

March 6, 2018

RE: Statewide BOF - March 6-9, 2018

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board of Fisheries Members:

Under the 'miscellaneous business' section of your agenda, you are expected to discuss an emergency petition filed by Nancy Hillstrand regarding "*excessive inter-regional straying*" of salmon. During this time, we understand you will be hearing an update on an ongoing Salmon Straying Study. This study, which was initiated by ADF&G and private hatchery operators in 2011, is estimated to cost 18 million dollars over a 12 year time span. This comprehensive, rigorous evaluation looks far beyond the simple analysis of wild and hatchery composition in a particular system, and further examines whether those interactions have a negative, positive, or neutral effect on fitness.

The pink salmon portion of the data gathering will be complete in 2018, with a final report in 2019. We implore the BOF to use these data to help dictate appropriate future actions concerning wild and hatchery interactions. The chum portion of the study will be completed in 2023, and we again urge that this data be the cornerstone of future decisions about hatchery production.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the current and future health and sustainability of our Alaskan fishery resources.

Sincerely,

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