ATTACHMENT 5.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE

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2010 PRELIMINARY PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SALMON SEASON SUMMARY

The 2010 Prince William Sound Area commercial salmon harvest was 77.9 million fish. The harvest was composed of 71.2 million pink, 2.0 million sockeye, 4.3 million chum, 357,000 coho, and 10,400 Chinook salmon. The 2010 harvest was composed of 71.6 million commercial common property fishery (CPF) (92%), and 6.3 million (8%) hatchery cost recovery fish.

GILLNET FISHERIES

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT

The 2010 preseason commercial harvest forecast for the Copper River District was 17,000 Chinook, 1.3 million sockeye, and 302,900 coho salmon. Gulkana Hatchery was expected to contribute 315,000 sockeye salmon to the 2010 CPF harvest. The commercial salmon fishing season in the Copper River District began on Thursday, May 13. The 2010 sockeye salmon harvest of 635,968 was below the previous 10-year harvest average of 1.2 million sockeye salmon. The preliminary harvest composition was 414,394 (65.16%) wild, 208,704 (32.82%) Gulkana Hatchery, and 12,870 (2.02%) Main Bay Hatchery (MBH) sockeye salmon. The CPF harvest of 9,654 Chinook salmon was below the previous 10-year average harvest of 32,032. The coho salmon commercial harvest of 210,624 was below the previous 10-year average harvest of 300,000 coho salmon. The 2010 inriver goal for salmon passing the Miles Lake sonar site was set at 667,590–867,590 salmon. The 2010 sonar escapement estimate was 924,156 salmon. Spawning escapement to Copper River delta systems based on aerial survey indices was 83,905 sockeye salmon, and was within the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 55,000-130,000. Coho salmon spawning escapement to the Copper River Delta based on aerial survey indices was 41,077 and was within the SEG range of 32,000–67,000.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT

The Bering River District in 2010 was initially closed to commercial sockeye salmon harvest due to aerial survey counts from 2006–2009 that were below the SEG range of 23,000–35,000. Inseason aerial survey counts below weekly anticipated goals led to continued closure of the district for sockeye salmon fishing. The 2010 aerial escapement index of 5,771 sockeye salmon was below the SEG range. The coho salmon commercial harvest of 80,560 was above the

previous 10-year harvest average of 51,759 coho salmon. Aerial surveys of coho salmon produced an escapement index of 21,311 fish that was within the SEG range of 13,000–33,000.

COGHILL DISTRICT (DRIFT GILLNET)

The CPF harvest of chum salmon in the Coghill District was 2.6 million fish; 2.5 million by drift gillnet gear and 38,100 by purse seine gear. Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) harvested 749,763 chum salmon for corporate cost recovery. The Coghill River weir passed 24,312 sockeye salmon. This is within the SEG range of 20,000–40,000 sockeye salmon. The total CPF harvest of sockeye salmon in the Coghill District was 95,938 fish, of which 78,600 fish were of enhanced stock (predominately MBH) origin and 1,700 fish were of wild stock origin. The majority of the sockeye salmon, 87,463 fish, were harvested by the drift gillnet fleet. The coho salmon harvest of 11,456 fish was above the PWSAC forecast of 8,100 enhanced fish. The majority, 6,333 fish, were harvested by the drift gillnet fleet. A portion of the Coghill District coho salmon harvest was likely of wild stock origin.

ESHAMY DISTRICT

The department's preseason forecast for Eshamy Lake was 46,900 wild sockeye salmon and PWSAC forecasted a run of 884,000 MBH enhanced sockeye salmon. The CPF harvest of sockeye salmon in the Eshamy District was 1,195,772 fish: 278,668 by set gillnet permit holders and 917,104 by drift gillnet permit holders. Enhanced sockeye salmon contribution to the Eshamy District CPF harvest was 96%. Additionally, MBH sockeye salmon were harvested in the Copper River (12,900) and Coghill (78,600) districts. Sockeye salmon escapement to Eshamy Lake was 16,291 fish when the weir was removed on August 30. This was within the new Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) range of 13,000-28,000 adopted in 2008.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT

The department's preseason harvest forecast for the Unakwik District was 6,700 sockeye salmon. The Unakwik District CPF harvest was less than 100 sockeye salmon. The harvest was below the 10-year average of 6,800 sockeye salmon.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT, PORT CHALMERS SUBDISTRICT

PWSAC forecasted a run of 863,000 chum salmon to the Port Chalmers remote release site. The drift gillnet harvest was 242,526 chum salmon. This was the second year that drift gillnet gear was given access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict under the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Plan. The harvest was below the five-year CPF average of 666,000 chum salmon. Approximately 1.7% of the chum salmon harvested in the Port Chalmers Subdistrict were of wild stock origin.

PURSE SEINE FISHERIES

CHUM SALMON

The 2010 chum salmon total run forecast for Prince William Sound (PWS) was 3.4 million fish. The majority of the forecast, 3.0 million fish (90%), were of PWSAC hatchery origin. PWSAC forecasted a run of 1.8 million chum salmon to Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH), 863,000 fish to Port Chalmers, and 344,000 fish to Armin F. Koernig Hatchery (AFK). Approximately 639,000 chum salmon (35%) of the forecast 1.8 million WNH run were designated for corporate cost recovery and broodstock. All Port Chalmers and AFK chum salmon were available for

harvest in the CPF. Based on the department's wild chum salmon forecast of 355,000 fish, there was a potential CPF harvest of 155,000 wild chum salmon.

The 2010 chum salmon CPF harvest in PWS was 3.6 million fish, which was 1.2 million fish above the CPF preseason forecast. The 2010 purse seine CPF harvest of 231,000 chum salmon was composed of approximately 9% wild and 91% hatchery fish. Purse seine chum salmon harvest was predominantly from the AFK hatchery THA and SHA (3% wild and 97% enhanced chum salmon). Coghill District had a purse seine harvest of 38,000 chum salmon and a drift gillnet harvest of 2.5 million chum salmon. The 2010 total PWS wild stock chum salmon escapement lagged behind anticipated aerial survey indices early in the season, with escapement ahead of anticipated in all but the Eastern District by the end of the season.

Pink Salmon

The 2010 pink salmon total run forecast for PWS was 30.6 million fish. This estimate included 2.8 million wild stock fish, 10.6 million Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) hatchery fish, and 17.2 million PWSAC hatchery fish. Approximately 3.3 million (19%) of the 17.2 million pink salmon run forecast to the PWSAC hatcheries were projected for cost recovery and broodstock. The remaining 13.9 million PWSAC fish would be available for CPF harvest. Approximately 6.1 million (57%) of the projected 10.6 million pink salmon run forecast to VFDA's Solomon Gulch Hatchery were projected for cost recovery and broodstock. The remaining 4.5 million VFDA fish would be available for CPF harvest. A total harvest of 803,000 wild stock pink salmon was forecasted for CPF leaving 2.0 million fish for escapement.

The 2010 harvest of 71.2 million pink salmon, composed of approximately 3% wild and 97% hatchery fish, was the highest PWS pink salmon harvest on record, exceeding the previous record of 63.5 million pink salmon harvested in 2007. Overall harvest by gear type was 62.1 million by purse seine, 17,000 by set gillnet, 3.5 million by drift gillnet, and 5.5 million (2.4 million VFDA and 3.2 million PWSAC) for hatchery cost recovery and broodstock. Enhanced pink salmon contributions by aquaculture associations to total harvest were 25% VFDA and 71% PWSAC. VFDA cost recovery and broodstock harvest represented approximately 13% of the total pink salmon run to SGH. PWSAC cost recovery and broodstock harvest was approximately 6% of the total pink salmon run to PWSAC hatcheries.

Through targeting fishing effort on enhanced pink salmon, inseason pink salmon aerial survey escapement estimates moved above minimum anticipated escapement thresholds by mid-September in all districts but Montague District. The area-under-the-curve estimate of pink salmon escapement used for direct comparison with the SEG range is not yet available, but considering that inseason pink salmon escapement indices ended up above anticipated aerial survey counts, overall escapement was likely well within the even-year SEG range of 1.25–2.75 million pink salmon. The preliminary PWS wild stock pink salmon harvest of 2.3 million fish was the 14th lowest wild stock harvest by number in the last 50 years; average annual harvest over this same time frame was 5.4 million fish.

Coho Salmon

The 2010 VFDA coho salmon run was anticipated to be 178,000 fish. VFDA's broodstock objective was 1,000 coho salmon. VFDA harvested 27,600 coho salmon, of which 1,400 fish were utilized for broodstock and 26,200 fish were sold. In 2010 the purse seine fleet harvested 30,500 coho salmon in the Southwestern (15,600), Coghill (5,100), Northern (4,000), and

Eastern (5,900) districts. The majority of coho salmon harvested in the Eastern and Coghill districts are assumed to be of enhanced stock origin.

Table 1.–Preliminary Prince William Sound Management Area salmon harvest, 2010.

District	Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Bering River District	74	0	51	80,560	2	0	80,613
Copper River Dist.	495	9,654	635,968	210,624	21,149	15,694	893,089
Coghill Dist.	428	203	87,463	6,333	3,329,231	2,514,251	5,937,481
Eshamy Dist.	412	90	917,104	1,357	113,713	510,152	1,542,416
Montague Dist.	113	188	5,512	76	15,793	242,526	264,095
Unakwik Dist.	1	0	15	0	0	0	15
Drift gillnet total	**519**	**10,135**	**1,646,113**	**298,950**	**3,479,888**	**3,282,623**	**8,717,709**
Eshamy District	29	17	278,668	69	16,746	79,956	375,456
Set gillnet total	**29**	**17**	**278,668**	**69**	**16,746**	**79,956**	**375,456**
Eastern District	163	2	834	5,862	16,386,439	14,379	16,407,516
Northern Dist.	141	0	780	3,967	17,913,760	2,438	17,920,945
Coghill Dist.	95	0	8,075	5,123	10,872,579	38,098	10,923,875
Northwestern Dist.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwestern Dist.	145	277	60,072	15,580	16,954,124	176,294	17,206,347
Montague Dist.	1	0	0	2	191	19	212
Southeastern Dist.	1	0	0	0	19,293	0	19293
Unakwik Dist.	4	1	31	0	34	26	92
Purse Seine total	**174**	**280**	**69,792**	**30,534**	**62,146,420**	**231,254**	**62,478,280**
Solomon Gulch H.	1	0	0	27,614	2,363,753	5,042	2,396,409
Cannery Creek H.	1	0	0	0	542,484	0	542,484
Wally Noerenberg H.	1	0	0	0	1,763,948	749,763	2,513,711
Main Bay H.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armin F. Koernig H.	1	0	12	0	865,277	0	865,289
Hatchery total [a]		**0**	**12**	**27,614**	**5,535,462**	**754,805**	**6,317,893**
PWS Total Harvest		**10,432**	**1,994,585**	**357,167**	**71,178,516**	**4,348,638**	**77,889,338**

[a] Hatchery sales harvest for operating costs and broodstock harvest.