

**2025 ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**WILLIAM JACK HERNANDEZ SPORT FISH HATCHERY**

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**  
**Division of Sport Fish**

**June 2025**

## 1 OVERVIEW

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Sport Fish (DSF), operates the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery (WJHSFH), located in Anchorage. The WJHSFH will meet the sport fish stocking needs of Region 2 by providing rainbow trout, Arctic char, lake trout, Chinook, and coho salmon for stocking into lakes and saltwater locations. Arctic char and rainbow trout eggs originate from captive broodstock housed within the WJHSFH in Anchorage. Other species of fish will originate from local wild brood sources. Chinook and coho brood sources supporting DSF enhancement programs include Ship Creek, Crooked Creek, Ninilchik River, and Bear Lake. The WJHSFH will use deep water wells for all production phases and utilize various recirculation technologies to conserve water and heat resources. On-site boilers will heat water to accelerate fish growth and allow the rapid production of smolt, fingerling, and catchable (7–10 inches) sized fish in a single year. Hatchery objectives and performance measures for WJHSFH are described in goal three of the *Division of Sport Fish Strategic Plan, 2022-2027*.

ADF&G Division of Sport Fish annually produces a *Statewide Stocking Plan for Sport Fish* (SSP)<sup>1</sup>. This document contains specific release sites, sizes, and numbers of fish to be released over a 5-year period. All releases for the current year have received departmental and public reviews.

This annual management plan (AMP) remains in effect until it is superseded by a new AMP in the following year. This AMP serves as a guide for hatchery operations, and any anticipated changes from this plan will be submitted as an amendment.

### 1.1 New for 2025

#### **Smolt production**

Chinook salmon:

- Ninilchik River release: A shortage of wild brood fish returning to Ninilchik River in 2024 will result in a reduction of the 2025 smolt release from 150,000 to 105,000.
- Crooked Creek release: A shortage of wild brood fish returning to Crooked Creek in 2024 will result in a reduction of the 2025 smolt release from 140,500 to 70,000.
- Ship Creek release: A shortage of brood fish returning to Ship Creek and increased ponding mortality in 2024 will result in a reduction of the 2025 smolt release from 575,000 to 502,000.
- Seldovia release: A shortage of donor brood fish returning in 2024 will result in a reduction of the 2025 smolt release from 105,000 to 75,000.
- Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon release: A shortage of donor brood fish returning in 2024 will result in a reduction of the 2025 smolt release from 315,000 to 210,000.
- Eklutna Tailrace release: A shortage of donor brood fish returning in 2024 will result in a reduction of the 2025 smolt release from 424,000 to 185,000.
- Fleming Spit release: A shortage of donor brood fish returning in 2024 will result in a reduction of the 2025 smolt release from 105,000 to 75,000.

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<sup>1</sup> The document is available at

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportstockingHatcheries.stockingPlan>

- Whittier release: A shortage of donor brood fish returning in 2024 will result in a reduction of the 2025 smolt release from 105,000 to 75,000.
- Seward Lagoon release: A shortage of donor brood fish returning in 2024 will result in a reduction of the 2025 smolt release from 315,000 to 190,000.

### **Lake stocking program**

- Catchable Chinook salmon: All production goals for the catchable Chinook salmon program are suspended and will not be met in 2025 for both the WJHSFH and Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery (RBSFH) due to poor donor fish returns. As a substitute, WJHSFH will raise coho salmon to a larger size to provide suitable fish for winter ice fisheries. The WJHSFH will also provide RBSFH coho salmon eyed eggs for Region 3 winter fishery programs. Existing BY 2024 coho salmon at both Sport Fish hatchery facilities are Ship Creek donor stock.
- Lake trout: Remote lake trout egg takes in R3 occur during the fall of odd years and are stocked as 20 g sub-catchable fish in the fall of even years. All eggs/fish are incubated, hatched, and reared at RBSFH. Approximately 11,400 sub-catchable lake trout will be transported from RBSFH to southcentral Alaska lakes for release in 2026.
- Rainbow trout: Due to poor rearing survivals at Pillar Creek Hatchery (PCH) on Kodiak Island, WJHSFH will rear 71,700 fingerling to 2 g and then transport them to PCH for temporary holding prior to release into Kodiak area stocked lakes.

## **2 PRODUCTION PLAN**

Fish culture activities for 2025 for WJHSFH are outlined below.

### **2.1 William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery**

WJHSFH is located two miles north of downtown Anchorage. Water is provided by three deep (>300ft) wells, and the hatchery utilizes flow-through, water-reuse, and water-recirculation technologies. The expected total water available is 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm), but planned water use will range from 1,000 to 2,100 gpm.

#### **2.1.1 Incubation**

Incubation is provided by 52 Heath stacks with 14 usable trays per stack. Water temperature to each half-stack (seven trays) can be separately controlled. Moist air incubators may be installed in the future.

WJHSFH provides eyed rainbow trout eggs to RBSFH in Fairbanks and Deer Mountain Hatchery<sup>2</sup> in Ketchikan. WJHSFH also provides Arctic char, Chinook, and coho eggs to RBSFH and annually provides eyed Chinook salmon eggs to Wally Noerenberg Hatchery<sup>3</sup> in Prince William Sound.

Planned incubation by species for 2025:

- Rainbow trout: approximately 3,500,000 green eggs

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<sup>2</sup> Deer Mountain Hatchery is operated by Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association.

<sup>3</sup> Wally Noerenberg Hatchery is operated by Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation.

- Arctic char: approximately 200,000 green eggs
- Chinook salmon: approximately 3,300,000 green eggs
- Coho salmon: approximately 1,500,000 green eggs

### 2.1.2 Rearing

WJHSFH currently produces rainbow trout, Arctic char, Chinook salmon, and coho salmon.

The following units are available for rearing fish at WJHSFH:

- Fifteen 2'-diameter fiberglass tanks (0.16 m<sup>3</sup>)
- Twelve 5'-diameter fiberglass tanks (1.4 m<sup>3</sup>)
- Thirty-three 10'-diameter fiberglass tanks (8.2 m<sup>3</sup>)
- Four 16'-diameter fiberglass tanks (25.6 m<sup>3</sup>)
- Two 20'-diameter fiberglass tanks (40.1 m<sup>3</sup>)
- Thirty-nine 26'-diameter fiberglass tanks (91.7 m<sup>3</sup>)

The following units are available for holding brood fish at WJHSFH:

- Two 5' x 4' x 48' aluminum raceways (27.19 m<sup>3</sup>)
- Two 8' x 2.5' x 75' aluminum raceways (42.3 m<sup>3</sup>)

The following units are available for holding catchable fish at WJHSFH:

- Two 8' x 2.5' x 75' aluminum raceways (42.3 m<sup>3</sup>)

### 2.2.3 Captive Broodstock Programs

**Rainbow trout:** Eggs will be collected from the three-year-old and four-year-old (BY 2022 and BY 2021 respectively) mixed-sex population of rainbow trout broodstock. Milt from BY 2022 and BY 2023 XX males (sex-reversed females that produce all female offspring) will be used to fertilize 100% of the eggs for all-female diploid and all-female triploid production. Milt from the BY 2022 mixed-sex population will be used to fertilize 100% of the eggs for the mixed-sex diploid production. Rainbow trout broodstock photoperiod was manipulated to encourage rainbow trout to spawn in December. With spawn time manipulation, fingerling rainbow trout will be available for stocking in the early part of summer instead of the end of summer.

**Arctic char:** To maintain the genetic diversity of the captive broodstock, milt from 32 three-year-old and 64 four-year-old males will be used to fertilize eggs collected from 64 four-year-old female WJHSFH captive broodstock. Approximately 200 eggs from each female will be designated as replacement broodstock.

Approximate number of broodstock (BY and species) at WJHSFH:

- BY 2021 Arctic char: 450
- BY 2022 Arctic char: 650
- BY 2023 Arctic char: 1,100
- BY 2024 Arctic char: 8,000
- BY 2021 rainbow trout: 850 mixed sex
- BY 2022 rainbow trout: 2,000 mixed sex and 640 XX males

- BY 2023 rainbow trout: 3,500 mixed sex and 900 XX males
- BY 2024 rainbow trout: 4,000 mixed sex and 4,000 XX males

## 2.3 PRODUCTION SYNOPSIS

Fish produced at WJHSFH reduce fishing pressure on wild fish stocks, increase sport fishing opportunity, and provide diversity in sport fisheries throughout Southcentral Alaska. In 2025, up to 196 sites in Southcentral Alaska will be stocked with fish reared at WJHSFH. The lake stocking program comprises most of the sites. Rainbow trout eyed eggs are transferred to Deer Mountain Hatchery in January to provide fish for three Ketchikan area lakes. Rainbow trout and Arctic char eyed eggs are transferred to RBSFH in January and December respectively, to provide fish (2025 fingerling and 2026 catchable rainbow trout releases and 2025 fingerling/sub-catchable and 2026 catchable Arctic char releases) for up to 84 Interior Alaska lakes. Most stocked lakes are landlocked lakes or have minimal opportunity for stocked fish to leave the system. Anadromous salmon smolts are released at 11 different sites. The anadromous stocking sites create and expand opportunities to harvest Chinook and coho salmon in a variety of sport fisheries. Chinook salmon eyed eggs will be transferred to Wally Noerenberg Hatchery in September to provide fish for release at Chenega in Prince William Sound. Chinook salmon and coho salmon eggs will be transferred to RBSFH in September and December respectively, to provide fish for release into area lakes.

### 2.3.1 Lake Stocking

Diploid fish (capable of reproduction) and triploid fish (sterile) are produced for lake stocking programs. Landlocked lakes may be stocked with diploid or triploid fish, but non-landlocked lakes (lakes with intermittent or barrier outlets or subject to occasional flooding) must be stocked with only triploid fish. The one exception is diploid rainbow trout may be released into lakes with a weir, if triploid rainbow trout are not available and the weir has been verified as fish tight. Triploid fish populations must be certified [90% triploid with 95% confidence interval (CI) for all-female populations or 99% triploid with 95% CI for mixed-sex populations] before they can be stocked into non-landlocked lakes. Populations that fail to achieve certification are stocked into landlocked lakes as uncertified triploids. ADF&G produces triploid fish in each of the six species used for lake stocking programs. Triploid fish have lower in-hatchery survival rates than diploid fish. This increases the number of broodstock needed to obtain enough eggs to meet stocking requests. The benefit of protecting the genetic integrity of wild fish populations through triploid fish releases outweighs the drawback of lower in-hatchery survival rates.

#### 2.3.1.1 Rainbow Trout

**General Information:** Rainbow trout production is the largest component (approximately 73% by number in 2025) of the Division of Sport Fish lake stocking program in Southcentral Alaska. Captive broodstock held at WJHSFH maintain the program. Broodstock originated from wild Swanson River rainbow trout on the Kenai Peninsula and have been held in the hatchery (Fort Richardson Hatchery, Elmendorf Hatchery, and now WJHSFH) since 1982. Both diploid and triploid rainbow trout are produced. Diploid rainbow trout populations are mixed sex or all female. Triploid rainbow trout populations are usually all female, but mixed-sex triploid rainbow trout may be produced if mature XX males are not available for all-female production. Some

triploid rainbow trout are stocked in a small number of streams that support no native trout populations. Broodstock (excess to hatchery needs) are stocked in late summer to early winter, catchable fish are stocked in early to late summer, and fingerling fish are stocked in early to mid-summer.

**Release Information:** In 2025, approximately 760,000 rainbow trout of various sizes will be stocked at 134 sites throughout Southcentral Alaska (Table 1). Fingerling rainbow trout will be transported from WJHSFH to Pillar Creek Hatchery via the Alaska ferry system for short-term holding while stocking activities are coordinated with area managers. Specific release sites and numbers of fish to stock can be found in the *Statewide Stocking Plan for Sport Fish, 2025*.

**Egg Take and Rearing:** Approximately 3,500,000 rainbow trout eggs will be collected from the domestic Swanson River ancestral stock at WJHSFH (Table 2). Triploidy will be induced by using pressure chambers in approximately 98% of the eggs collected in December 2025. Captive brood fish are screened once every 5 years for bacterial kidney disease (BKD).

WJHSFH transferred 200,000 all-female triploid eyed eggs to Deer Mountain Hatchery in Ketchikan, and approximately 600,000 all-female triploid eyed eggs to RBSFH in Fairbanks in January 2025 (Table 3). WJHSFH continued to incubate approximately 1,800,000 all-female triploid, all-female diploid, and mixed-sex diploid BY 2024 eyed eggs. Eggs for replacement broodstock are included in the all-female and mixed-sex diploid eyed egg numbers. In years where there are not enough triploid fish available to meet production needs, surplus diploid fingerlings may be released into Category 1 lakes.

From May through September, approximately 580,000 BY 2024 fingerlings and 174,000 BY 2023 catchables at WJHSFH will be released into Southcentral Alaska lakes. A total of approximately 1,600 surplus brood fish will be released prior to and following the December 2025 egg take.

#### **2.3.1.2 Arctic Char**

**General Information:** Wild Arctic char from Aleknagik Lake were the original brood source for this program. Captive broodstock are held at WJHSFH. With the exception of replacement broodstock, all Arctic char produced are triploid. Surplus diploid broodstock are periodically released into Category 1 lakes as part of the regular stocking program. When available, diploid and triploid surplus fingerling are released in summer and fall. Catchable Arctic char are released in the spring and summer, and adult broodstock Arctic char are released in the fall.

**Release Information:** Approximately 21,000 catchable Arctic char and, if available, up to 850 surplus broodstock and if available up to 17,000 fingerling Arctic char will be stocked into Region 2 lakes (Table 1). Specific release sites and numbers of fish to stock can be found in the *Statewide Stocking Plan for Sport Fish, 2025*.

**Egg Take and Rearing:** Up to 200,000 eggs will be collected, fertilized, and incubated from 64 pairs of captive broodstock Arctic char at WJHSFH (Table 2). Approximately

200 eggs from each female will be designated as replacement broodstock. Triploidy will be induced using pressure chambers in approximately 188,000 eggs for production. Eggs surplus to production and replacement broodstock needs will be discarded. Surplus broodstock fish are released into Category 1 lakes throughout the rearing process as part of the regular stocking program.

#### ***2.3.1.3 Arctic Grayling***

**General Information:** Due to budget constraints, the Arctic grayling program was suspended in 2020. ADF&G will reinstate the program when funding becomes available.

**Release Information:** No planned releases in 2025.

**Egg Take and Rearing:** No planned egg take in 2025.

#### ***2.3.1.4 Lake Trout***

**General Information:** ADF&G reestablished the lake trout stocking program in 2020. Eggs taken from Sevenmile Lake donor brood are used to stock lakes in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. All lake trout eggs are pressure shocked to induce triploidy. Incubation and rearing take place at RBSFH.

**Release Information:** Lake trout releases occur every two years; lake trout will be released in 2026. In years when lake trout are released, approximately 11,400 lake trout sub-catchables will be released into seven Region II lakes. Lake trout may be transferred from RBSFH directly to the release sites or to an outdoor stocking raceway at WJHSFH where they will be held for up to one week before release in Southcentral Alaska lakes. Lake trout fish transport permits (FTP) are associated with RBSFH.

**Egg Take and Rearing:** Lake trout eggs are collected in October by RBSFH staff on alternate (odd) years. All lake trout incubation and rearing occurs at RBSFH.

#### ***2.3.1.5 Chinook Salmon***

**General Information:** Ship Creek is the primary donor stock for the lake stocking program. Crooked Creek or Ninilchik River donor stocks may be used depending on broodstock availability. Most catchable Chinook salmon are released in early October. These fish are primarily harvested in the winter ice fishery. Approximately 7,000 fish are released the following February for winter ice fishing events.

**Release Information:** Ship Creek returns were very low and brood collection goals were not achieved. As a result, no Chinook salmon eggs were available for catchable salmon production and the program was suspended for 2025 rearing and releases (Table 1).

**Egg Take and Rearing:** In 2025, approximately 330,000 Chinook salmon eggs will be collected for catchable production (Table 2). Eggs for catchable releases will be collected at Ship Creek. Depending on broodstock availability, triploidy may be induced in Chinook salmon eggs for catchable production. Fish reared from eggs collected in 2025 will be released as 120-gram catchable salmon in fall 2026/winter 2027. Kidney samples collected from female adult Chinook salmon spawned will be tested for bacterial kidney disease (BKD) and the fertilized eggs will be family tracked. Fertilized eggs from

any broodstock that tests positive for BKD will be destroyed. Due to anticipated BY 2025 brood shortages in R3, WJHSFH plans to provide approximately 120,000 eyed eggs to the RBSFH from Ship Creek to meet 2026 R3 catchable stocking requests.

#### **2.3.1.6 Coho Salmon**

**General Information:** Ship Creek is the primary donor stock (Little Susitna River, ancestral stock) for the lake stocking program. Bear Lake donor stock may be used in Kenai category 1 lakes and Seward Lagoon stocking locations. Coho salmon fingerlings are released in early summer. These fish are primarily harvested in the winter ice fishery, but some are harvested in mid to late summer. Due to the cancellation of the catchable Chinook programs in 2025, coho salmon are being raised to a catchable size as a replacement for release in the fall of 2025/winter of 2026.

**Release Information:** Approximately 75,000 certified triploid fingerlings will be released into 17 Region 2 lakes.

Fingerling releases are scheduled for early summer 2025, when fish have reached the 1–5 g target size.

Specific lakes and stocking numbers can be found in the *Statewide Stocking Plan for Sport Fish, 2025*.

**Egg Take and Rearing:** Up to 170,000 coho salmon eggs will be collected for fingerling production at WJHSFH (Table 2). Eggs for fingerling releases will be collected at Ship Creek. Depending on broodstock availability, up to 100% of the fingerling production may be triploid. Coho salmon eggs will be collected in September and October and incubated throughout the winter at WJHSFH. Emergence will occur in February and fingerlings will be released in early summer of 2026. Kidney samples collected from female adult coho salmon spawned will be tested for BKD. The fertilized eggs will be family tracked. Fertilized eggs from broodstock that test positive for BKD will be destroyed. Due to anticipated BY 2025 brood shortages in R3, WJHSFH plans to provide approximately 136,000 eyed eggs to the RBSFH from Ship Creek to meet 2026 R3 fingerling stocking requests.

### **2.3.2 Anadromous Smolt Stocking**

#### **2.3.2.1 Chinook Salmon**

**General Information:** Chinook salmon smolt are stocked at nine different locations (Table 4). All fish stocked are from early-run donor stocks. Two locations, Ninilchik River and Crooked Creek, have self-sustaining, naturally producing populations of Chinook salmon. Stocking supplements naturally produced runs with the intent to provide a dependable sport fishery. The other seven locations are terminal fisheries with no significant wild populations of Chinook salmon or wild-stock concerns. The current stocking program is supported by three donor stocks of Chinook salmon. Ship Creek is the primary donor stock for Ship Creek, Eklutna Tailrace, Prince William Sound (Whittier and Cordova) releases, and it may be used in Resurrection Bay (Seward Lagoon) and Kachemak Bay terminal fishery (Homer Spit and Seldovia) releases if needed. Crooked Creek is the primary donor stock for Crooked Creek and Resurrection

Bay releases, and it may also be used for Kachemak Bay and Prince William Sound releases. Ninilchik River is the primary donor stock for Ninilchik River and Kachemak Bay releases and is an alternate donor stock for Prince William Sound and Resurrection Bay. Some brood fish at Ninilchik River and Ship Creek are injected with Ovaplant®; Salmon Gonadotropin – Releasing Hormone analogue (sGnRHa) to synchronize spawn timing. The 2024 egg-take goals at Ship Creek were not achieved. The 2024 egg-take goals for Ninilchik River were not achieved. This was a result of a shortfall of wild brood for Ninilchik. The 2024 egg take goals for Crooked Creek were not achieved. This was a result of a shortfall of wild brood for Crooked Creek. This was also a result of a shortfall of brood for Ship Creek.

**Release Information:** A total of 1,560,000 Chinook salmon smolt are scheduled for release in 2025 (Table 4). The target release size for all releases is 12.0–14.0 g. Chinook salmon smolt will be released in May/June. Ninilchik River smolt will be released approximately 14 river miles upstream from the mouth of the Ninilchik River. Crooked Creek smolt will be released at the Crooked Creek facility. To minimize the straying of returning adults, smolt will be held for imprinting in the Crooked Creek facility raceways prior to release. All smolt released at these two sites are fin-clipped to identify hatchery-released fish from naturally produced fish in the adult returns. Cordova smolt will be released at Fleming Spit and Whittier smolt will be released near Cove Creek. Homer Spit smolt will be released into the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon and Seldovia smolt will be released into Seldovia Lagoon. Ship Creek smolt will be released into Ship Creek and Eklutna Tailrace smolt will be released into Eklutna Tailrace. Cordova and Whittier releases are held for a minimum of three days at the stocking site prior to release to improve imprinting and reduce potential straying. The Eklutna Tailrace smolt may be released directly into Eklutna Tailrace and not held for imprinting due to lack of funding. The Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (Homer Spit) is sampled prior to release for the presence of *Chaetoceros* to determine if the smolt can be safely held in net pens during the imprinting process. In recent years, the smolt have been held in net pens for several hours (from delivery to approximately midnight) at the stocking site before release. This reduces the rate of predation by sea birds. The smolt released at Homer Spit typically remain in the lagoon for several days after release and are fed until they leave the area. Ship Creek smolt will be transferred to the salmon broodstock collection raceways at WJHSFH and held for imprinting. All Chinook salmon release groups are 100% thermally marked (Table 10).

**Egg Take and Rearing:** In 2025, approximately 3,300,000 Chinook salmon eggs will be collected for production of 2026 smolt and fall 2026 – winter 2027 catchables (Table 5). This includes approximately 50,000 eggs that will be transferred at the eyed egg stage to Wally Noerenberg Hatchery for continued incubation and rearing until release (Table 3). Egg fertilization will take place at WJHSFH. Kidney samples collected from female adult Chinook salmon spawned will be tested for BKD. Fertilized eggs will be family tracked. Fertilized eggs from broodstock that test positive for BKD will likely be destroyed.

#### 2.3.2.2 Coho Salmon

**General Information:** Coho salmon are stocked at six different locations using two different donor stocks (Table 6). Ship Creek (Little Susitna River) donor stock is used to stock Homer Spit, Ship Creek, Eklutna Tailrace, Bird Creek, and Campbell Creek. Bear Lake donor stock is used to stock Resurrection Bay (Seward Lagoon).

**Release Information:** A total of approximately 895,000 coho salmon smolt are available for release in 2025. Anticipated numbers of fish to be released are listed in Table 6. All coho salmon release groups are thermally marked (Table 10).

**Egg Take and Rearing:** In 2025 approximately 1,500,000 coho salmon eggs will be collected for 2025 fingerling production and 2026-smolt production (Table 7). Eggs for smolt releases into Ship Creek, Campbell Creek, Bird Creek, Homer Spit, Eklutna Tailrace, and all fingerling releases will be collected at Ship Creek and fertilized at WJHSFH. Approximately 310,000 eggs (included in total) of Bear Lake donor stock will be collected, in cooperation with Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, for Resurrection Bay releases. Kidney samples collected from all female adult coho salmon spawned will be tested for BKD. Fertilized eggs will be family tracked. Fertilized eggs from female broodstock that test positive for BKD will be destroyed. All coho salmon eggs will be collected in September/October 2025 and incubated at WJHSFH throughout the winter. Emergence will occur in February 2026. Approximately 134,000 coho salmon fingerlings will be released into lakes in 2026. WJHSFH will rear the remaining fish for one more year to produce 895,000 smolts in May 2027.

### 3 MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

#### 3.1 Lake Stocking

Rainbow trout, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and Arctic char are stocked in lakes on a “put-and-take” or “put-and-grow” basis; no special management considerations are required. The sport fish season and bag limits generally provide for a maximum harvest of these stocked species. A list of fish transport permits (FTPs) associated with lake stockings is presented in Table 8. Specific objectives for these programs are provided in the *Statewide Stocking Plan for Sport Fish, 2025*.

#### 3.2 Anadromous Smolt Stocking

##### 3.2.1 Chinook Salmon

The primary purpose of the Ninilchik River and Crooked Creek Chinook salmon stocking projects is to increase fishing opportunities on a sustainable basis by supplementing natural runs of fish in each stream without significantly altering historic age and sex compositions. Commercial harvest of these stocks is minimal due to their early run timing. Sport fishery management concerns associated with these projects are minimal. Sport Fish regulations on early-run Kasilof River (Crooked Creek release) and Ninilchik River Chinook salmon fisheries target harvest of hatchery-released fish. These fisheries are designed to increase angler opportunity and harvest potential on hatchery stocks while preserving the wild component of the run.

The primary purpose of the Ship Creek, Seldovia, Homer Spit, Resurrection Bay, Eklutna Tailrace, Whittier, and Cordova Chinook salmon stocking projects is to provide for terminal fisheries in areas where no Chinook salmon fisheries would otherwise exist. These fisheries provide for the harvest of large numbers of Chinook salmon with little or no wild stock impacts. These fisheries also generate a significant number of angler days of effort and potentially reduce angler effort on accessible wild fish populations. Sport fishery management concerns associated with these projects are minimal.

### **3.2.2 Coho Salmon**

The primary purpose of the coho salmon enhancement program is to increase coho salmon sport fishing opportunities in Northern Cook Inlet, Lower Cook Inlet, and Resurrection Bay. Significant sport fisheries exist at all six stocking locations and each location provides excellent terminal harvest opportunity. Commercial harvest is minimal on Lower Cook Inlet and Resurrection Bay returns. Returns to these fisheries are usually sufficient to support large sport fisheries, and sport fishery management concerns associated with these projects are minimal. A list of FTPs associated with anadromous stockings is presented in Table 8.

## **4 PROJECTED RETURNS**

Table 9 summarizes the 2025 expected returns for all stocking projects supported through fish production from WJHSFH.

## **5 EVALUATION**

All Chinook and coho salmon smolts are thermally marked to allow for assessment of commercial harvest, in river sport fishery contributions, and straying at selected stocking locations. Table 10 outlines mark group assignments for each release site. In 2025, all Chinook salmon smolt released at Crooked Creek and Ninilchik River are marked with an adipose fin clip to identify hatchery-produced fish from naturally produced fish in the sport fishery, broodstock collection, and escapement. Coded-wire-tagging of king salmon was discontinued following the 2017 releases. Marine sport fishery data for Cook Inlet is summarized in Begich (2007).

A recovery program for coho salmon otoliths in Seward remained in effect from 2003–2005. Coded-wire-tagging of coho salmon smolt was discontinued in 2005.

Otoliths may be collected from adult Chinook and coho salmon returning to streams adjacent to release sites to monitor for straying. A post-hatch accessory mark for the Ninilchik River Chinook salmon release has been applied to smolt since BY 2021 to determine the source of adipose-clipped Chinook salmon strays (Crooked Creek release or Ninilchik River release) entering Deep Creek and the Anchor River.

Sport fishery catch, harvest, and effort statistics are estimated annually by the Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS).

Fin-marking and thermal marking of some lake stocking products are done on an as needed basis, as defined by Division of Sport Fish research biologists, to evaluate various lake stocking projects. Catch, harvest, and effort statistics are estimated annually by the SWHS.

## 6 RESEARCH

In order to determine the Chinook salmon smolt size-at-release that yields the greatest return to the sport fishery a Chinook salmon smolt size-at-release study was initiated in 2014. Between 2014 and 2022, two release groups of Ship Creek donor stock smolt, with target average size at release of 12.0–14.0 g and 18.0–20.0 g, were released into Ship Creek. Unique thermal marks were applied to 100% of the smolt in both release groups so their contribution to the fishery can be determined. Otoliths collected from adult Chinook salmon returning to the brood holding raceways along Ship Creek are prepared and read by hatchery staff. Evaluation of the remaining size-at-release groups will continue until individuals from all brood years have returned to WJHSFH and are sampled as adults.

Future research will be conducted at WJHSFH. Possible projects include selective spawning of Chinook salmon and investigating lateral line dysplasia in hatchery reared fish.

## 7 LITERATURE CITED

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## 8 APPROVAL

### **Recommendation for Approval: William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery Annual Management Plan, 2025.**

Summer Woods, William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery 6/13/2025

Travis Hyer, Acting Hatchery Program Supervisor, Division of Sport Fish 6/13/2025

Jason Dye, Acting Regional Supervisor, Division of Sport Fish 6/16/2025

Bert Lewis, Regional Supervisor, Division of Commercial Fisheries 6/23/2025

Ethan Ford, Regional Resource Development Biologist, Com. Fish 6/23/2025

Lorna Wilson, PNP Program Assistant Coordinator, Div. of Commercial Fisheries 6/23/2025

### **Approval: The 2025 William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery Annual Management Plan is hereby approved.**

Jason Dye, Deputy Director, Division of Sport Fish 6/23/2025

Forrest Bowers, Operations Manager, Division of Commercial Fisheries 6/23/2025

**Table 1.–Summary of Fish Releases from WJHSFH for Lake Stocking Programs in 2025.**

Number of Stocking					
Species	Release Location	Number <sup>1</sup>	Size <sup>2</sup>	Type <sup>3</sup>	Locations <sup>4</sup>
Rainbow trout	Region 2	389,865	Fingerling	3N/2N	52
		159,250	Fingerling	3N	19
		30,000	Fingerling <sup>5</sup>	3N	4
		134,625	Catchable	3N/2N	40
		37,265	Catchable	3N	25
		1,550	Broodstock <sup>5</sup>	2N	9
Total		751,005			149
Arctic char	Region 2	9,300	Fingerling <sup>5</sup>	3N/2N	5
		8,000	Fingerling <sup>5</sup>	3N	2
		2,000	Catchable	3N	1
		18,825	Catchable	3N/2N	17
		850	Broodstock	2N	5
Total		38,975			30
Chinook salmon	Region 2	0	Catchable	3N	0
		0	Catchable	3N/2N	0
		Total		0	
Coho salmon	Region 2	,000	Fingerling	3N	3
		62,000	Fingerling	3N/2N	14
		Total		75,000	
Total		1,043,909			196

<sup>1</sup> Numbers do not include BY 2024 rainbow trout eyed eggs transferred to RBSFH and Deer Mountain Hatchery, BY 2024 rainbow trout fingerlings transferred to Pillar Creek Hatchery, BY2024 Arctic char eyed eggs transferred to RBSFH, and BY 2024 king salmon eyed eggs transferred to Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (Table 3). All species are Statewide Stocking Plan request numbers.

<sup>2</sup> Fingerling - 1 to 3 g, Subcatchable - 15 to 70 g, Catchable - greater than 70g. Broodstock fish older than 2 years and greater than 100 g.

<sup>3</sup> 2N = Diploid; 3N = Triploid; 3N/2N = Triploid preferred, but diploid may be permitted if triploid fish are not available.

<sup>4</sup> Total # of stocking locations by species may not equal the sum of the # of locations for each life stage because some release sites receive more than 1 life stage. Overall total release sites may not equal the sum of species release sites because some release sites receive more than 1 species.

<sup>5</sup> Released if available.

**Table 2.–Summary of Division of Sport Fish Egg Takes for Lake Stocking Programs in 2025.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Donor Stock (Ancestral Stock)</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Number of Eggs</b>
Rainbow trout <sup>1</sup>	WJHSFH (Swanson River)	1,200	3,500,000
Arctic char <sup>2</sup>	WJHSFH (Lake Aleknagik)	64	200,000
Chinook salmon <sup>3</sup>	Ship Creek, Ninilchik River, or Crooked Creek	Up to 60	330,000
Coho salmon <sup>4</sup>	Ship Creek (Little Susitna River) or Bear Lake	Up to 85	330,000

<sup>1</sup> Includes eggs to produce 200,000 eyed eggs for Deer Mountain Hatchery, and 600,000 eyed eggs for RBSFH.

<sup>2</sup> The 64 pairs of Arctic char spawned to obtain genetic diversity in the captive broodstock is more than what is necessary to meet production needs. Approximately 81,229 BY25 eggs will be incubated, and the surplus eggs will be culled. Includes 93,100 eyed eggs for RBSFH.

<sup>3</sup> If brood fish are available, up to 60 pairs will be spawned in case incubation survival and triploid induction rates are lower than anticipated. Total number of eggs includes 120,000 eggs for Region 3 Chinook catchable production.

<sup>4</sup> If brood fish are available, up to 42 pairs will be spawned in case the incidence of BKD in female brood fish is greater than anticipated and the triploid induction rate is lower than anticipated. Total number of eggs includes 157,000 eyed eggs for Region 3 coho fingerling production.

**Table 3.–Summary of hatchery-to-hatchery transfers in 2025.**

Species	Life stage	Sending hatchery	Receiving hatchery	Ploidy	Donor stock	Sex	Number
Rainbow trout	Eyed egg	WJHSFH	RBSFH	3N	WJHSFH (Swanson River)	All female	600,000
Rainbow trout	Eyed egg	WJHSFH	DMH	3N	WJHSFH (Swanson River)	All female	200,000
Chinook salmon	Eyed egg	WJHSFH	RBSFH	3N	Ship Creek	Mixed Sex	120,000
Chinook salmon	Eyed egg	WJHSFH	WNH <sup>1</sup>	2N	Ship Creek	Mixed sex	50,000
Coho salmon	Eyed egg	WJHSFH	RBSFH	2N	Ship Creek (Little Susitna River)	Mixed sex	157,000
Arctic char	Eyed egg	WJHSFH	RBSFH	3N	WJHSFH (Lake Aleknagik)	Mixed sex	93,100

*Notes: PWSAC = Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp., DMH=Deer Mountain Hatchery, RBSFH = Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery, PCH = Pillar Creek Hatchery, WJHSFH = William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery, WNH = Wally Noerenberg Hatchery*

<sup>1</sup> Eggs for PWSAC Wally Noerenberg Hatchery terminal fishery at Chenega.

**Table 4.—Numbers of Chinook salmon smolt to be stocked by Division of Sport Fish in 2025.**

<b>Release Site</b>	<b>Hatchery</b>	<b>Donor Stock</b>	<b>Release Number<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Northern Cook Inlet</b>			
Ship Creek	WJHSFH	Ship Creek	575,000
Eklutna Tailrace	WJHSFH	Ship Creek	<u>185,000</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>760,000</b>
<b>Central/Lower Cook Inlet</b>			
Crooked Creek <sup>1</sup>	WJHSFH	Crooked Creek	70,000
Seldovia	WJHSFH	Crooked Creek	75,000
Homer Spit	WJHSFH	Crooked Creek	210,000
Ninilchik River <sup>1</sup>	WJHSFH	Ninilchik River	<u>105,000</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>460,000</b>
<b>Resurrection Bay</b>			
Seward Lagoon	WJHSFH	Crooked Creek	<u>190,000</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>190,000</b>
<b>Prince William Sound</b>			
Whittier	WJHSFH	Crooked Creek/Ninilchik River	75,000
Cordova	WJHSFH	Crooked Creek/Ninilchik River	<u>75,000</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>1,560,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> A shortage of donor stocks in 2024 resulted in a shortfall in the number of smolt produced for the Crooked Creek Brood replacement, Ninilchik Brood Replacement, and donor stocks for terminal fisheries.

<sup>2</sup> Release number is the stocking goal presented in the Statewide Stocking Plan for Sport Fish. Actual release number may be +/- 5% of the stocking goal.

<b>Donor Stock</b>	<b>Number of Sites</b>	<b>Number of Eggs</b>	<b>Fecundity</b>	<b>Number of Females</b>	<b>Egg-take Responsibility</b>	<b>Incubation Facility</b>
Ship Creek <sup>1,2</sup>		1,904,574	5,825	329	WJHSFH	WJHSFH
Crooked Creek		612,374	4,938	111	WJHSFH and Soldotna	WJHSFH
Ninilchik		730,483	4,867	136	WJHSFH and Homer	WJHSFH
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3,247,430</b>		<b>576</b>		

**Table 6.—Division of Sport Fish coho salmon smolt releases in 2025.**

<b>Release Site</b>	<b>Hatchery</b>	<b>Donor Stock (Ancestral stock)</b>	<b>Release Number<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Northern Cook Inlet</b>			
Ship Creek	WJHSFH	Ship Creek (Little Susitna River)	240,000
Bird Creek	WJHSFH	Ship Creek (Little Susitna River)	125,000
Campbell Creek	WJHSFH	Ship Creek (Little Susitna River)	50,000
Eklutna Tailrace	WJHSFH	Ship Creek (Little Susitna River)	<u>120,000</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>535,000</b>
<b>Lower Cook Inlet</b>			
Homer Spit	WJHSFH	Ship Creek (Little Susitna River)	<u>120,000</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>120,000</b>
<b>Resurrection Bay</b>			
Seward Lagoon	WJHSFH	Bear Lake	<u>240,000</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>240,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>895,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Release number is the stocking goal presented in the Statewide Stocking Plan for Sport Fish. Actual release number may be +/- 5% of the stocking goal.

**Table 7.–Division of Sport Fish coho salmon egg-take summary for 2025.**

<b>Donor Stock</b>	<b>Number of Eggs<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Fecundity</b>	<b>Number of Females</b>	<b>Egg-take Responsibility</b>	<b>Incubation Facility</b>
Bear Lake	310,160	3,604	86	WJHSFH and CIAA	WJHSFH
Ship Creek (Little Susitna River)	1,256,444	3,878	300	WJHSFH	WJHSFH
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,566,604</b>		<b>386</b>		

**Table 8.–Fish transport permits (FTPs) for egg takes, hatchery-to-hatchery transfers, and fish releases from William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery.**

Area	Species	Donor Stock (Ancestral Stock)	FTP #	Expiration Date	Release Description	Lake Category	Life Stage
Anchorage	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	13A-0028	12/31/2028	Campbell Pt L, Clunie L, GASS, Fish L, Green L, Thompson L	1	2N Catchable/ Broodstock
Anchorage	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	13A-0029	12/31/2028	Campbell Pt L, Clunie L, GASS, Fish L, Green L, Thompson L	1	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	13A-0030	12/31/2028	Sand L	3	2N Broodstock
Anchorage	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	13A-0031	12/31/2028	Sand L	3	3N Catchable
Anchorage	King salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0089	12/31/2029	Ship Ck	NA	Smolt
Anchorage	King salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0121	12/31/2029	Jewel L, Hillberg L, Green L, Campbell Pt L, Clunie L, Delong L, GASS	1	Catchable
Anchorage	King salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	21A-0006	12/31/2029	Jewel L, Hillberg L, Green L, Campbell Pt L, Clunie L, Delong L, GASS	1	2N/3N Catchable
Anchorage	King salmon	Deception Ck (Willow Ck.)	15A-0015	12/31/2029	Jewel L, Hillberg L, Green L, Campbell Pt L, Clunie L, Delong L, GASS	1	2N Catchable
Anchorage	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	21A-0005	12/31/2029	Jewel L, Hillberg L, Green L, Campbell Pt L, Clunie L, Delong L, GASS	1	2N/3N Catchable

Area	Species	Donor Stock (Ancestral Stock)	FTP #	Expiration Date	Release Description	Lake Category	Life Stage
Anchorage	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	21A-0008	12/31/2029	Taku Campbell L	2	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0120	12/31/2029	Taku Campbell L	2	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	21A-0007	12/31/2029	Taku Campbell L	2	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	21A-0010	12/31/2029	Beach L, Cheney L, Mirror L, Sand L	3	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0122	12/31/2029	Beach L, Cheney L, Mirror L, Sand L	3	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	21A-0009	12/31/2029	Beach L, Cheney L, Mirror L, Sand L	3	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	18A-0027	12/31/2027	Bird Ck	NA	Smolt
Anchorage	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	18A-0028	12/31/2027	Campbell Ck	NA	Smolt
Anchorage	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	18A-0029	12/31/2027	Ship Ck.	NA	Smolt
Anchorage	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	19A-0029	12/31/2027	Jewel L, Hillberg L, Green L, Campbell Pt L, Clunie L, Delong L, GASS	1	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	19A-0030	12/31/2027	Taku Campbell L	2	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	19A-0032	12/31/2027	Mirror L, Cheney L, Beach, Sand L	3	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0043	12/31/2028	Campbell Pt L, Clunie L, Delong L, Fish L, Green L, Gwen L, Hillberg L, Jewel L, Otis L, Spring L, Thompson L., Triangle L, Waldon L, GASS	1	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0022	12/31/2033	Campbell Pt L, Clunie L, Delong L, Fish L, Green L, Gwen L, Hillberg L, Jewel L, Otis L, Spring L, Thompson L. Triangle L, Waldon L, GASS	1	2N Catchable Broodstock

Area	Species	Donor Stock (Ancestral Stock)	FTP #	Expiration Date	Release Description	Lake Category	Life Stage
Anchorage	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0023	12/31/2028	Airstrip-Willow Pond, Taku Campbell L, Tangle Pond	2	3N Catchable
Anchorage	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0024	12/31/2028	Alder Pond, Beach L, Cheney L, Edmunds L, Lower Fire L, Mirror L, Otter L, Rabbit L, Sand L, Symphony L	3	3N Catchable/ Fingerling
Anchorage	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	15A-0064	12/31/2028	Cheney L, Sand L	3	2N Broodstock/ Catchable
Anchorage	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0044	12/31/2028	Campbell Creek, Chester Creek, Upper Six-Mile L	5	3N Catchable
Delta	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	19A-0003	12/31/2034	Backdown L, Brodie L, Coal Mine #5, Four Mile L, Ken's Pond, Quartz L, Rangeview L, Shaw Pond, Sheefish L	1	Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Delta	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	20A-0001	12/31/2034	Nickel L	2	3N Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Delta	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	20A-0002	12/31/2034	J L	3	3N Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Delta	Coho salmon	Ship Ck. (Little Susitna R.)	20A-0008	12/31/2027	Quartz L	1	Fingerling
Fairbanks	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	13A-0019	12/31/2024	Kid's Fishing Pond	1	2N Broodstock
Fairbanks	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	19A-0004	12/31/2034	Bathing Beauty Pond, Chena L, Grayling L, Harding L, Hidden L (EAFB), Moose L, Polaris L	1	Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Fairbanks	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	19A-0005	12/31/2034	Birch L, Lost L	3	Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Fairbanks	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck. (Ship Ck.)	20A-0028	12/31/2029	Birch L, Lost L	3	Catchable
Fairbanks	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck. (Ship Ck.)	20A-0029	12/31/2029	Cushman L	2	Catchable

Area	Species	Donor Stock (Ancestral Stock)	FTP #	Expiration Date	Release Description	Lake Category	Life Stage
Glennallen	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	19A-0006	12/31/2034	Buffalo L, Dick L, Ryan L	1	Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Glennallen	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	19A-0007	12/31/2034	Gergie L, John L	2	Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Glennallen	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	19A-0008	12/31/2034	Crater L, Tex Smith L	3	Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Glennallen	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	19A-0009	12/31/2034	Two Mile L	5	Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Glennallen	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	15A-0005	12/31/2033	Buffalo L, Dick L, Junction L, North Jans L, Ryan L, South Jans L, Strelna L, Tolsona Mountain L	1	3N Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Glennallen	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	15A-0006	12/31/2033	Gergie L, Old Road L, Peanut L, Pippin L, Round L, Sculpin L, Silver L, Tolsona L	2	3N Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Glennallen	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	15A-0007	12/31/2033	Crater L, DJ L, Tex Smith L	3	3N Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Glennallen	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	15A-0008	12/31/2033	Squirrel Ck. Pit	4	3N Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Glennallen	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	15A-0009	12/31/2033	Three Mile L, Two Mile L	5	3N Fingerling/ Subcatchable/ Catchable
Homer	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	12A-0079	12/31/2029	Ninilchik R	NA	Smolt
Homer	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	18A-0010	12/31/2027	Homer Spit (Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon)	NA	Smolt
Homer	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	18A-0012	12/31/2027	Seldovia Harbor	NA	Smolt
Homer	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	18A-0013	12/31/2027	Homer Spit (Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon)	NA	Smolt

Area	Species	Donor Stock (Ancestral Stock)	FTP #	Expiration Date	Release Description	Lake Category	Life Stage
Homer	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	18A-0015	12/31/2027	Seldovia Harbor	NA	Smolt
Homer	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0117	12/31/2027	Homer Spit (Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon)	NA	Smolt
Homer	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0119	12/31/2027	Seldovia Harbor	NA	Smolt
Homer	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	13A-0041	12/31/2027	Homer Spit (Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon)	NA	Smolt
Kenai	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	13A-0026	12/31/2028	Island L, Elephant (Spirit) L	1	2N Broodstock/ Catchable
Kenai	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	20A-0018	12/31/2028	Carter L, Troop L, Upper Summit L, Vagt L.	3	3N Fingerling
Kenai	King salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	12A-0070	12/31/2029	Crooked Ck	NA	Smolt
Kenai	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0064	12/31/2029	Sport L	1	Catchable
Kenai	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	12A-0067	12/31/2029	Sport L	1	Catchable
Kenai	Chinook salmon	Deception Ck (Willow Ck)	12A-0068	12/31/2029	Sport L	1	Catchable
Kenai	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	12A-0069	12/31/2029	Sport L	1	Catchable
Kenai	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	12A-0071	12/31/2027	Arc L, Centennial L, Elephant (Spirit) L, Longmare L, Sport L	1	Fingerling/ Catchable
Kenai	Coho salmon	Bear Ck (Bear Ck)	12A-0073	12/31/2027	Arc L, Centennial L, Elephant (Spirit) L, Longmare L, Sport L	1	Fingerling/ Catchable
Kenai	Arctic grayling	Chena R (Chena R)	22A-0009	12/31/2032	Arc L, Scout L, Tirmore L, John Hedberg L	1	Fingerling/ Catchable
Kenai	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0031	12/31/2025	Aurora L, Barbara L, Cabin L, Centennial L, Chugach Est, Douglas L, Elephant (Spirit) L, Encelewski L, Island L, John Hedberg L, Johnson L, Longmare L, Loon L, Roque L, Scout L, Sport L, Thetis L, Tirmore L,	1	Fingerling/ Catchable/ Broodstock

Area	Species	Donor Stock (Ancestral Stock)	FTP #	Expiration Date	Release Description	Lake Category	Life Stage
					Kenai Peninsula Sport, Rec, and Trade Show		
Kenai	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0032	12/31/2025	Carter L, Long L, Meridian L, Rainbow L, Troop L, Upper Summit L, Vagt L	3	3N Fingerling
Mat-Su	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	19A-0024	12/31/2028	Benka L, Carpenter L, Echo L, Finger L, Irene L, Kepler-Bradley L, Long L (Mi 86), Lynne L, Marion L, Matanuska L, Memory L, Prator L, Rush L, 17 mile L	1	Broodstock/ Catchable
Mat-Su	Chinook salmon	Deception Ck (Willow Ck)	14A-0098	12/31/2029	Eklutna Tailrace	NA	Smolt
Mat-Su	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0006	12/31/2027	Eklutna Tailrace	NA	Smolt
Mat-Su	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	12A-0002	12/31/2027	Finger L, Knik L, Matanuska L, Memory L, Prator L, Victor L	1	Catchable/ fingerling
Mat-Su	Chinook salmon	Deception Ck (Willow Ck)	12A-0003	12/31/2027	Finger L, Knik L, Matanuska L, Memory L, Prator L, Victor L	1	Catchable
Mat-Su	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	12A-0004	12/31/2027	Finger L, Knik L, Matanuska L, Memory L, Prator L, Victor L	1	Catchable
Mat-Su	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0005	12/31/2027	Finger L, Knik L, Matanuska L, Memory L, Prator L, Victor L	1	Catchable
Mat-Su	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	12A-0009	12/31/2027	Barley L, Bear Paw L, Carpenter L, Christiansen L, Diamond L, Echo L, Johnson L, Kalmbach L, Klaire L, Loberg L, Victor L	1	Fingerling
Mat-Su	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	12A-0010	12/31/2027	Gate L, Kashwitna L, Mile 180 L, Slipper L, Walby L, Willow L	2	Fingerling
Mat-Su	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	12A-0011	12/31/2027	Lucille L, Seymour L, Wolf L	3	Fingerling
Mat-Su	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	13A-0051	12/31/2027	Eklutna Tailrace	1	Smolt
Mat-Su	Grayling	Chena R (Chena R)	13A-0050	12/31/2025	Canoe L, Finger L, Florence L, Goober L, Ida L, Kepler-Bradley L, Knik L, Long L, Lorraine L, Meirs L, Ravine L, Reed L	1	Catchable

Area	Species	Donor Stock (Ancestral Stock)	FTP #	Expiration Date	Release Description	Lake Category	Life Stage
Mat-Su	Grayling	Chena R. (Chena R)	20A-0016	12/31/2030	Summit L	2	Catchable
Mat-Su	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0007	12/31/2025	Bruce L, Canoe L, Echo L, Irene L, Kepler-Bradley L, Knik L, Leech L, Loberg L, Long L (Mi86), Matanuska L, Meirs L, Memory L, Ravine L, Rocky L, Reed L	1	Broodstock/ Catchable
Mat-Su	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0008	12/31/2025	Barley L, Bear Paw L, Benka L, Boot L, Carpenter L, Christiansen L, Diamond L, Farmer L, Finger L, Florence L, Golden L, Goober L, Honeybee L, Ida L, Johnson L, Kalmbach L, Kings L, Knob L, L. Lonely L, Long L (K/B), Long L (Mi86), Lorraine L, Lynne L, Marion L, Matanuska L, Meirs L, Peggy L, Reed L, 17 mile L, Slipper L, Tigger L, Walby L, X L, Y L	1	Fingerling/ Broodstock
Mat-Su	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0009	12/31/2025	Anderson L, Coyote L, Gate L, Kashwitna L, Knob L, M. 180 L, N. Knob L, Lalen L, Reflections L, Slipper L, Summit L, Walby L, Weiner L, Willow L	2	Catchable
Mat-Su	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0010	12/31/2025	Bench L, Beverly L, Big Beaver L, Bocker L, Buck L, Butterfly L, Cranberry L, Crooked L, Lalen L, L. Beaver L, N. Friend L, N. Rolly L, Rhein L, Ruby L, S. Friend L, Threemile L, Twin Island L, Vera L, Visnaw L, Weiner L, W. Beaver L, W. Sunshine L, Wishbone L, Zero L.	2	Fingerling
Mat-Su	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0011	12/31/2025	Crystal L, Lucille L, South Rolly L, Tanaina L	3	Catchable

Area	Species	Donor Stock (Ancestral Stock)	FTP #	Expiration Date	Release Description	Lake Category	Life Stage
Mat-Su	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0012	12/31/2025	Caswell #3 L, Crystal L, Dawn L, Homestead L, Loon L, Lucille L, Morvo L, Seymour L, Wolf L	3	Fingerling
PWS	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	20A-0014	12/31/2029	Fleming Spit (Cordova)	NA	Smolt
PWS	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0094	12/31/2029	Fleming Spit (Cordova)	NA	Smolt
PWS	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	19A-0022	12/31/2029	Fleming Spit (Cordova)	NA	Smolt
PWS	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	19A-0021	12/31/2029	Whittier Harbor	NA	Smolt
PWS	Chinook salmon	Deception Ck (Willow Ck)	12A-0098	12/31/2029	Whittier Harbor	NA	Smolt
PWS	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	20A-0015	12/31/2029	Whittier Harbor	NA	Smolt
PWS	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0099	12/31/2029	Whittier Harbor	NA	Smolt
PWS	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0046	12/31/2028	Ruth L	1	3N Catchable
PWS	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0047	12/31/2028	Blueberry L, Thompson L	5	3N Catchable
Res Bay	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0090	12/31/2029	Lowell Ck	NA	Smolt
Res Bay	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	12A-0091	12/31/2029	Seward Lagoon	NA	Smolt
Res Bay	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	12A-0092	12/31/2029	Seward Lagoon	NA	Smolt
Res Bay	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	19A-0020	12/31/2029	Seward Lagoon	NA	Smolt
Res Bay	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	19A-0023	12/31/2029	Lowell Ck	NA	Smolt
Res Bay	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	12A-0093	12/31/2029	Lowell Ck	NA	Smolt
Res Bay	Coho salmon	Bear Ck (Bear Ck)	18A-0030	12/31/2027	Seward Lagoon	NA	Smolt
Res Bay	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	16A-0048	12/31/2033	Derby: 1st L	3	Catchable

Area	Species	Donor Stock (Ancestral Stock)	FTP #	Expiration Date	Release Description	Lake Category	Life Stage
Anchorage	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	15A-0046	12/31/2025	315,000 Egg take @ WJHSFH	NA	Green eggs
Fairbanks	Arctic char	WJHSFH (L. Aleknagik)	14A-0015 <sup>a</sup>	12/31/2034	214,000 Transfer: WJHSFH to RBSFH (3N MX)	NA	Eyed eggs
Kenai	Chinook salmon	Crooked Ck (Crooked Ck)	11A-0013	12/31/2029	1,740,000 Egg take @ Crooked Creek	NA	Green eggs
Anchorage	Chinook salmon	Ship Ck (Ship Ck)	11A-0017	12/31/2029	2,400,000 Egg take @ Ship Creek	NA	Green eggs
Homer	Chinook salmon	Ninilchik R (Ninilchik R)	11A-0026	12/31/2029	1,500,000 Egg take @ Ninilchik River	NA	Green eggs
Mat-Su	Chinook salmon	Deception Ck (Willow Ck)	11A-0045	12/31/2029	1,560,000 Egg take @ Deception Creek	NA	Green eggs
Anchorage	Coho salmon	Ship Ck (L. Susitna R)	11A-0019	12/31/2027	1,120,000 Egg take @ Ship Creek	NA	Green eggs
Seward	Coho salmon	Bear Ck (Bear Ck)	11A-0016	12/31/2027	730,000 Egg take @ Bear Creek	NA	Green eggs
Fairbanks	Grayling	Chena R (Chena R)	12A-0106	12/31/2031	170,000 Egg take @ Chena River	NA	Green eggs
Fairbanks	Grayling	Goodpaster R (Goodpaster R)	12A-0107	12/31/2031	170,000 Egg take @ Goodpaster River	NA	Green eggs
Anchorage	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	14A-0032	12/31/2033	3,500,000 Egg take @ WJHSFH	NA	Green eggs
Fairbanks	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	13A-0007	12/31/2033	1,079,000 Transfer: WJHSFH to RBSFH (3N AF)	NA	Eggs/ Fry/ Fingerlings
Kodiak	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	18A-0016 <sup>b</sup>	12/31/2028	200,000 Transfer: eggs from WJHSFH to Pillar Creek Hatchery + release	1	Eyed eggs
Kodiak	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	18A-0017 <sup>b</sup>	12/31/2028	200,000 Transfer: eggs from WJHSFH to Pillar Creek Hatchery + release	2	Eyed eggs
Kodiak	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	24A-0012	12/31/28	200,000 Transfer: Fry from up to 200,000 eggs.	N/A	Fry
Ketchikan	Rainbow trout	WJHSFH (Swanson R)	20J-1001 <sup>c</sup>	12/31/2029	200,000 Transfer: WJHSFH to Deer Mountain Hatchery	NA	Eyed eggs

<sup>a</sup>Issued to Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery.

<sup>b</sup>Issued to Pillar Creek Hatchery operated by Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association.

*Issued to Deer Mountain Hatchery operated by Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association.*

*Notes:* PWS = Prince William Sound; Res Bay = Resurrection Bay; WJHSFH = William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery; RBSFH = Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery; 2N = Diploid, 3N = Triploid, MX – Mixed sex, AF = All female, GASS = Great Alaskan Sportsman Show (Anchorage; a.k.a. Trade Fair Pond). Needs amending

**Table 9.—Expected 2025 Returns from Division of Sport Fish stocking projects.**

Release Site	Projected Return					
	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Rainbow Trout	Arctic Char	Arctic Grayling	Landlocked Salmon
<b>Northern Cook Inlet</b>						
Ship Creek <sup>1</sup>	5,938	18,971				
Bird Creek <sup>1</sup>		8,441				
Campbell Creek <sup>1</sup>		3,695				
Eklutna Tailrace <sup>1</sup>	4,397	8,252				
<b>Central/Lower Cook Inlet</b>						
Crooked Creek <sup>1</sup>	976					
Kachemak Bay						
Seldovia <sup>1</sup>	1,025					
Homer Spit <sup>1</sup>	3,484	7,809				
Ninilchik <sup>1</sup>	1,580					
<b>Resurrection Bay</b>						
Resurrection Bay	3,135	12,869				
<b>Prince William Sound</b>						
Cordova <sup>1</sup>	1,048					
Whittier <sup>1</sup>	1,005					
<b>Lake Stocking</b>						
All Areas <sup>1</sup>			64,240	3,524	0	5,851

<sup>1</sup> Estimate is based on projecting 2025 expected returns of all stocked species to the fishery.

*Note:* Expected returns are catch for non-anadromous releases and harvest for anadromous releases from past years' SWHS data.

**Table 10.–Otolith-mark groups and release sites for thermally marked coho and Chinook salmon to be released in 2025.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Release Site</b>	<b>Mark Group</b>	<b>Thermal Mark Code</b>	<b>Donor Stock</b>
Chinook salmon				
	Ninilchik River <sup>1</sup>	Cook Inlet	2,3H4	Ninilchik River
	Seldovia	Cook Inlet	2,3H	Ninilchik River
	Homer Spit	Cook Inlet	2,3H	Ninilchik River
	Eklutna Tailrace	Cook Inlet	2,3H	Ship Creek
	Ship Creek	Cook Inlet	7,3H	Ship Creek
	Cordova	Prince William Sound	2,4H	Ship Creek
	Whittier	Prince William Sound	2,4H	Ship Creek
	Seward Lagoon	Resurrection Bay	2,5H	Crooked Creek
	Crooked Creek	Cook Inlet	2,3H	Crooked Creek
Coho salmon				
	Homer Spit	Cook Inlet	1,5H	Ship Cr (Little Susitna River)
	Ship Creek <sup>2</sup>	Cook Inlet	1,5H3	Ship Cr (Little Susitna River)
	Bird Creek	Cook Inlet	1,5H	Ship Cr (Little Susitna River)
	Campbell Creek	Cook Inlet	1,5H	Ship Cr (Little Susitna River)
	Eklutna Tailrace	Cook Inlet	1,5H	Ship Cr (Little Susitna River)
	Seward Lagoon	Resurrection Bay	2,4H	Bear Lake

<sup>1</sup> Smolt for the Ninilchik River release received a post-hatch accessory thermal mark that will be used to identify the source(s) (Ninilchik River and/or Crooked Creek) of hatchery strays into Deep Creek and Anchor River.

<sup>2</sup> Smolt released into Ship Creek received a post hatch accessory thermal mark that will be used to identify brood source.