



MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Planning Team-
Chair

DATE: March 31, 2026

FROM: Doug Vincent-Lang *DVLang*
Commissioner

PHONE: 907-465-6141

SUBJECT: Extending
Moratorium on Pink and Chum
Salmon production.

On August 26, 2019, a meeting was held between hatchery operators and ADF&G staff to discuss hatchery production of pink and chum salmon. In attendance were Casey Campbell (PWSAC), Mike Wells (VFDA), Eric Prestegard (DIPAC), Dave Landis (SSRAA), Steve Reifentstahl (NSRAA), Dean Day (CIAA), Tina Fairbanks (KRAA) and for ADF&G – Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, Commercial Fisheries Director Sam Rabung, Aquaculture Section Chief Flip Pryor and PNP Coordinator Lorraine Vercessi. The conversation included concerns from the public about increasing pink and chum salmon production and if it is causing negative effects on wild stocks primarily due to food competition at sea. Commissioner Vincent-Lang made clear his intention not to increase production of pink and chum salmon during his tenure. The operators each indicated they did not have plans to ask for increases in pink and chum salmon. From this informal agreement, hatchery capacity of pink and chum salmon has been stable since 2019.

On March 21, 2026, the Alaska Board of Fisheries took no action on a proposal to create a state-wide regulatory moratorium on pink and chum salmon, with understanding that the commissioner would work with the operators, through the regional planning team process, to formally extend the current moratorium agreement for another 10 years.

Each Regional Planning Team should draft a report on regional production of pink and chum salmon and if there are plans for increases in the next 10 years. If hatchery associations agree to maintain their current production levels for another 10 years, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be signed and presented to the Board of Fisheries at their October Work Session. A meeting will occur on October 27th, 2026, like the meeting in 2019, to finalize the production report and sign the MOU.