
NORTHERN

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SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.

1308 Sawmill Creek Road Sitka, Alaska 99835

April 6, 2021

NSRAA Request for Proposals 2021 Season Hidden Falls and Gunnuk Creek Chum Salmon

Dear Interested Salmon Buyers:

The Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) based in Sitka, Alaska is seeking proposals for the licensing right to harvest chum Salmon at the Hidden Falls and Gunnuk Creek Special Harvest Area's (SHA) for the 2021 season. This harvest is a defined portion of the summer run Hidden Falls stock chum salmon in excess of brood stock needs for each facility. The brood stock chum returns to each facilities SHA will be managed by, at a minimum, weekly fishing effort by one seine vessel. The projected brood stock needs, projected volume of fish available for harvest and projected weekly return timing for each facility is attached.

NSRAA is issuing this RFP as the forecasted return to Hidden Falls hatchery (286,000) is lower than 2020 when egg take goals were not achieved due to a shortfall in brood stock. Managing for brood stock needs (150,000) with a controlled cost recovery effort will allow NSRAA to collect valuable age, sex and otolith information on a weekly basis to evaluate run strength and numbers to the THA. Additionally, this is the first projected significant return to Gunnuk Creek Hatchery (77,000). NSRAA has determined that any chum surplus to brood stock needs (20,000) returning to the Gunnuk Creek Hatchery SHA will be harvested by cost recovery effort, to minimize disruption to the community of Kake. There will be no common property harvest.

Bid Criteria

This a single year bid for NSRAA Hidden Falls and Gunnuk Creek chum salmon. Harvest days, areas and volumes will be determined by NSRAA (licensor), in consultation with the winning processor, as necessary to assure adequate brood stock goals are met at both facilities. A cap of \$500,000 of cost recovery value will be in place for the chum salmon harvested in the Hidden Falls SHA. There is no cap in the Gunnuk Creek SHA and processor will be responsible to harvest all chum salmon in excess of brood stock needs. Actual terminal harvest could be considerably more or less than projected return numbers. Winning processor will need to sign a NSRAA licensing agreement for the cost recovery harvest.

The cost recovery harvest plan for each facility is listed below:

Hidden Falls

For 2021 NSRAA is proposing to manage the early portion of the Hidden Falls chum return via weekly test fishing of up to 50,000lbs. There will be no scheduled common property openings in the THA for chum until brood stock needs are determined to be in the THA by NSRAA or a cap of \$500,000 of cost recovery value has been reached. Once, either the brood stock needs have been determined to be available by NSRAA, or \$500,000 of value has been reached, the chum return will be managed by common property harvest to the greatest extent manageable.

Weekly fishing, beginning stat week 26, will be limited to 50,000 lbs unless otherwise authorized prior to harvest by NSRAA. The weekly fishing will, at a minimum, consist of 5 test sets at the following locations: North line (South Pt), Cosmos, North Pt, Waterfall Cove and Pt Turbot. Additional sets based upon volumes of fish observed in other areas may be authorized after consultation with the NSRAA Cost Recovery manager. Kasnyku Bay will remain off-limits for cost recovery unless specifically opened for Harvest by NSRAA. Chart with set locations and closed area of Kasnyku Bay attached as figure 1.

NSRAA staff will work with the successful bidding processor and seine vessel to assure sampling of catch can occur as needed. This may require the seine vessel crew to assist in marking a small number of the fish caught at each test set location with flagging and/or color coded jaw tags. NSRAA will provide staff on the initial weekly fishing event to instruct the vessel crew on how to segregate and mark catch for future sampling. NSRAA will work with the winning processor to assure the catch is kept separate from any other cost recovery fishing to maintain integrity of the sampling effort. If the winning processor is located outside of Sitka, NSRAA will work with the processor to make available the catch for sampling. This may involve the vessel being sampled at Hidden Falls Hatchery on the grounds or prior to departure. NSRAA will request heads be retained from the test fishing marked chum (up to 96 per week) and coordinate collection and transport to NSRAA's Sitka Office/Lab for processing.

Gunnuk Creek

Cost recovery at Gunnuk Creek will be used to manage the return to meet brood stock needs and harvest all additional return for cost recovery. There is no value cap on the return to Gunnuk Creek and all available fish in excess of brood stock needs will need to be harvested under the direction of the NSRAA Cost Recovery manager. As this is the first significant chum return to Gunnuk Creek Hatchery under the management of NSRAA it will be a learning process for all involved.

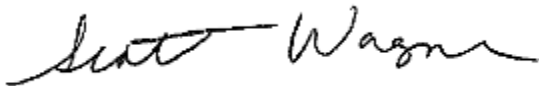
As at Hidden Falls, a minimum of weekly effort is anticipated. Due to the smaller return forecast, the initial effort will likely not occur until stat week 27 or until directed by NSRAA. Early portions of the cost recovery effort will be limited by NSRAA to assure

20,000 brood stock fish are available. Once brood stock is assured, additional effort over weekly fishing will likely be needed to clean up surplus fish. As at Hidden Falls, NSRAA is requesting this catch be segregated from other cost recovery efforts to allow critical run information to be gathered. There will be no set fishing locations in the SHA but NSRAA will work with the seine vessel to harvest the fish in the most efficient means possible while minimizing negative impacts experienced by the community of Kake.

Proposals for **NSRAA 2021 Hidden Falls and Gunnuk Creek chum cost recovery** must be received at NSRAA's office by **5:00 p.m. AKDST, Friday May 7, 2021** via fax 907-747-1470, email scott_wagner@nsraa.org, mail 1308 SMC Rd., Sitka Alaska, or hand delivered to the NSRAA office 1308 SMC Rd. For additional information, please call 747-6850 or 738-2729. Bid proposals will be kept confidential. NSRAA reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid proposals.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott Wagner

General Manager

Bid Sheet

NSRAA 2021 Hidden Falls and Gunnuk Creek Chum Salmon

Company Name _____

Address _____

Hidden Falls and Gunnuk Creek Chum Bid:

My NSRAA Hidden Falls and Gunnuk Creek chum bid is: _____ / pound.
(at point of capture in the Hidden Falls and Gunnuk Creek SHA)

Name of Representative

Title

Signature

Date

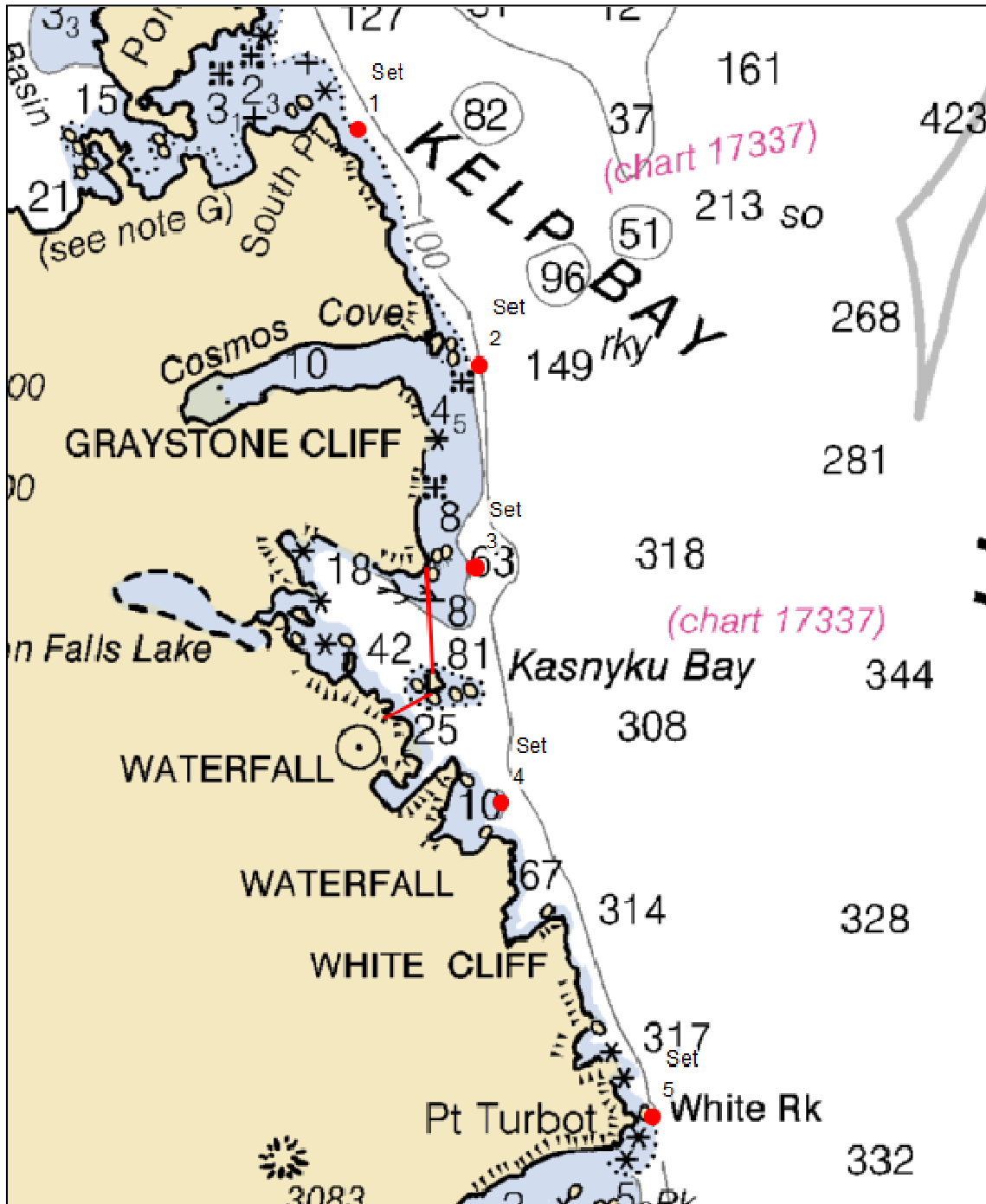
Email

Phone

The deadline for receiving completed bids is at 5 p.m. AKDST, on Friday May 7, 2021

NSRAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Figure 1.



Hidden Falls 2021 pre-determined set locations, total of 5. Cost recovery in the Hidden Falls SHA will likely be limited by ADFG to within 1 nm of shoreline due to king salmon conservation and to protect weak pink salmon stocks moving through the area.

Figure 2.

2021 Chum Forecast

Site	Projected	Range	
	Return	Low	High
Chum			
<i>Hidden Falls</i>	286,000	142,000	673,000
<i>Medvejie/Deep Inlet*</i>	1,608,000	848,000	2,376,000
<i>Crawfish Inlet</i>	1,920,000	986,000	2,860,000
<i>Southeast Cove</i>	158,000	34,000	238,000
<i>Gunnuk Creek</i>	77,000	39,000	116,000
<i>Thomas Bay</i>	132,000	66,000	198,000
<i>Haines Projects</i>	-	-	-
	4,181,000	2,115,000	6,461,000

Figure 3. Projected number of pounds available for harvest in the Hidden Falls SHA in 2021.

HIDDEN FALLS										
				2021 Forecast			CUMULATIVE FISH			
				142,000	673,000	286,000				
Week	2021 Week End Date	1993-2020 Average	Percent	Low	High	Forecast	Low	High	Forecast	
24	12-Jun	1,208	0%	106	501	213		106	501	213
25	19-Jun	16,775	1%	1,467	6,954	2,955	✓	1,573	7,454	3,168
26	26-Jun	107,527	7%	9,405	44,573	18,942	✓	10,977	52,027	22,110
27	3-Jul	283,385	17%	24,786	117,471	49,921	✓	35,763	169,498	72,030
28	10-Jul	401,427	25%	35,110	166,402	70,715	✓	70,873	335,900	142,745
29	17-Jul	387,466	24%	33,889	160,615	68,255	✓	104,762	496,515	211,001
30	24-Jul	248,764	15%	21,758	103,119	43,822	✓	126,520	599,635	254,822
31	31-Jul	130,044	8%	11,374	53,907	22,908	✓	137,894	653,541	277,731
32	7-Aug	34,082	2%	2,981	14,128	6,004	✓	140,875	667,669	283,735
33	14-Aug	10,391	1%	909	4,307	1,830	✓	141,784	671,976	285,565
34	21-Aug	2,469	0%	216	1,024	435	✓			
Grand Total		1,623,538	100%	142,000	673,000	286,000	✓	142,000	673,000	286,000
							Brood needs	150,000	150,000	150,000
							Est. Harvest available		523,000	136,000
								150,000	673,000	286,000
							Brood lbs	1,125,000	1,125,000	1,125,000
							Harvest lbs	-	3,922,500	1,020,000
								1,125,000	5,047,500	2,145,000

Figure 4. Projected number of pounds available for harvest in the Gunnuk Creek SHA in 2021.

(Assumes similar timing to Hidden Falls return)

Gunnuk Creek								
		2021 Forecast						
		39,000	116,000	77,000	CUMULATIVE FISH			
Week	2021 Week End Date	Low	High	Forecast	Low	High	Forecast	
24	12-Jun	29	86	57	29	86	57	
25	19-Jun	403	1,199	796	432	1,285	853	
26	26-Jun	2,583	7,683	5,100	3,015	8,968	5,953	
27	3-Jul	6,807	20,248	13,440	9,822	29,215	19,393	
28	10-Jul	9,643	28,682	19,039	19,465	57,897	38,431	
29	17-Jul	9,308	27,684	18,376	28,773	85,581	56,808	
30	24-Jul	5,976	17,774	11,798	34,749	103,355	68,606	
31	31-Jul	3,124	9,292	6,168	37,872	112,646	74,774	
32	7-Aug	819	2,435	1,616	38,691	115,081	76,390	
33	14-Aug	250	742	493	38,941	115,824	76,883	
34	21-Aug	59	176	117				
Grand Total		39,000	116,000	77,000	39,000	116,000	77,000	
	Brood needs	20,000	20,000	20,000				
	Est. Harvest available	19,000	96,000	57,000				
		39,000	116,000	77,000				
	Brood lbs	150,000	150,000	150,000				
	Harvest lbs	142,500	720,000	427,500				
		292,500	870,000	577,500				

Figure 5. Hidden Falls SHA/THA

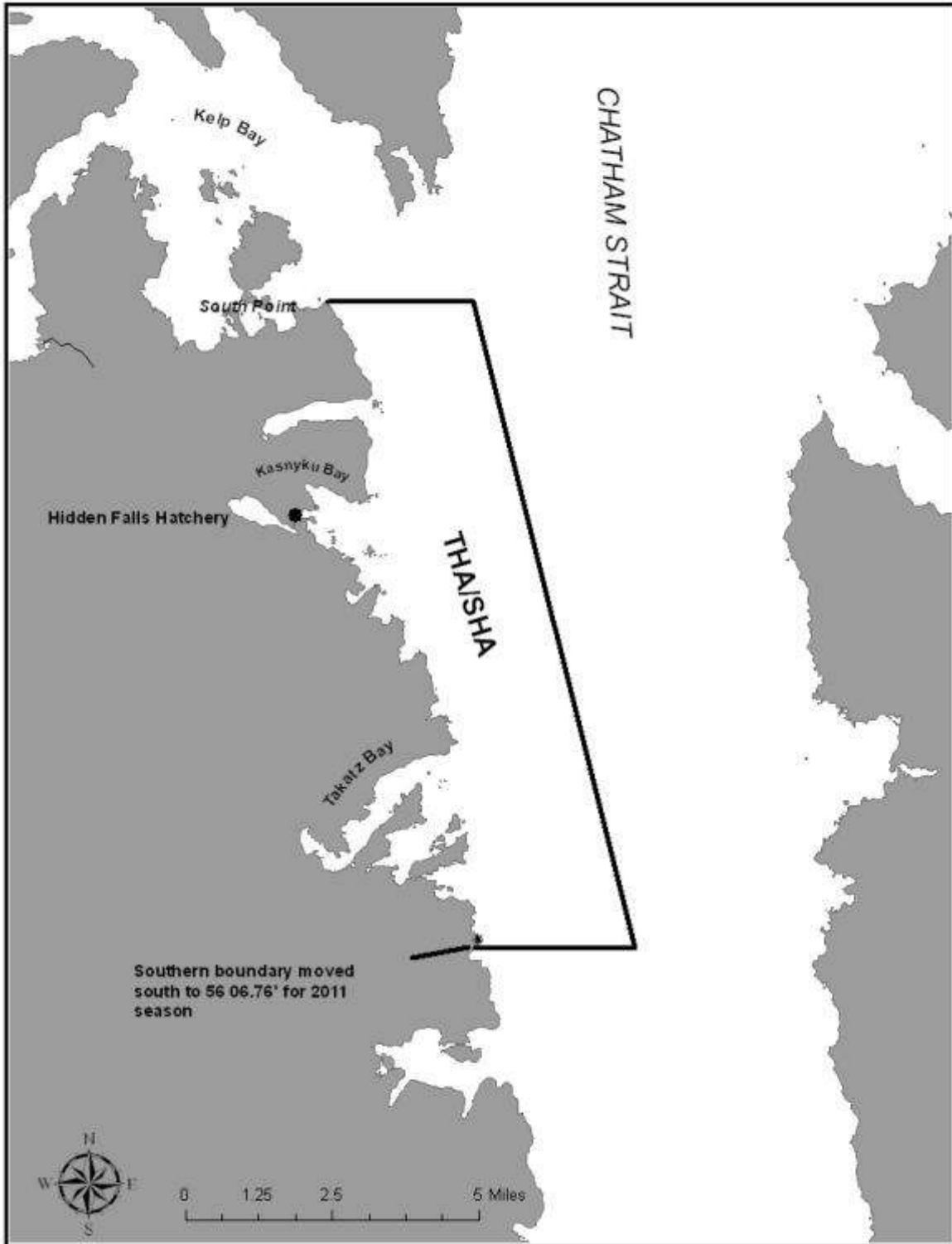


Figure 6. Gunnuk Creek Hatchery SHAs. Note; cost recovery fishing will only occur in the Gunnuk Creek SHA. Southeast Cove SHA will open for common property harvest.

Gunnuk Creek Hatchery SHAs

