



**SALMON HATCHERIES
FOR ALASKA**

November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Wood and Members of the Board,

The aquaculture associations appreciate the time and care the board has taken to review current science around salmon productivity in the North Pacific and the role hatchery production, particularly from Alaska plays in these discussions. This information is vital in addressing the hatchery proposals that have come before this Board in recent years. It is obvious that there is a desire by all parties, to have a better process for bringing hatchery proposal to the Board of Fisheries. We welcome the request from the Board to provide a better process for considering hatchery proposals in a more efficient and constructive manner, not only the Board, but the hatchery operators and the general public.

First, we would recommend that new hatchery proposals, because they have a statewide perspective, be taken up at the Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Meeting that occurs every three years, the next being in 2026. Any proposals requesting alteration of existing hatchery permits would be precedent setting, and thus have statewide implications, and should be heard once every three years at this meeting. Our intent is that any THA/SHA proposals would continue to be heard during their respective regional meeting cycles.

If the Board deems appropriate, we would suggest entertaining revising the current call for proposals to remove hatchery proposals, and direct board support to inform proposers that they be submitted to the next statewide venue as appropriate.

There was also considerable discussion by the Board about the annual Hatchery Committee Meeting. We would recommend that the Board continue these meetings and dedicate a portion of each meeting to presenting new scientific information relevant to salmon production in Alaska.

We appreciate the request for our perspective on these (this) issue(s), and stand ready to work with the Board to further develop these processes if you so desire.

Respectfully,



Dean Day
Executive Director
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association



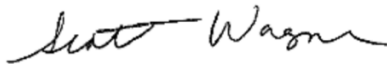
Tina Fairbanks
Executive Director
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association



Mike H. Wells
Executive Director
Valdez Fisheries Development Association, Inc.



Geoff Clark
Interim General Manager
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association



Scott Wagner
General Manager
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Assoc.



Susan Doherty
General Manager
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Assoc.