



RC 059  
UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 9, 2018

Chairman Jensen  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

**Re: Formation of Hatchery Committee**

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board Members,

In lieu of forming a Hatchery Committee, United Fishermen of Alaska suggests that the Alaska Board of Fisheries request ADF&G to provide annual reports on hatchery regulatory structure, permitting process, role of RPTs, protections, policies (genetic, pathology, etc), updates on the Hatchery-Wild Interaction studies, relevant research, and third party (RFM & MSC) validation.

This would provide important information to the board on the status of Alaska's hatchery programs instead of creating a committee based on information not applicable to Alaska's program.

Creating a new committee would in no doubt cost ADF&G more money. In the wake of the state's financial health, taking limited funds and staff from ADF&G priority projects is irresponsible.

There is no empirical or circumstantial evidence that hatcheries have negative effects on Alaska fisheries. An annual report from ADF&G would keep the board informed and aware of any concerns that may arise with minimal staff and financial cost to the State. At this time, we do not feel there should be a rush to create a committee.

Thank you,

Jerry McCune  
President

Frances H. Leach  
Executive Director