



SALMON HATCHERIES FOR ALASKA

TESTIMONY TALKING POINTS UPPER COOK INLET BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING

- Alaska's hatchery programs have been a cornerstone of our state's fisheries for nearly five decades.
- Hatcheries play a vital role in supporting our communities, economies, and the sustainability of our salmon runs.

Economic Significance:

- Alaska's salmon hatchery program is a sustainable economic development model that benefits many stakeholders.
- Hatcheries provide jobs, income, and economic output in coastal communities, contributing to local economies.

Diverse Benefits:

- Hatchery programs benefit many user groups, including subsistence, personal use, sport, and commercial fishermen.
- They ensure salmon are accessible and abundant for everyone, regardless of their fishing style or purpose.

Reduced Pressure on Wild Stocks:

- Hatcheries are crucial in reducing pressure on wild salmon stocks, especially during years of lower abundance.
- By providing hatchery-produced salmon, we help safeguard wild salmon runs.

Protecting Communities:

- Coastal communities like Valdez and Cordova rely on hatchery programs to support their economies.
- These programs provide jobs and income and maintain the rich traditions of our fishing heritage.

Responsible Management:

- Alaska's salmon hatchery program is highly regulated and grounded in science.
- Hatchery operations are subject to rigorous oversight, ensuring sustainable practices.

Certifications and Sustainability:

- Our salmon fisheries, including hatchery-origin salmon, are consistently certified as sustainable by programs like Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).
- This recognition underscores the responsible management of our fisheries, including hatchery contributions.

Scientific Decision-Making:

- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is the designated authority for permitting, egg take adjustments, and hatchery production decisions.
- Their scientific approach and data-driven decisions have a proven track record of success.

Rejecting Proposal 43:

- Proposal 43 seeks to significantly reduce pink salmon production, threatening the balance we've achieved in our fisheries.
- A reduction of this magnitude would have far-reaching consequences on our communities, economies, and wild stocks.

The Need for Collaborative Solutions:

- Instead of drastic reductions, we urge collaborative efforts between the hatchery community, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and industry leaders.
- Working together, we can ensure the sustainability of our salmon fisheries while addressing concerns.

Preserving Alaska's Fisheries Legacy:

- As Alaskans, we share a deep appreciation for our salmon resources and the desire to see them flourish for future generations.
- By protecting our hatchery programs, we safeguard the legacy of our fisheries heritage.

Conclusion:

- Alaska's salmon hatchery program is a testament to responsible resource management and sustainable salmon harvests that benefit all Alaskans.
- Rejecting Proposal 43 and pursuing collaborative solutions will help ensure the continued prosperity of our salmon fisheries and the communities they support.