



October 3, 2018

John Jensen  
Chairman Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526 Juneau  
AK 99811-5526

Attention: Glen Height

## **A Resolution in Support of the Alaska Salmon Hatchery Program**

WHEREAS, Ouzinkie Native Corporation benefits greatly from the State of Alaska Salmon Hatchery Program; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program has operated for 45 years and supplements wild salmon harvests throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program is an example of sustainable economic development that directly benefits subsistence fishermen, personal use fishermen, sport fishermen, charter fishermen, commercial fishermen, seafood processors, as well as state and local governments, which receive raw fish tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program employs strong scientific methodology and is built upon precautionary principles and sustainable fisheries policies to protect wild salmon populations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulates hatchery operations, production, and permitting through a transparent public process and multi-stakeholder development of annual management plans; and

WHEREAS, returns of hatchery and wild salmon stocks follow similar survival trends over time and the largest returns of both hatchery and wild salmon stocks have largely occurred since hatchery returns began in about 1980; and

WHEREAS, there are no stocks of concern where most hatchery production occurs, indicating that adequate escapements to wild stock systems are being met in these areas over time; and

WHEREAS, Alaska hatcheries contributed an annual average of nearly 67 million fish to Alaska's commercial fisheries in the past decade and account for 22% of the total common property commercial catch; and

WHEREAS, the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA), headquartered in Kodiak, produced 3.2 million pink salmon (53%) of a total return of 6 million to the Kodiak Management Area in 2018; and whereas the preliminary ex-vessel value of the Kodiak hatchery pink salmon in 2018 is estimated to be approximately \$4.7 million; and

WHEREAS, the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA) production resulted in \$7 million from hatchery production between 2012 and 2017, and over \$3 million on an annual average between 2003 and present; and

# OUZINKIE NATIVE CORPORATION

WHEREAS, preliminary ex-vessel values indicate chum, sockeye, and Coho salmon produced by Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association will contribute an additional estimated \$2 million to the commercial fishery of Kodiak in 2018

WHEREAS, the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association production results in over 3 million dollars annually in ex-vessel value, contributing significant economic benefits to local user groups, municipalities, and businesses;

WHEREAS, the economic contributions of Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA) to the Kodiak management region resulted in 43 jobs, \$1.8 million in labor income, and almost \$1 million in total economic output in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program has proven to be significant and vital to Alaska's seafood and sportfish industries and the state of Alaska by creating employment and economic opportunities throughout the state and in particular in rural coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program is non-profit and self-funded through cost recovery and enhancement taxes on the resource and is a model partnership between private and public entities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has significantly invested in Alaska's salmon hatchery program and associated research to provide for stable salmon harvests and to bolster the economies of coastal communities while maintaining a wild stock escapement priority; and

WHEREAS, Alaska salmon fisheries, including the hatchery program, continue to be certified as sustainable by two separate programs, Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Ouzinkie Native Corporation affirms its support for Alaska's salmon hatchery programs; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Ouzinkie Native Corporation supports unbiased and scientific methods to assess the interaction of Alaska's salmon hatchery programs with natural salmon stocks, such as the Alaska Hatchery-Wild Salmon Interaction Study which began in 2011 and is scheduled to conclude in 2023; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Ouzinkie Native Corporation calls on the Alaska Board of Fisheries to work with the hatchery community, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and industry leaders to further its understanding of the importance of the Alaska salmon hatchery program to all Alaskans.

Approved and signed this the \_\_2\_\_ day of \_\_October\_\_ 2018.

Sincerely,



Crystal Boskofsky  
Chair  
Ouzinkie Native Corporation