

November 18, 2021

Alaska Board of Fisheries
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

RC 025

RE: Support for Proposal 57 and Salmon Hatcheries

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries Members:

We are Prince William Sound purse seine permit holders writing in **strong support of proposal 57**. This proposal would create regulations for use of 250 fathoms of seine gear in Prince William Sound with two permits. We **oppose proposals 49-55** – these each seek to reduce hatchery production and harvest opportunity.

Proposal 57

For new purse seine fishermen, the investment necessary to enter the fishery can be a significant barrier. With proposal 57, new fishermen could join an existing operation without having to immediately invest in a boat, skiff, gear and all the other costs, which can run roughly \$600,000-\$750,000. By allowing new entrants to partner with established skippers and share the benefits of 25 extra fathoms, this provides an on-ramp into the fishery.

ADF&G's staff comments summarized the steady increase in active permits over the last 17 years – 136% increase. The fishery is often restricted to hatchery districts and terminal harvest areas, which are very congested. This proposal could reduce the overall amount of gear in the water.

Permit stacking is a successful tool used in other areas. It provides flexibility in fisheries that fluctuate year over year without eliminating permits and is an adaptable system that works for fishermen actively engaged in these fisheries.

Hatcheries (Proposals 49-55)

Hatchery production in Alaska is designed to supplement — not replace—wild stock production. Hatchery production makes up a significant part of our annual catch and reductions would have a negative impact on our fisheries. Hatcheries in Alaska provide millions of dollars of annual economic output in-state, nearly one billion meals per year worldwide, and stability to coastal communities, fisheries, and user groups across the state. Proposals to reduce this production should not be considered in the absence of updated compelling scientific information endorsed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

We **strongly support proposal 57** and ask that you adopt this regulatory change. We support salmon hatcheries and **oppose proposals 49-55**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

PWS Purse Seine Fishermen

Name	Vessel Name
Rob Nelson	Sea Prince
STAVE FRANKS	Sausal
Edward P. Day	TALIA
Alexander T. Lopez	Boulder Bay
Dustin Cline	Akfiniti
Morgan Williams	Shearwater
MIKE BARCLIT	CHAMPION
LARRY SANDLIN	Clara C
Ethan Sandelin	Pacific Crest
STUART DELL	DEFIANCE
Quincy Gregg	Kathi
Ry Lys	Patricia
Jay Thomassen	Angelette
Eli Dexter	Deborah Ann
Hayden Markusen	Island Queen
Rob Markusen	Pamela Joyce
EMMA FRANKLIN	HADA WARRIOR
Andrew Scudder	Gorbuschen
Brad Scudder	Andy Sea
Rod Dohner	Destiny
Gus Cotten	ODYSSEY
Chris Rosauer	INTRUDER
Mike Dartschi	FV Halberd
Reiker Dartschi	Halberd

