

List of programs for plugging into Letters – Choose ones which are most important to you personally or your business

PLEASE NOTE: if you are involved in the commercial fisheries, please also highlight the community & sport programs you value.

NSRAA PROGRAMS:

Chinook Salmon (sport):

NSRAA release areas: Gunnuk Creek, Hidden Falls, Crawfish Inlet, Andrew's Creek, Bear Cove and Sitka Sound Science center.

Chum salmon (commercial/sport):

NSRAA release areas: Hidden Falls, Medvejie, Deep Inlet, Crawfish Inlet, Southeast Cove, Thomas Bay, and Gunnuk Creek

Coho Salmon (commercial/sport):

NSRAA release areas: Medvejie, Deep Inlet, Deer Lake, Hidden Falls, and Mist Cove

Tourism & Education – Community Use

For over 20 years, NSRAA has provided annual tours of the Medvejie Hatchery for Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School, aligning with classroom programs on the salmon life cycle and salmon management. NSRAA also partners with the Sitka Sound Science Center and the University of Alaska Southeast to offer internships and hands-on learning opportunities as part of their aquaculture education programs. In addition, NSRAA annually provides three post-secondary education scholarships for salmon permit holders, employees, and their immediate families.

SSRAA PROGRAMS:

Chinook Salmon (sport):

SSRAA release areas: Andrew Creek, Port Saint Nicholas, Ketchikan Creek, Whitman Lake, Carroll Inlet, Anita Bay

Chum salmon (commercial/sport):

SSRAA release areas: Anita Bay, Burnett Inlet, Nakat Inlet, Port Asumcion, Neets Bay, Kendrick Bay

Coho Salmon (commercial/sport):

SSRAA release areas: Crystal Creek, Anita Bay, Klawock River, Neets Bay, Whitman Lake, Nakat Inlet

Tourism & Education – Community Use:

Whitman Lake in Ketchikan and Crystal Lake in Petersburg offer comprehensive school tours and educational programs designed for students ranging from primary through high school. These programs provide hands-on opportunities for learning about fisheries and salmon enhancement. Additionally, Deer Mountain Hatchery in Ketchikan supports classroom-based spawning, incubation, and rearing programs, allowing teachers to foster a deeper connection between their students and the salmon lifecycle. The hatchery staff also accommodate special requests from individual teachers to tailor experiences that align with classroom curriculum.

SSRAA further extends its educational outreach through a private contract for Bear Tours, which incorporates education about commercial fishing and salmon enhancement. This program reached approximately 7,500 participants in 2024, offering a unique opportunity for visitors to understand the vital role of fisheries in the region. To ensure accurate and consistent messaging, SSRAA provides annual educational presentations for tour operators and guides, answering questions and delivering reliable information about salmon, fisheries, and the commercial fishing industry. This ensures that tourists receive a meaningful and accurate understanding of Southeast Alaska's salmon resources.

DIPAC PROGRAMS

Chinook Salmon (sport):

DIPAC release areas: Lena Cove, Auke Bay, Fish Creek Pond (Douglas), Gastineau Channel (DIPAC produced Chinook are intercepted in Lynn canal, Auke Bay & Stephens Passage as they migrate back to the channel)

Chum salmon (commercial/sport):

DIPAC release areas: Gastineau Channel, Limestone Inlet, Amalga Harbor, Boat Harbor (DIPAC produced chum are intercepted in Lynn canal, Auke Bay & Stephens Passage as they migrate back to the channel)

Coho Salmon (commercial/sport):

DIPAC release areas: Gastineau Channel (DIPAC produced coho are intercepted in Lynn Canal, Auke Bay & Stephens Passage as they migrate back to the channel)

Sockeye Salmon (commercial/personal use/sport):

DIPAC release areas: Snettisham arm, Sweetheart lake (DIPAC produced sockeye are intercepted in Lynn Canal, Stephens passage, at the mouth of Sweetheart creek, and in Snettisham arm).

Tourism & Education – Community Use:

DIPAC offers free marine life education to the Juneau School District, and any other Alaska school children. The Visitor Center offers a place for Juneau residents to use during events in the winter months. The Visitor Center welcomes approximately 70,000 tourists a year. Summer season passes can be purchased by Juneau residents for a great rainy day activity with family.

Since 1992, DIPAC has partnered with ADF&G, UAS, UAF, NMFS & NOAA for various scientific studies, including the use of a freshwater wet lab at Macaulay Salmon Hatchery from 1992 to 2007. In 2014, the DIPAC Board created an endowment fund through UAF to encourage masters level thesis projects on

important salmon hatchery related research. The 4th master's thesis is currently underway. The DIPAC Board also manages a Vocational Education and Baccalaureate Scholarship programs to encourage Southeast Alaska Residents to pursue fields in fisheries science (beginning in 2011). To date, 84 students have received scholarships through this program.

Talking Points Opposing Proposal 156

Chum Revenue Funds Other Fisheries: Hatchery chum salmon programs are the financial backbone of Southeast Alaska's hatcheries. Revenue from chum salmon offsets deficits in other programs, including sockeye, Chinook, and Coho production.

Elimination of Subsistence and Sport Fisheries: A 25% reduction in chum production, as proposed, would severely cut revenue, forcing hatcheries to scale back or eliminate programs that support subsistence and sport fisheries for sockeye, Chinook, and Coho.

Cost Recovery Gap: For example, DIPAC's sockeye program currently incurs a deficit of \$1.28 million annually, which is subsidized by chum revenues. Without this subsidy, sockeye production, vital for personal and community use, would be at risk.

Loss of Community Access: Sockeye, Chinook, and Coho are primarily produced for subsistence and sport fishing. Reducing chum revenue would jeopardize these fisheries, eroding traditional and recreational fishing opportunities for local communities.

Cascading Effects on Sustainability: These cuts would also pressure wild salmon stocks, as hatchery supplementation currently mitigates overfishing of wild populations, ensuring sustainability and access for all user groups.

Disproportionate Impact on Rural Areas: Rural communities, which often depend heavily on subsistence fishing, would be disproportionately affected, risking food security and traditional practices.

No Evidence of Benefit: Proposal 156 lacks sound scientific justification and does not account for the significant role hatcheries play in sustaining both wild stocks and local economies.

Fisheries at risk of closure should 25% reduction occur:

NSRAA

- Mist Cove – *Coho*

- Bear Cove/Sitka Sound – *Chinook*
- Kake roadside/marine

boat fishery – *Chinook*

- Deep Inlet – *Coho*
- Hidden Falls/Southern

- Chatham – Chinook

SSRAA

- Herring Cove – *Chinook*

and Coho

- Carroll Inlet – Chinook

- Neets Bay – *Coho*

- Klawock River *Coho*

- Port Saint Nick –

Chinook

- Anita Bay/ Wrangell –

Coho and Chinook

- Crystal Lake/Blind

Slough – *Coho and*

Chinook

DIPAC

- Gastineau Channel-

Chinook and Coho

- Sweetheart Creek –

Sockeye

- Auke Bay/Lena Cove –

Chinook

- Fish Creek (Douglas) –

Chinook

- Lynn Canal, Taku Inlet

& Juneau Area Marine Sport
& Shoreside – *Chum*

