



Sport Fish Enhancement Program



Jeff Milton

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Board of Fisheries, Hatchery Committee
Meeting

March 23rd, 2022

SF Enhancement in Alaska



L-R Gov. Eagan Col. Nelson



- Sport Fish Enhancement in Alaska began in the 1950's with the stocking of rainbow trout.
- *Create and diversify Sport Fishing opportunities for anglers.*
- The Division operates 2 hatcheries, William Jack Hernandez SFH (Anchorage) and Ruth Burnett SFH (Fairbanks).
- ADF&G also owns and pays for much of the operation of the Crystal Lake hatchery near Petersburg.

Production

- SF stocking program consists of smolt stocking and lake stocking.
- Annually releasing 7.2 million fish. (2.3 million PNP)
- Species produced:
- Rainbow trout, Arctic char, Arctic grayling and lake trout as fry, fingerling and catchable sized fish.
- Chinook, and coho smolt, fingerling and catchables.



Regulatory Framework



Consistent with PNP regulation (No HP, BHMP)



Annual Management Plan (AMP)



Annual Report (AR)



Fish Transport Permit (FTP)



State Genetics Policies



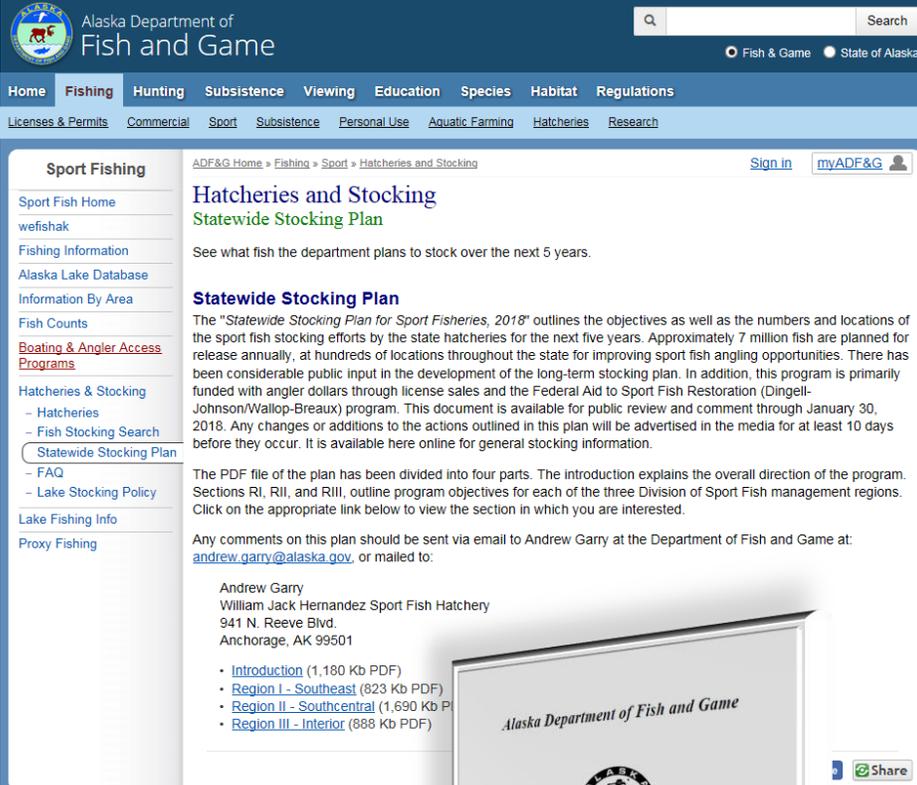
State Pathology Oversight



Statewide Stocking Plan For Sport Fish

Statewide Stocking Plan

- Outlines Sport Fish Division Stocking plans for the next 5 years
- Contains the Lake Stocking Policy
- Updated and Published Annually by the Division
- Is available for public review and comment each year



The screenshot shows the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website. The main navigation bar includes Home, Fishing, Hunting, Subsistence, Viewing, Education, Species, Habitat, and Regulations. A sub-navigation bar includes Licenses & Permits, Commercial, Sport, Subsistence, Personal Use, Aquatic Farming, Hatcheries, and Research. The page title is "Hatcheries and Stocking Statewide Stocking Plan". The content area includes a "Sport Fishing" sidebar with links to Sport Fish Home, wefishak, Fishing Information, Alaska Lake Database, Information By Area, Fish Counts, Boating & Angler Access Programs, Hatcheries & Stocking (with sub-links for Hatcheries, Fish Stocking Search, Statewide Stocking Plan, FAQ, and Lake Stocking Policy), Lake Fishing Info, and Proxy Fishing. The main content area features a "Statewide Stocking Plan" section with an introduction, a PDF file list, and contact information for Andrew Garry.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Home Fishing Hunting Subsistence Viewing Education Species Habitat Regulations

Licenses & Permits Commercial Sport Subsistence Personal Use Aquatic Farming Hatcheries Research

Sport Fishing

Sport Fish Home
wefishak
Fishing Information
Alaska Lake Database
Information By Area
Fish Counts
Boating & Angler Access Programs
Hatcheries & Stocking
- Hatcheries
- Fish Stocking Search
- Statewide Stocking Plan
- FAQ
- Lake Stocking Policy
Lake Fishing Info
Proxy Fishing

ADF&G Home » Fishing » Sport » Hatcheries and Stocking

Hatcheries and Stocking

Statewide Stocking Plan

See what fish the department plans to stock over the next 5 years.

Statewide Stocking Plan

The "Statewide Stocking Plan for Sport Fisheries, 2018" outlines the objectives as well as the numbers and locations of the sport fish stocking efforts by the state hatcheries for the next five years. Approximately 7 million fish are planned for release annually, at hundreds of locations throughout the state for improving sport fish angling opportunities. There has been considerable public input in the development of the long-term stocking plan. In addition, this program is primarily funded with angler dollars through license sales and the Federal Aid to Sport Fish Restoration (Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux) program. This document is available for public review and comment through January 30, 2018. Any changes or additions to the actions outlined in this plan will be advertised in the media for at least 10 days before they occur. It is available here online for general stocking information.

The PDF file of the plan has been divided into four parts. The introduction explains the overall direction of the program. Sections RI, RII, and RIII, outline program objectives for each of the three Division of Sport Fish management regions. Click on the appropriate link below to view the section in which you are interested.

Any comments on this plan should be sent via email to Andrew Garry at the Department of Fish and Game at: andrew.garry@alaska.gov, or mailed to:

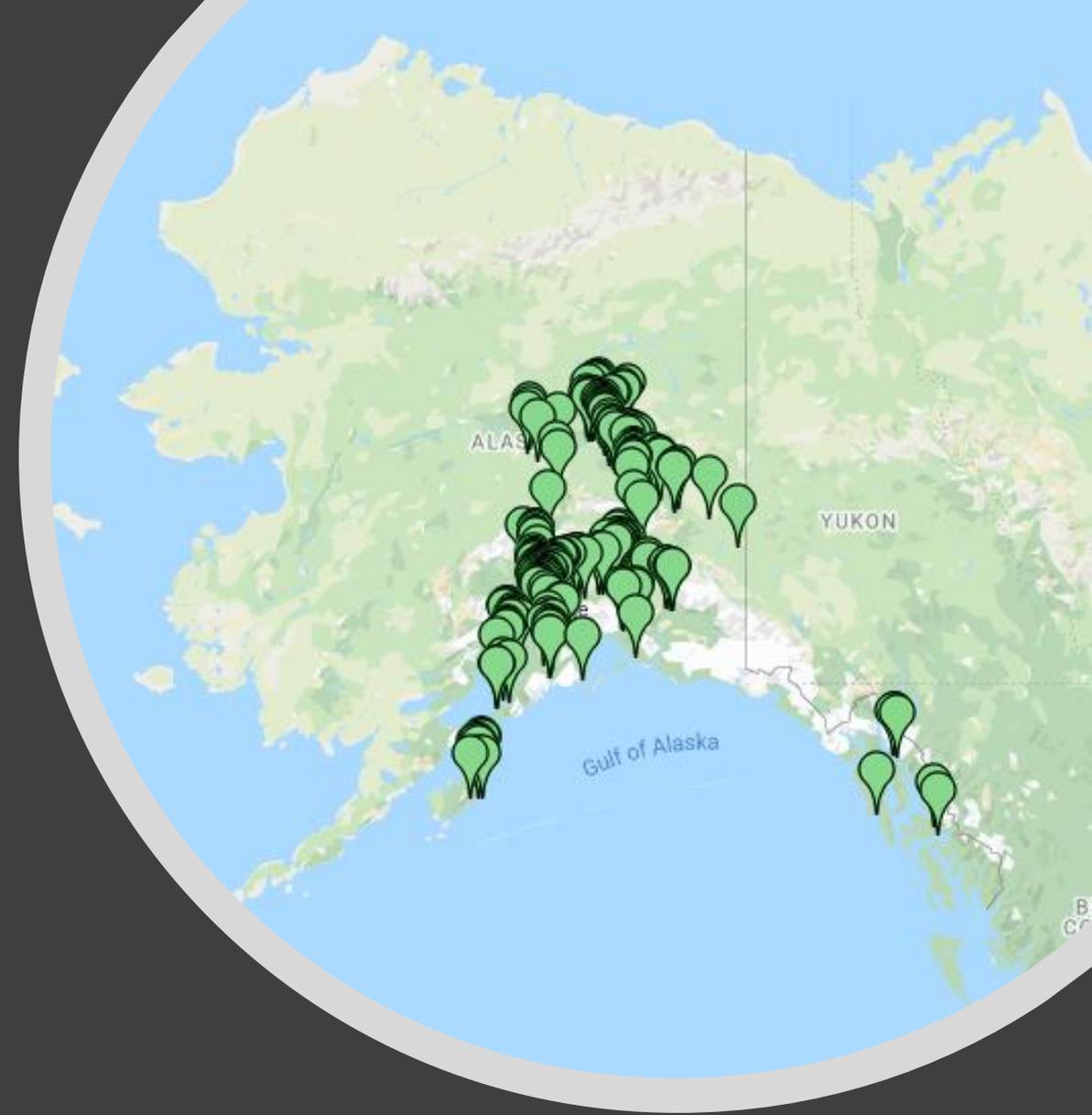
Andrew Garry
William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery
941 N. Reeve Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99501

- [Introduction](#) (1,180 Kb PDF)
- [Region I - Southeast](#) (823 Kb PDF)
- [Region II - Southcentral](#) (1,690 Kb PDF)
- [Region III - Interior](#) (888 Kb PDF)

Share

Unique Aspects

- Statewide Program
- Provides a diversity of accessible fishing opportunities for sport anglers
- Cooperative Agreements with PNPs and SF Hatchery production
- Species produced in addition to Chinook and coho salmon
 - Rainbow trout (Swanson River Origin)
 - Arctic char (Lake Aleknagik Origin)
 - Arctic grayling (Chena River)
 - Lake trout (Seven Mile Lake, Paxson)



Smolt Production

- ~2,500,000 Chinook and coho smolt are stocked at 11 sites in Southcentral.
- 2 of these stockings enhance wild populations of Chinook salmon.
- These 2 locations may only receive smolt that are no more than 1 generation removed from the wild to minimize potential genetic impacts.
- All salmon smolt production at the WJHSFH is conducted in Recirculating Aquaculture systems.



PNP Supported Stocking

- In areas not accessible from its SF Hatcheries the Division has established Cooperative Agreements with local PNP hatchery programs.
- These include stocking of Chinook, coho and rainbow trout stockings in Kodiak, Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg.
- PNP hatcheries also support sport anglers through stocking projects not associated with the SF enhancement program.



SSRAA

PNP Co-op Stocking:

Kodiak - KRAA

Juneau - DIPAC

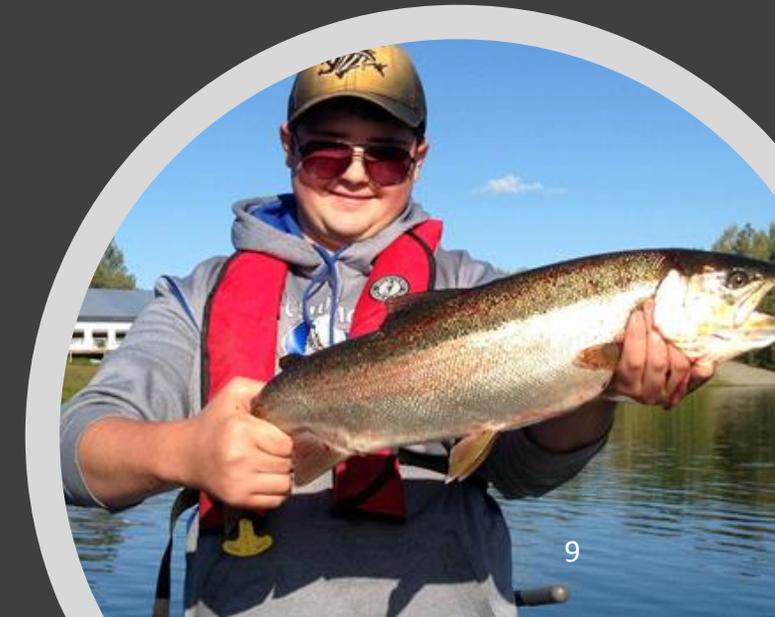
Petersburg - SSRAA

Ketchikan



Lake Stocking (Freshwater)

- ~2,000,000 rainbow trout, Arctic char, Arctic grayling, lake trout, coho and Chinook salmon fry, fingerling and catchable sized fish are released into more than 200 freshwater locations across Alaska.
- Diploid fish can only be stocked into land locked locations.
- Sterile Triploid fish maybe stocked into open or semi open systems. Most SF production is sterile, regardless of release location.



Production Trends

- SF hatchery facilities are at maximum capacity for most species and life stages
- Changes to the stocking plan usually require reallocation of fish from one site to another
- Lake trout stocking was added in 2020 with alternate year production
- Enhancement of Deception Creek Chinook salmon has been discontinued due to poor returns





Evaluation

- Chinook and coho smolt production is otolith marked
- Chinook smolt released at Crooked Creek and Ninilchik River are adipose fin clipped
- All adult fish spawned for future production are tissue sampled
- Size at release evaluation of Ship Creek Chinook smolt
- Observations of straying reported to the Gene Conservation Lab

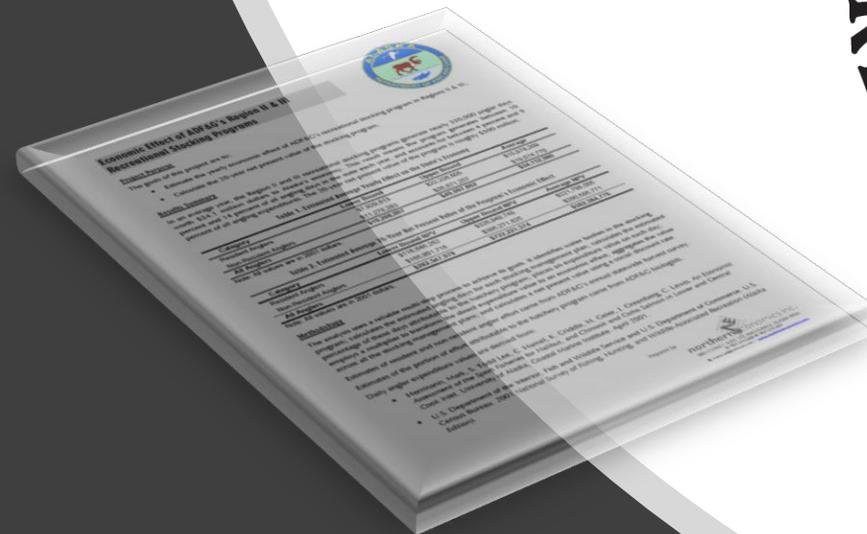
Management Concerns

- SF Enhancement projects are intended to provide harvest opportunity while limiting impact on wild stocks
- Hatchery reared Chinook salmon returning to Ninilchik River and Crooked Creek can be targeted for harvest while protecting wild origin fish.
- If a stocking project does not provide a net benefit, it may be discontinued (Deception Creek)



Funding and Impact

- Funding for operation of the SF hatcheries is 100% user paid
 - Sport Fish License Sales
 - Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (DJ)
- Annual Program Cost, \$5.7 million
- Average annual Economic Benefit, \$34 million (2004 Northern Economics)



Review

- Stocking to enhance Sport Fisheries in Alaska predates Statehood
- SF stocking is intended to create and diversify sport fishing opportunities in Alaska.
- SF hatcheries are subject to much of the same oversight applied to PNP hatcheries.
- SF hatchery production includes resident species not normally produced by PNP facilities.
- SF stocking is primarily funded by sport anglers.





Questions?