit. NSRAA is proposing to release up to 1,000,000 Chinook salmon from LPW. Smolts would be transported from HFH to either netpens or vertical raceways at LPW in the period of April-May of each year. Smolts could be either yearling and/or zero check. Yearling smolt would be fed and held 2-3 weeks for imprinting prior to release. Zero check smolt could be held for up to 90 days prior to release depending on transfer timing. This project is intended to provide an alternate release site for Keta River Chinook during development of the brood stock. As NOAA/NMFS has removed Chinook production and salmon research from the LPW budget and NOAA Research Plan, NSRAA currently has LPW donor stock Chinook eggs in production at HFH propagated under FTP 18J-1015. HFH is

currently permitted to release Chinook (Keta and Andrew Creek stock) from Kasnyku Bay, Gunnuk Creek, and Southeast Cove. The LPW release location is favored to reduce conflicts with other species returning and ongoing fisheries. HFH received an NPA for the Keta stock in 2018. Armstrong Keta Inc. has a PNP permit to operate at LPW, however they have not applied for a FTP to date. The permitted capacity is 600,000 green eggs. NSRAA proposes that the maximum combined Keta stock release will not exceed 1,000,000 Chinook.

Will the proposed project affect wild salmon stocks or existing fisheries?

Nearest wild chinook production is in Farragut Bay which is approximately 75 water miles distant.

How will a significant contribution to common property fisheries be made?

This PAR is intended to provide for a release location that is less impacted by commercial fisheries in order to provide for a greater likelihood of success while developing a commercially important broodstock.

How will potential effects and interactions between introduced or enhanced stocks and wild stocks be assessed?

Minimal interaction with wild stocks of Chinook salmon is anticipated.

What marking and recovery studies are being proposed that will allow the project to be evaluated?

Keta stock Chinook released at LPW during the broodstock development phase of the production will be 100% CWT until a time that there are no overlapping returns of Unuk stock Chinook at LPW. After that point, the CWT rate will follow traditional NSRAA Chinook tagging metrics. Propagation of the Unuk stock Chinook ceased in 2021. Broodyear 2020 Unuk Chinook, propagated under ARP P-20-009, were transferred from LPW to the Sitka Sound Science Center for eventual release at Deep Inlet under ARP CF-21-099. The last release of Unuk Chinook from LPW was in spring 2021.

What are the potential benefits to fisheries or wild stocks from the proposed project?

Development of the Keta stock for introduction into large scale hatchery production has a number of potential benefits to the fisheries of SEAK. The Keta stock have a natural component of zero check Chinook smolts that emigrate each year. The ability for a hatchery to successfully produce zero check Chinook will allow for increased production and decreased operating costs, as well as flexibility to transfer the smolt to alternate release sites. The Keta stock as has been shown to be larger at return than the Unuk stock, which will produce a higher value when sold, and they are an inside rearing stock that has been documented to be caught at a higher rate by local SEAK hook and line fisheries.

Has this project been discussed with the department's area or regional management biologists?

This project was generally discussed at the fall 2021 RPT meeting during a LPW operations update.

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**III. IMPACTS ON EXISTING HATCHERY PROGRAM**

**A. Present Permitted Capacity**

(numbers of green eggs by species)

Pink		Coho	7.7 million + 1 million non-NSRAA
	101 million (HF) + 24 million (MCIF) + 55 million (GCH) + 10 million non-NSRAA		
Chum		Chinook	3.8 million
Sockeye		Other	

**B. Capacity After Request**

(numbers of green eggs by species)

Pink		Coho	No Change
Chum	No Change	Chinook	No Change
Sockeye		Other	

**C. Water Use**

**1. List the total amount of water available and the source.**

Approximately 40 cfs is available (based on water rights, far more water is available in the watershed) from Hidden Falls Lake. Water can be taken from one of two inlet pipes in the lake (A-line upper water column or B-line lower water column). A portion of the intake water is run through the hydro plant and re-used for incubation and rearing. Intake water can bypass the hydro plant for multiple production uses.

**2. List the amount of water presently being used.**

Approximately 40 cfs is used at peak demand.

3. **List the additional amount of water needed for this alteration.**

No additional water needed.

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IV. **HATCHERY DESIGN**

- A. Please provide a detailed description of new facilities needed with this alteration (e.g., buildings, incubators, rearing space, piping, etc.). This description should represent a solid concept of the proposed hatchery changes/expansion. Drawings showing the layout of new structures should be attached when appropriate.


No additional incubation or rearing space is needed as there is adequate space in the existing infrastructure.

V. **DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE**

I declare that the information given in this application is, to my knowledge, true, correct, and complete.

Adam Olson  
Name of Applicant

2/1/2022  
Date Signed

  
Signature of Applicant