

ADFG Sport Fish Division

2016 State Wide Stocking Plan Public Comment and Response Summary

Public comment:

Commenter expressed dissatisfaction with the department's decision to suspend the Arctic grayling stocking program.

ADFG response:

Suspending the grayling program was an unfortunate, but necessary cost reduction to the ADFG hatchery program. Given the particular species rearing dynamics in the hatcheries, it was determined that the most efficient means of reducing our annual operating cost was to temporarily suspend the grayling program. The good news is that given the accessibility and sustainability of our Arctic grayling brood source (Chena River, Fairbanks) we will be able to reinstate our grayling program with relative ease when budgets allow.

Public comment:

Commenter expressed concern over ADFG stocking hatchery fish into non-native waters.

ADFG Response:

ADFG stocking policies encompass significant advancements over past enhancement practices and those advancements are reflected in our current program policies, goals and objectives throughout Alaska. As written in the 2015-2020 Division of Sport Fish Strategic Plan, the divisions number one fisheries enhancement objective is to conduct enhancement activities in a manner that does not adversely impact existing wild fish and their habitat.

Public comment:

Commenter's expressed desire for reinstatement of Valdez terminal Chinook fishery.

ADFG Response:

Enhancement efforts in Valdez were suspended in 2014 due to poor adult returns to the fishery.

Public comment:

Commenter expressed desire for reinstatement of Haines/Skagway terminal Chinook fishery.

ADFG Response:

Enhancement efforts in Haines/Skagway were suspended in 2015 due to poor adult returns to the fishery.

Public comment:

Commenter's suggested increasing coho release numbers to existing Upper Cook Inlet release sites and also suggested adding additional release sites to help spread fishing pressure out and reduce fishing pressure on wild stocks.

ADFG Response:

While the Hernandez hatchery does have limited "capacity" to increase coho production, any increase would require a significant increase to our operational budget which is not currently increasing. Thus the number of coho being released will need to remain at current levels.

The two primary goals of the hatchery program are to reduce fishing pressure on wild stocks and to create opportunity for anglers to have a more diverse fishing experience. Comments regarding research into the allocation of coho smolt into alternative Upper Cook Inlet streams will be considered.

Public comment:

Commenter suggested stocking fewer fish in remote lakes and more fish into lakes with greater access to the road system.

ADFG Response:

ADFG Sport Fish seeks to provide the sport fishing public with a diversity of experience through the stocking of remote lakes.

Public comment:

Commenter expressed appreciation for Chinook salmon enhancement efforts on the Kasilof River.

ADFG Response:

Thank you for supporting ADFG Sport Fish enhancement efforts on the Kasilof River.