

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

Re: Formation of Hatchery Committee

Dear Chairman Jensen and Alaska Board of Fisheries Members,

On behalf of the Alaskan salmon industry leaders listed below, we support the concept that the board would benefit from a greater knowledge of the state's salmon fishery enhancement programs, and we further recommend that the board consider informational outreach activities to take place as an annual agenda item rather than as a standing Hatchery Committee. In lieu of forming a committee, we instead recommend that the Alaska Board of Fisheries directs ADF&G to provide annual reports to the board on hatchery regulatory structure, permitting processes, the role of Regional Planning Teams, wild stock protections, policies (genetic, pathology, etc.), updates on the Alaska Hatchery-Wild Interaction Study, relevant research, emerging concerns or issues, and third-party fishery certification efforts. This format would allow the board to receive scientific, fact-based assessments of the state's salmon fishery enhancement programs, and allow for an evaluation of research projects currently underway.

An annual agenda item would provide important information to the board on the status of Alaska's salmon hatchery programs, as we and others from both within and outside the Alaskan salmon industry agree that this is important information for the board to receive. This action is consistent with Hatchery Committee's protocol established in 2002. This process will allow board members to request information as they deem necessary from the department and others. Additionally, this process would provide an annual opportunity for board members to obtain updates on the multi-year Alaska Hatchery-Wild Interaction Study and ongoing sustainability evaluations of Alaskan salmon hatchery production.

At this time, we believe that this is a reasonable compromise with the proponents of the emergency petition (RC27 submitted at the 2018 Sitka Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting) and will provide the necessary scientific information that the board has expressed an interest in receiving.

Attested to by:

Casey Campbell – *Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp.*
Mike Wells – *Valdez Fisheries Development Association Inc.*
David Landis – *Southern Southeast Reg. Aquaculture Assoc.*
Steve Reifentuhl – *Northern Southeast Reg. Aquaculture Assoc.*
Gary Fandrei – *Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association*
Tina Fairbanks – *Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association*
Eric Prestegard – *Douglas Island Pink and Chum Inc.*
John Woodruff – *Icicle Seafoods*
Vic Scheibert – *Trident Seafoods*
Dave Hambleton – *North Pacific Seafoods*
Mark Palmer – *Ocean Beauty Seafoods*
Tommy Sheridan – *Silver Bay Seafoods*
Dale Schwarzmiller – *Peter Pan Seafoods*
Scott Blake – *Copper River Seafoods*

Jerry McCune – *Cordova District Fishermen United*
Julie Decker – *Alaska Fisheries Development Found.*
Bob Kehoe – *Purse Seine Vessel Owners' Assoc.*
Mike Durtschi – *NW & Alaska Seiners Association*
Steve Merritt – *Alaska Trollers Association*
Matt Alward – *Cook Inlet Seiners Association*
Malcolm Milne – *North Pacific Fisheries Association*
Kathy Hansen – *SE Alaska Fishermen's Alliance*
Susan Doherty – *Southeast Alaska Seiners Assoc.*
Jeff Stephan – *United Fishermen's Marketing Assoc.*