



PSVOA

PURSE SEINE VESSEL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

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March 6, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

Reid Morisky, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115826
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Joint Protocol on Salmon Enhancement & Hatchery Committee Meeting

Dear Chair Morisky and Board of Fisheries Members:

The Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association (“PSVOA”) respectfully submits the following letter in support of the convening of the Salmon Hatcheries Committee Meeting and Joint Protocol on Salmon Enhancement on March 8, 2019. First and foremost, PSVOA supports sustainable salmon fisheries and strong hatchery production in Alaska. PSVOA further supports the spirit and intent of the Joint Protocol to highlight statewide perspectives on issues associated with hatchery production of salmon, and to provide a forum for open discussion on hatchery topics to improve dialog and transparency between Board of Fisheries (BOF), ADF&G, fisheries stakeholders, and the public.

Contrary to some of the misinformation that has been circulated by the anti-hatchery movement, The Alaska hatchery program provides economic and ecological stability to Alaska salmon returns, which fluctuate from year to year. Salmon hatchery production supports local economies, coastal communities, and all user groups, including the sport fishing sector.

Alaska’s salmon hatcheries account for the annual equivalent of 4,700 jobs and \$218 million in total labor income. Combining the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts connected to Alaska salmon hatchery production totals \$600 million in annual economic output.

A majority of PSVOA members participate in salmon purse seine fisheries in either Southeast, Prince William Sound (PWS), or Kodiak. According to a October 2018 report by the McDowell Group, over a six-year period, PWS harvests of hatchery salmon generated \$69 million in ex-vessel value annually. In Southeast, hatchery salmon accounted for an average annual ex vessel value of \$44 million, followed by Kodiak (\$7 million).

The benefits of Alaska’s salmon hatchery production are not limited to commercial fisheries. On average, approximately 10,000 hatchery-origin Chinook, 5,000 chum, 100,000 coho, 19,000 pink, and 138,000 sockeye salmon are harvested annually in sport and related fisheries. As a percentage of statewide sport-caught fish, hatchery-origin salmon accounted for 17 percent of sport coho harvests, 13 percent of sport sockeye harvests, and 8 percent of sport Chinook harvests.

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In sum, Alaska hatchery salmon production is major contributor to Alaska's economy, and the lifeblood of many of the Alaska commercial salmon fisheries.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert Kehoe

Robert Kehoe, Executive Director
Purse Seine Vessel Owner's Ass'n