

Dear John Jensen and all Board OF Fish Members,

As a resident of Alaska since 1970 I have been employed in the commercial fish, sport fish, and tourism industries here.

Over the past 10 years I have witnessed dramatic problems developing within our Fish Hatchery programs. There is tremendous waste (under harvested resource) caused by over release and massive "Straying" of hatchery Pink salmon. This fact is clearly jeopardizing our natural wild runs of salmon and possibly other species.

For this reason I would like to strongly suggest that the board activate a Hatchery Oversight Committee as was recommended and agreed upon by ADF&G and the BOF back in 2002.

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This independent committee could gather and assimilate information from experts and the public about all active and proposed hatcheries that operate in Alaska.

The public must be shown that their input and concerns about fisheries enhancement programs are being taken seriously.

This committee should be ongoing and not subject to the political pressure of changing administrations. A Hatchery Committee, set in regulation, would ensure a perpetual transparent public forum, that cannot, be switched on and off by whim.

Everyone knows that by statute, wild fish escapements must always be monitored and given priority over hatchery produced fish. The impact of this massive straying is making a mockery of ADF&G salmon management in both Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet waters.

Without a Hatchery Oversight Committee there is no opportunity to voice concerns or openly debate the impacts of hatcheries to our wild fish or the ecosystem as a whole.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Bruce Friend

PO Box 103

Homer, Alaska

907 250-4033