

RC 018



Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc.

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Alaska Board of Fish
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Chairman Kluberton
Members of the Board of Fish

Please except this letter of support for Proposal 203 from Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC).

DIPAC operates 2 hatcheries in the Juneau area of southeast Alaska. Our fishery enhancement programs contribute Chinook, coho, chum and sockeye to the commercial, charter, sports and personnel use fisheries of the area. It is estimated that these enhancement programs generate over \$20 million dollars in economic output each year to all user groups.

It is vital that hatchery operators, especially in years of low returns, be able to insure sufficient numbers of salmon are available to provide for the brood stock and cost recovery needs necessary for the continued success of their programs. If adopted, this proposal will provide for additional regulatory authority to effectively manage hatchery special harvest areas to achieve these goals.

Again DIPAC strongly supports Proposal 203 and encourages to board to adopt this proposal.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Prestegard

Eric P Prestegard
Executive Director