

# SALMON FOR ALL OF SOUTHEAST

Southeast Alaska hatcheries provide salmon access for all user groups



Northern Southeast Regional  
Aquaculture Association



Southern Southeast Regional  
Aquaculture Association



Douglas Island Pink and  
Chum, Inc.

**The Alaska Board of Fisheries will consider Proposal 156 at the Southeast & Yakutat Finfish Meeting, January 28 - February 9, 2025 in Ketchikan, Alaska.**

This proposal seeks to cut hatchery chum salmon production by 25% which will threaten the production of Chinook, Silver, and sockeye for the use of subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries supported by hatchery funding.

## Hatcheries Preserve Access for All User Groups

Hatcheries are critical to ensuring that salmon remain accessible to all user groups, including commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence fishermen. These programs ensure that Alaskans, regardless of their fishing style, have access to sustainable salmon harvests.

Without hatchery supplementation, wild salmon stocks would be under increased pressure, particularly in years of lower abundance. Hatcheries play a crucial role in mitigating this pressure, safeguarding wild stocks, and providing economic stability for all user groups.

## Economic Significance of Hatcheries

Hatchery programs are a cornerstone of Alaska's economy, generating \$576 million in annual economic output and providing the equivalent of 4,200 jobs statewide.

Reducing hatchery production by 25% would have disastrous economic consequences for communities such as Juneau, Haines, Sitka, Ketchikan, Craig, Petersburg, and Wrangell which rely heavily on the steady stream of hatchery-produced salmon to support their economies. This reduction would result in lost jobs, decreased tax revenues, and reduced income for commercial fishermen, processors, and local businesses. It would also impact numerous remote communities, charter operations, lodges, and tribal entities throughout the region.

**Southeast Alaska's hatcheries have been a critical component of sustainable fisheries management since 1975**

## Hatcheries are Sustainable and Responsibly Managed

Hatchery programs in Alaska are built on a strong foundation of sustainability and are subject to rigorous oversight from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Hatchery-produced salmon are managed through sound scientific practices, ensuring that they complement, rather than harm, wild salmon stocks.

Moreover, Alaska's salmon fisheries, including hatchery-origin fish, are consistently certified as sustainable by both major certification bodies – the Marine Stewardship Council and Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM). This demonstrates that hatchery production aligns with Alaska's broader goals of responsible resource management.

## Impacts of Proposal 156

Proposal 156 would reduce hatchery production at a time when salmon-dependent communities need it most. Reducing chum salmon production by 25% would cause significant harm to fisheries tax revenues, disrupt the economic flow that hatchery salmon provide, and weaken the support hatcheries provide to wild stocks by decreasing the harvest pressure from user groups.

This proposal would be highly disruptive to the sustainability of Alaska's hatchery programs, setting in motion an alternative oversight process in conflict with existing hatchery regulation. This process will introduce uncertainty in the production of Alaska hatchery salmon, impacting a hatchery association's ability to plan production and service loan obligations.

This proposal does not account for the well-documented role hatcheries play in supplementing wild returns, stabilizing economies, and ensuring long-term sustainability for coastal communities. Additionally, the data regarding hatchery impact on wild salmon populations needs to be viewed on a case by case basis based on sound scientific evidence not with sweeping reductions across the entire state. There is no evidence that these drastic reductions will do anything to address unknown wild interaction concerns, but the harm to all SE communities and Alaska as a whole by this action can be well documented.

## Hatcheries Supply Salmon for Local Harvesting Opportunities

### 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

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