

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 40.1XX. New section.

Amend private-non-profit hatchery permits to decrease allowable hatchery production, as follows:

The Board of Fisheries would hold the private-non-profit (PNP) hatchery production to the 2000 level and decrease it by 25% of that level.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is an over-production of hatchery pink salmon that threatens wild Alaska stocks.

The magnitude of releases of hatchery produced pink salmon in Prince William Sound (PWS) poses a threat to wild stocks of salmon in the Gulf of Alaska. Further expansion of pink salmon production by PWS hatcheries increases the risk to wild salmon. This is contrary to the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy. As evidence, we cite the very high rates of inter-regional straying of hatchery pink salmon into Lower Cook Inlet, and scientific research studies and agency reports that document the adverse impacts on wild salmon and other wildlife from increased food competition in the North Pacific Ocean, where there are record high salmon abundance levels and an increasingly variable ocean environment.

Recent scientific publications (building on past published reports and internal ADFG reviews) have provided cause for great concern over the biological impacts associated with continued release of very large numbers of hatchery salmon into the North Pacific Ocean, including the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.

AS 44.62 – Authorizes Board of Fisheries to amend terms of permit relating to the source and number of salmon eggs.

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