



NORTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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**NSRAA BOARD RESOLUTION 2017-11**  
**CONCERNING MASS MARKING OF CHINOOK AND MARK-SELECTIVE**  
**FISHERIES CONDUCTED IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA**

**Whereas**, the NSRAA Board first discussed the topic of mass marking of Chinook and mark-selective fisheries at the March 4, 2017 meeting and, at the request of the NSRAA Board, the NSRAA General Manager prepared a summary of costs and a brief statement of some of the difficulties involved in conducting mass marking at the NSRAA facilities. That document was submitted to the Pacific Salmon Treaty Coalition and the ADF&G<sup>1</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, mark-selective fisheries were conducted in the Southeast Alaska commercial Troll Fishery in 2017 for the second year; and,

**Whereas**, the NSRAA Board believes the public needs an analysis and public discussion of benefits that might be realized from the adoption of mark-selective fisheries. Currently the only apparent benefit to Chinook fishermen and the Aquaculture Associations; as recently expressed by the Pacific Salmon Commission Troll Panel member<sup>2</sup>, is that the reduction in the 2009 All-gear Chinook quota that has, or is being offered by the Treaty negotiators could be made up by Chinook harvested in a mark-selective fishery, rather than the traditional directed fisheries for Chinook; and,

**Whereas**, the NSRAA Board makes note of the fact that a similar period of low Chinook productivity occurred in the 1970's. If a mass marking of Chinook and mark-selective programs had been conducted at that time; How would it have been done? The Southeast Alaskans harvesting the Chinook would have realized what definitive benefits? How would Chinook salmon stocks have recovered differently than they did in the course of a normal fluctuation in abundance?; and,

**Whereas**, the NSRAA Board believes the public deserves a complete analysis and public discussion of costs of mark-selective fisheries. Not only the implementation and operational costs for mass marking programs to be borne by the Associations, but also costs to processors for wandling and retaining heads, ADF&G management costs and the cost of increasing mortalities to Chinook salmon; and,

**Whereas**, the NSRAA Board is concerned that mark-selective fisheries have been conducted in the waters of the State and have been developed without the approval of the Alaska's legislatively-mandated process for fishery regulation under the State Board

<sup>1</sup> Attachment, "Mass Marking of Chinook at NSRAA" – NSRRA General Manager, Steve Reifenstuhl

<sup>2</sup> As conveyed in the report to the Alaska Troller's Association Board meeting 11-11-17 by Northern Panel Troll Representative Dennis Longstreth

of Fisheries process<sup>3</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, acceptance of mark-selective fisheries for implementation in Alaska outside of the Alaska State Board of Fisheries regulatory authority is inconsistent with the Pacific Salmon Treaty 2009 Agreement and the bilaterally negotiated understanding that, "The Pacific Salmon Commission develops catch limits and related provisions to present to the two governments. These recommendations, which become effective upon approval by both governments, are then implemented by each countries domestic management authority.<sup>4</sup> "; and,

**Whereas**, mass marking of Chinook and mark-selective fisheries in Washington State and British Columbia are within their purview, are independent of the Alaska regulatory process, and if adopted bilaterally by the Pacific Salmon Commission, funding should be provided by the United States Department of State in consultation with the Canadian government and US funding authorities; and,

**Whereas**, the NSRAA Board believes it is inappropriate to be lobbying for Federal funding from the Alaska Congressional delegation for a program that would have direct impacts on the Association operations and on fisheries without having engaged the Association in a dialogue and public process, and is concerned that Alaskan fishing industry acceptance and support for these programs are being misrepresented.

**Now therefore be it resolved**, the NSRAA Board of Directors is not in support of mass marking and mark-selective fisheries in southeast Alaska fisheries at this time, in light of the stated concerns and unanswered questions.

**Passed, Approved and Adopted** by the NSRAA Board of Directors on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017.



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Kevin McDougall, President NSRAA Board of Directors

Attest:



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Steve Reifentstahl, NSRAA General Manager

<sup>3</sup> "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."

<sup>4</sup> [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/agreements/regional\\_agreements/pacific/psc.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/agreements/regional_agreements/pacific/psc.pdf) Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada Concerning Pacific Salmon, Basic Instrument for the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC)