



February 25, 2019

Submitted via ADF&G fax (907) 465-6094

State of Alaska, Board of Fisheries

Reed Morisky, Chair

John Jensen

Fritz Johnson

Robert Ruffner, Vice Chair

Orville Huntington

Alan Cain

Israel Payton

Re: Joint Protocol on Salmon Enhancement & Hatchery Committee Meeting

Dear Board of Fisheries,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly supports sustainable salmon fisheries and strong hatchery production in Alaska. We also support the convening of the Salmon Hatcheries Committee Meeting and Joint Protocol on Salmon Enhancement, and the intent of the Joint Protocol to highlight statewide perspectives to issues associated with hatchery production of salmon. The upcoming Board of Fisheries Hatchery Committee Meeting scheduled for March 8, 2019 is a valuable opportunity to provide a forum for open discussion on hatchery topics to improve dialogue and transparency between the Board of Fisheries, ADF&G, fisheries stakeholders, and the public.

The Alaska salmon hatchery program provides economic and ecological stability to our salmon returns, which fluctuate year to year. Salmon hatchery production supports our local economies, communities, and all user groups. The economic footprint of Alaska's hatcheries includes \$95 million in labor income associated with commercial fishing, \$82 million in labor income associated with processing, and \$25 million connected to hatchery operations. Resident sport/personal use/subsistence harvests of hatchery salmon have additional economic impacts as well as very significant social and cultural impacts in Alaska. Alaska's salmon hatcheries account for the annual equivalent of 4,700 jobs and \$218 million in total labor income, including all direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts. A total of \$600 million in annual economic output is connected to Alaska salmon hatchery production. More than 16,000 fishermen, processing employees, and hatchery workers can attribute some portion of their income to Alaska's salmon hatchery production.

Our Assembly passed Resolution #2018-12 on October 1, 2018 in support of the Alaska Salmon Hatchery Program and urged the Alaska Board of Fisheries to further its understanding of the importance of the program to all Alaskans. A copy of Petersburg Borough's Resolution #2018-12 is attached for your review.

Respectfully,

Mark Jensen
Mayor

Borough Administration

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