

December 3, 2017

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2017 Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting PWS Finfish

RE: RC Comments on 2017 Finfish proposals 48 and 49

History of AFK Chum Salmon and Options for Management

The Port Fidalgo chum salmon stock was the original donor stock for the 1976-1989 production with the majority of the brood collected from Sunny River. The late run-timed (August 15 – September 15) chum salmon stock was carefully selected to overlap with the AFK pink salmon return.

1991 The Board of Fish closes the PWS Southwest District by regulation when the **5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan** is approved.

From 1996 forward, the early run-timed WNH/Wells River (June 1 – July 27) chum salmon stock is utilized for the AFK chum remote release.

In 2003 the permit alteration request for this new remote release fishery is approved by ADF&G and the following regulation is not observed:

Alaska Salmon Hatchery and Enhancement Regulations

(Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code)

Chapter 40. Private Nonprofit Salmon Hatcheries

5 AAC 40.005. General

- (a) The harvest of salmon inhabiting the water of the state, regardless of whether the salmon are naturally or artificially propagated, may be conducted only pursuant to regulations adopted by the Board of Fisheries.

So now there is a new seine fishery in the SW district that should never have been developed by PWSAC and approved by ADF&G if they had followed BOF regulations and Alaska Administrative Code. I feel that ADF&G should acknowledge **5 AAC 40.005. (a)** and remove the chums from permit starting next season, unless PWSAC wants to cost recovery the return. If PWSAC does not want to harvest the return, then the Dept can use **AS 16.05.060. Emergency order authority** to manage return inside the **Special Harvest Area not the Terminal Harvest Area**. This will reduce the sockeye interception to an acceptable level.

Opening the THA is in violation of **5 AAC 40.005. (c)** Where hatchery returns enter a segregated location near the release site and can be harvested without significantly affecting wild stocks, a **special harvest area** may be designated by regulation adopted by the board, within the hatchery permit, or by emergency orders issued by the commissioner.

And **5 AAC 40.005. (d)** A private nonprofit hatchery permit holder and his agents, contractees, and employees may harvest salmon for the hatchery only in the applicable **special harvest area**. This does not prevent a **special harvest area** from being open to commercial, sport, or subsistence fishing or any combination thereof to the extent provided in regulations adopted and orders issued under this chapter. Harvesting of salmon within the **special harvest area**, whether by the hatchery operator or the common property fisheries, will be opened and closed by regulation or emergency order.

And **5 AAC 40.005. (e) Special harvest** area boundaries set out in 5 AAC 40, or in a private nonprofit hatchery permit issued by the commissioner, may be altered by emergency order if necessary for proper management of natural or hatchery stocks.

And **5 AAC 24.365. Armin F. Koernig Salmon Hatchery Management Plan** (a) The department, in consultation with the hatchery operator, shall manage the Point Elrington and Port San Juan Subdistricts to achieve the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation's escapement goal for the Armin F. Koernig salmon hatchery. (b) The Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area consists of the waters of Sawmill Bay (Evans Island) north and west of a line from 60_ 03.66' N. lat., 147_ 59.11' W. long. to 60_ 02.77' N. lat., 148_ 01.00' W. long. to 60_ 02.76' N. lat., 148_ 01.66' W. long., excluding the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Special Harvest Area. (c) **The Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Special Harvest Area consists of the waters of Sawmill Bay (Evans Island) west of 148_ 01.95' W. long.** (d) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 24.320 and 5 AAC 24.330, and except as otherwise provided by emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, a person holding a permit under AS 16.10.400 for the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery, and an agent, contractor, or employee of that person who is authorized under 5 AAC 40.005(g), may harvest salmon within the **Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Special Harvest Area** from 6:00 a.m. July 7 through 6:00 p.m. September 15 using purse seines, hand purse seines and beach seines.

Actively managing the fishery by time inside the SHA is the best that can be done to reduce interception of the non-targeted stocks transiting the SW district prior to July 18th.

Attachments included:

Appendix C.—AFKH chum salmon egg takes, fry releases and adult returns 1996-2012
Map of SW District from ADG&G

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Appendix C.—AFKH chum salmon egg takes, fry releases and adult returns. See footnotes for donor sources. All eggs were transferred to WNH 1986 to 1988. In 1996, 1997, and 2007 to 2012, eggs were received from WNH, incubated and released from AFKH at Sawmill Bay. Due to fry with the same otolith marks released from multiple sites, returns to AFKH reported by ADF&G (Botz et al. 2013) differ from the return reported by PWSAC in the WNH annual report, where the returns to AFKH are listed because the eggs were taken under the WNH permit.

Year	Eggs	Fry Released	Total Adult Return
1976	17,000		
1977	1,445,000	10,000	
1978	441,192	1,014,000	
1979	570,556	247,548	
1980	3,461,000	395,000	3,085
1981	8,593,000	745,668	20,380
1982	11,403,508	7,616,000	1,687
1983	8,487,110	9,484,200	3,881
1984	12,072,688	7,654,000	33,410
1985	2,129,649	10,944,308	31,936
1986	14,070,749	2,039,750	166,250
1987	2,011,208	16,765	
1988	4,319,615	119,224	
1989	137,202 ^a	10,344	
1990			
1991			
1992			
1993			
1994			
1995			
1996	11,763,730		
1997	10,960,010	8,524,584	
1998		10,121,106	
1999			25,953
2000			420,206
2001			219,799
2002			54,464
2003 ^b		15,661,413	4,881
2004		16,198,524	
2005		15,163,742	1,971
2006		15,797,568	110,336
2007	16,400,000	15,500,555	216,314
2008	17,400,000	15,700,000	510,703
2009	18,600,000	15,100,000	229,833
2010	39,000,000	12,900,000	257,820
2011	37,600,000	30,500,000	120,206
2012	37,800,000	29,400,000	324,448

Sources: Egg take and release data: PWSAC annual reports, unpublished documents from Sam Rabung, ADF&G PNP coordinator, Juneau and from an internal ADF&G database, Lorraine Vercessi, ADF&G PNP assistant coordinator, Juneau, which may include updated information relayed after annual reports were submitted. Donor stocks: Port Fidalgo (Sunny River, Little Keta Cr., Streams #84 and #87) in 1977; Port Fidalgo (Sunny River, Streams #83, #84, and #87a) in 1978 and 1979; in 1980 and 1981, gametes were collected from Sunny River and Streams #83 and 87 and hatchery returns.

^a Eggs sent to Solomon Gulch Hatchery.

^b From 2002 to 2006, eggs were taken at WNH, fry transferred to AFK and released. Beginning in 2007, eyed eggs were transferred from WNH to AFKH for incubation, rearing, and release.

