

NORTON SOUND/BERING STRAIT REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM

As authorized under 5AAC 40.300 -40.370

June 5, 2015

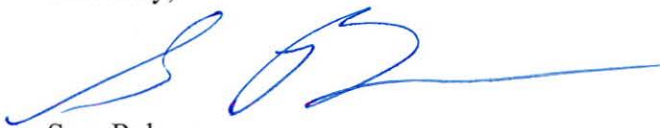
The Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Planning Team (RPT) has updated the Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plan (CSP) and is initiating a public review and comment period from June 5 to June 30, 2015. Attached you will find the Public Review Draft of the CSP. It is also available on the ADF&G website:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingHatcheriesPlanning.regional>

The RPT is authorized by Alaska laws and regulations and was established by the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in 1994. The RPT is comprised of three members from the ADF&G and three members from the authorized Regional Aquaculture Association (RAA), which for the Norton Sound/Bering Strait region is the Northern Bering Sea Regional Aquaculture Association (NoBSRAA). The RPT has the responsibility to develop and maintain a regional comprehensive salmon plan to guide restoration, rehabilitation, and enhancement of salmon. Completion and acceptance of the CSP must follow a process that provides as much opportunity for input as possible. Since 2012, the RPT has been gathering information from groups and individuals interested in the salmon resources of the area, both consumptive and non-consumptive users; subsistence, sport and commercial fishermen; local governments and Alaska Native representatives; private citizens and State and Federal agency representatives. Two rounds of public meetings have been held throughout the region and a postal survey was circulated to provide opportunities for input. Several RPT meetings open to the public have been held. The RPT gathered information on community concerns, salmon use, priorities and preferences, and ideas of what might be done to sustain or increase salmon production. From this information gathering, and using their knowledge of the salmon resources of the area, the RPT has compiled this update of the CSP.

Please take this opportunity to review and comment on this draft plan. Comments should be made in writing and mailed or emailed to the RPT Chairman (addresses below). One last opportunity for commenting in person will be at the RPT meeting to be held at the City Council Chambers in Nome on June 30, 2015, beginning at 9:00 am. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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RPT Chairman
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