Holley Bayne

From: Arleigh Reynolds <areynolds@Sitkascience.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 4:42 PM
To: Holley Bayne
Subject: SSSC fisheries enhancement fand pplication
Attachments: SSSC FishBoxFinal.pdf

Dear Holley,
Please find attached the Sitka sound Science Center's 2024 application for the fisheries enhancement fund. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this application. Thank you very much for the opportunity to apply for these funds.
Take care,
Arleigh Reynolds

Application City and Borough of Sitka Fisheries Enhancement Fund

Sitka Sound Science Center

2024

The Sitka Sound Science Center (SSSC) is grateful for the important funds we have received from the Fish Box tax in previous years. **These funds will make a significant difference in our ability to enhance fisheries to the benefit of the entire community.** We respectfully request the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly consider providing the Sheldon Jackson (SJ) Salmon Hatchery $27,996.00 from the Fisheries Enhancement Fund**. SSSC serves the entire community. Every student in the Sitka Schools experiences our programs, and all of Sitka residents have access to the enhanced fish that originate from the SJ Hatchery.** The SJ Salmon Hatchery work aligns perfectly with the purpose of the Fisheries Enhancement Fund. Our facility is permitted for 12 million chum, 3 million pink and 250,000 coho salmon eggs. The Sitka Sound Science Center produces these fish for the charter, commercial, sport and subsistence harvest in Sitka Sound and Deep Inlet. We have a partnership with the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture, for whom we provide 9 million chum eggs, returning over $12.2 million total value to the commercial fishing fleets of Sitka over the past ten years and millions to the guided sport industry, from whom the fisheries enhancement fund tax originates. The salmon that SSSC releases in front of our facility are valued at another $600,000 just for the commercial catch. We also release chinook salmon that are caught by children and subsistence users directly from Sage Beach, which is right downtown and accessible to those without their own vessels. In 2023, SSSC contributed $2.2 million to the commercial salmon fleet, and enhanced the guided sport fishery. Importantly, our return site adjacent to the Sage Beach provides a unique opportunity for anglers of all ages to catch salmon.

History of the Organization: Sitka Sound Science Center

The Sitka Sound Science Center (SSSC) is a **non-profit 501c3** organization formed in 2007. The Sitka Sound Science Center is dedicated to increasing understanding and awareness of terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems of coastal Alaska through education and research. Our vision is to be the leading scientific and educational institution in coastal Alaska through innovative, inspiring and community centered programming. Our robust research portfolio includes a breadth of topics that reflect the community's need including ocean health research, fisheries genetics, as well as landslide monitoring and warning. We have over 30 educational programs that are in-school and out of school as well as a breadth of informal learning opportunities for residents, undergraduates, graduate students and visitors. We own the 1929-era Sage building, and Sitka Sawmill that at one time housed the Sheldon Jackson College science classrooms and laboratories. Today we operate the Molly O Ahlgren Aquarium and the Sheldon Jackson Salmon Hatchery as teaching tools for some of our 30 educational programs. We employ 20 full-time year-round positions and another 18 seasonal positions.

The Sheldon Jackson Salmon Hatchery was one of the first hatcheries permitted in the State of Alaska. Built by the students of Sheldon Jackson, the hatchery was a production facility and a training location where students learned fisheries biology, natural resource management, and fisheries enhancement techniques. Graduates from the fisheries program at Sheldon Jackson College from 1975 to 2007 are now professionals and leaders in fisheries enhancement, management, and policy around the State of Alaska. When SSSC took over operation of the hatchery in 2007, our board remained committed to

contributing to the common property fishery and the continuation of the unique training program our location and facility affords.

Today, SSSC delivers high quality science education programs and conducts collaborative, community-centered research with research institutions from around the nation. SSSC works to conduct research that reflects Sitka's locally relevant scientific questions and in close partnership with fishing interests such as DIPAC, Northern Southeast Aquaculture Association, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Silver Bay Seafoods.

Our programs:

What's new? SSSC has recently completed its new Spawning Platform and Incubation Facility (SPIFy) This project was supported by the regional aquaculture associations, the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) and the Douglas Island Pink and Chum(DIPAC), as well as the Rasmuson Foundation, the MJ Murdock Trust, the Northern Fund of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, Cargill Inc, and the USDA. The completion of this building is a significant milestone for us as we can now teach aquaculture students using modern equipment, better preparing them for the aquaculture workforce. Additionally, it will allow us to better demonstrate fishery enhancement to the thousands of visitors we are hosting. The project also frees up space in the basement of our main building to accommodate more fisheries and ocean-related scientific research. We are also have just completed slip lining our 1911 wood stave pipe that delivers water from Indian River to our facility. The slip lining project secures our fresh water supply which is so critical for rearing fish and conducting research.

This year we have paid internships and mentored research opportunities for high school students in the summer and throughout the year. These experiences are funded through the National Science Foundation.

We also host the University of Alaska's Fisheries Technology mariculture seaweed project. The Fish Tech program is teaching students about seaweed mariculture by placing growth lines adjacent to the SJ Hatchery net pens where salmon spend a few weeks before they are released.

Other Information

We continued our strong research partnerships with, NSRAA, Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Association, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of California, University of San Francisco, U.S. Coast Guard, RAND Corporation, National Weather Service, Canadian Geologic Survey, Alaska Volcano Observatory, University of Oregon, NOAA, US Geologic Survey, State Division of Geologic and Geophysical Services, U.S. Forest Service, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We have recently hired Dr. Morag Clinton a veterinarian and Ph.D. fish pathologist to help us study fish diseases that are impacting salmon in southeast Alaska. This will work will support all harvesters of wild salmon.

Our educational programs offer experiences for people of all ages. SSSC after school, and summer camps have become enormously popular and our Scientists in the Schools program, integrated into the K-12 curriculum for the Sitka School District and Mt. Edgecumbe High School continue to assist **all students** in all of our schools. Our other education programs include our Sprouts program for 3-5 years old children and their guardians, and Sitka WhaleFest which brings scientists from around the nation to Sitka each fall to share their research findings and celebrate the marine environment. We institute community research and education programs with Sitka Tribe of Alaska, US Forest Service, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of California Santa Cruz, Williams College, Johns Hopkins University, Exeter College, and Sitka Conservation Society.

Enhancement

Sitka Sound Science Center is part of the almost $1 billion fisheries enhancement industry in Alaska. Southeast Alaska hatcheries contribute millions of pounds of fish to commercial, charter, sport, personal use and subsistence fisheries, resulting in the injection of millions of dollars into the Sitka economy. The McDowell study (May 2017) demonstrates how important hatcheries are to our community and regional economy. Hatcheries create 2,000 jobs in Southeast Alaska and produce $90 million in labor income. The SJ Hatchery facility is permitted by the State for 12 million Chums, 3 million Pinks, and 250,000 Coho, providing important local sport, commercial, and charter fishing opportunities near town. Sitka has 81 guided sport businesses and employs more than 160 people (with Sitka residencies). While we don't know the exact numbers of fish taken by nonresident guided anglers, we know hatcheries contribute to their catch. In addition, visitors target our fish when fishing near the Sea Walk and Sage Beach (adjacent to our facility). Our nonprofit organization provides 9 million chum eggs for the Deep Inlet remote release site. Because of our location, SSSC-reared salmon are easily accessible to commercial fishermen, recreational and guided sport fishermen including land-based sport and subsistence fishing. The return site adjacent to Sage Beach provides a unique opportunity for anglers to catch salmon from the shore, an opportunity used by children, families, and elders during the salmon return. We also provide salmon carcasses for locals to use for dog food and gardening. In addition, SSSC is training people to work in fisheries enhancement. We have regular and long-term internships to train people in aquaculture. **We have weekly aquaculture classes with all three of the high schools in Sitka. We are the only working training facility hatchery in the State of Alaska, and one of only two in the Pacific Northwest**.

We are part of the State of Alaska $20 million long term study on the interaction between wild and hatchery chum salmon overseeing the Southeast field crews conducting the research.

Our facility received approximately 25,000 visitors in 2023 including many charter clients in town for fishing as well as cruise ship passengers, students, and scientists. As part of the visitor experience, we provide them with a history of salmon enhancement and commercial, sport and subsistence fishing in Alaska. We teach visitors about the salmon life cycle, how our community depends on fishing for an economic base and the importance of culture in our relationship with the natural world.

Community Support

Sitka Sound Science Center has a wide breadth of community support as represented by our donation and in-kind support from fish processors such as Silver Bay Seafoods, and Sitka Sound Seafoods; private foundations including the Sitka Permanent Charitable Trust, Rasmuson Foundation, individual members, and a breadth of individual donations. We are also supported by Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC) and the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA). Our Board of Directors represents a cross section of Sitka. Our board members are: Elizabeth Bagely (Project Drawdown); Kitty LaBounty (UAS); Linda Waller (retired Sitka Sound Seafoods); Michael Mausbach (Chair, Spruce Root); Rob Allen (retired Allen Marine); Laurel Stark (treasurer, Spruce Root).

Dollars Requested: Sitka Sound Science Center respectfully requests $27,996.00 of the fisheries enhancement funds. We request this amount to support our fisheries enhancement activities for this year. We are not requesting the entire amount as we want to also support the Sitka Tribes application to support the fishery at Redoubt Lake and not compete with that request.

Statement of what will be achieved with the funding: Fisheries Enhancement funding will enable Sitka Sound Science Center to maintain its hatchery production and enhancement operations. The monies from the Fisheries Enhancement Fund will go directly into supporting hatchery operations and staffing the hatchery. These positions are responsible for overseeing fish health, spawning, daily fish culture, tagging fish, water quality monitoring, research operations, facility issues and other essential hatchery tasks that support strong, healthy fish releases. Because of the small size of our facility, cost recovery fishing does not pay all the bills for our operations. We consider the fish box tax funds as recouping from some of the users who benefit from the Sitka Sound Science Center hatchery. **The funds provided by the fish box tax are vital for our organization, and our hatchery which serves all of Sitka.**

Explanation of how this will enhance the fisheries within the City and Borough of Sitka: Sitka Sound Science Center provides fisheries enhancement in many ways to the entire community. We directly contribute to salmon fishing opportunities for **all users** in Sitka by:

- Support hatchery operations during the 2024 season – employees, supplies
- Enhance the quantity of fish stocks returning to Sitka Sound by releasing 250,000 Coho, 3 million Chum and 3 million Pink salmon that return to Crescent Bay.
- Enhance and contribute to the Deep Inlet terminal fishery in partnership with NSRAA to release 9 million Chum salmon.
- Provide a release and terminal area for 400,000 king salmon released by NSRAA. These fish are caught by all users especially those who may not have access to a boat.

Additionally, we ensure fisheries enhancement into the future by:

- Training students through our aquaculture training programs in the schools and in association with the University of Alaska's Fisheries Technology classes.
- Introduce **every Sitka K-12 student** to fisheries enhancement, science and other marine related disciplines as options for their future careers by providing hands-on laboratories and supporting science curriculum at all Sitka Schools.
- Educate visitors (including guided sport clients) about hatcheries and how salmon enhancement works in conjunction with wild salmon management and conservation in Southeast Alaska and the important role of commercial, sport and subsistence fishing to Sitka's economy, lifestyle and culture.
- Provide internship opportunities for high school and college students studying science and to work in science education and hatchery operations during the summer.
- Provide summer employment opportunities for Sitka High School students to work in science education and hatchery operations.

ATTACHED:

Hatchery Pro Forma

SSSC recent Balance Sheet

Letters of Support

Sheldon Jackson Hatchery (SSSC) Proforma - Revenue
Return Projections & Revenue Updated 22-Apr-24 WHC Actual

SSSC
Estimated Commerical contribution 2024-2031

	PINK	CHUM	COHO	CHINOOK	TOTAL
Fish	711,360	327,968	32,900	1,219	
Pounds	2,560,896	2,590,944	246,750	17,064	
Value	$ 460,961.28	1,606,385.01	$ 182,595.00	44,879	$ 2,294,820.75

Pinks

Brood Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Permitted Eggs	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Associated Release	2,700,000	2,700,000	2,819,195	2,901,782	2,850,000	2,850,000	2,850,000	2,850,000	2,850,000	2,850,000	2,850,000	2,850,000	2,850,000	2,850,000

Recovery

Assumptions		
marine survival	5.2%	price
commercial harvest %	50%	inflation
comm. price per pound	$ 0.18	2.5%
average weight	3.60 lbs	

Return Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
2 yr olds	191,826	268,455	283,566	606,270	143,650	148,200	148,200	148,200	148,200	148,200	148,200	148,200	148,200
Brood stock	5,812	5,001	3,667	14,380	11,914	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Commercial catch	115,096	58,532	127,603	94,420	66,753	88,920	88,920	88,920	88,920	88,920	88,920	88,920	88,920
Cost Recovery (CR) Fish	113,259	185,924	273,889	561,765	331,683	54,280	54,280	54,280	54,280	54,280	54,280	54,280	54,280
CR price $/lb	$ 0.18	$ 0.18	$ 0.22	$ 0.28	$ 0.11	$ 0.12	$ 0.12	$ 0.12	$ 0.12	$ 0.12	$ 0.13	$ 0.13	$ 0.13
CR Pounds	390,421	669,326	662,547	1,797,650	1,194,059	195,408	195,408	195,408	195,408	195,408	195,408	195,408	195,408
Revenue	$ 68,599.71	$ 120,478.75	$142,447.61	$ 503,342.00	$ 131,346.47	$ 22,032.25	$ 22,583.06	$ 23,147.63	$ 23,726.33	$ 24,319.48	$ 24,927.47	$ 25,550.66	$ 26,189.42

Chum

Brood Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Permitted Eggs	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Associated Release	2,902,360	2,795,979	2,293,105	2,743,086	2,987,634	2,966,004	2,978,000	2,952,590	2,999,000	2,760,000	2,760,000	2,760,000	2,760,000	2,760,000	2,760,000	2,760,000	2,760,000

Recovery

Assumptions			
marine survival		2.2%	
3 yr	12%		
4 yr	66%		
5 yr	21%		
6 yr	1%		price
commercial harvest		65%	inflation
comm. price per pound		$ 0.62	2.5%
average weight		7.90 lbs	

Return Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
3-year-old	6,054	10,208	9,197	6,227	19,305	7,795	7,917	7,286	7,286	7,286	7,286	7,286	7,286
4-year-old	40,598	15,612	50,581	39,749	106,175	43,066	43,241	42,872	43,545	40,075	40,075	40,075	40,075
5-year-old	10,781	5,704	16,094	12,647	33,783	13,803	13,703	13,758	13,641	13,855	12,751	12,751	12,751
6-year-old	648	30	766	5,022	1,609	657	653	655	650	660	607	607	607
Total adults	58,081	31,554	76,638	64,645	160,871	65,321	65,513	64,572	65,122	61,877	60,720	60,720	60,720
Brood stock	2,500	2,500	2,500	5,399	20,838	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Commercial catch	6,970	20,510	35,503	47,050	76,323	42,459	42,584	41,971	42,330	40,220	39,468	39,468	39,468
Cost Recovery (CR) Fish	20,690	12,299	35,700	9,511	58,710	20,362	20,430	20,100	20,293	19,157	18,752	18,752	18,752
CR price $/lb	$ 0.48	$ 0.62	$ 0.78	$ 0.97	$ 0.08	$ 0.08	$ 0.08	$ 0.09	$ 0.09	$ 0.09	$ 0.09	$ 0.10	$ 0.10
CR Pounds	188,437	97,162	240,822	96,369	463,809	160,864	161,394	158,790	160,313	151,339	148,141	148,141	148,141
Revenue	$ 78,522.00	$ 60,240.50	$187,841.16	$ 93,477.93	$ 37,104.72	$ 13,190.81	$ 13,565.21	$ 13,679.98	$ 14,156.49	$ 13,698.12	$ 13,743.83	$ 14,087.43	$ 14,439.61

Coho

Brood Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Permitted Eggs	170,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Associated Release	157,554	212,500	225,775	235,000	177,000	235,000	235,000	235,000	235,000	235,000	235,000	235,000	235,000	235,000	235,000

Recovery

Assumptions		
marine survival	3.5%	price
commercial harvest %	50%	inflation
comm. price per pound	$ 0.74	2.5%
average weight	7.50 lbs	

Return Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
3 yr olds	9,355	3,695	7,902	3,240	8,958	8,225	8,225	8,225	8,225	8,225	8,225	8,225	8,225
Brood stock	519	199	231	888	106	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Commercial catch	7,516	1,212	4,182	1,457	8,283	4,113	4,113	4,113	4,113	4,113	4,113	4,113	4,113
Cost Recovery (CR) Fish	1,074	1,796	136	162	401	3,813	3,813	3,813	3,813	3,813	3,813	3,813	3,813
CR price $/lb	$ 1.03	$ 0.74	$ 0.78	$ 0.33	$ 0.34	$ 0.35	$ 0.36	$ 0.36	$ 0.37	$ 0.38	$ 0.39	$ 0.40	
CR Pounds	8,368	13,470	709	953	1,148	28,594	28,594	28,594	28,594	28,594	28,594	28,594	28,594
Revenue	$ 8,627	$ 9,967.8	$ 553.0	$ 743.3	$ 378.8	$ 9,671.8	$ 9,913.6	$ 10,161.5	$ 10,415.5	$ 10,675.9	$ 10,942.8	$ 11,216.4	$ 11,496.8

Chinook - NSRAA smolt release

Brood Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2029
Permitted Eggs	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Associated Release		380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000

Recovery

Assumptions			
marine survival		0.07%	
4 yr	10%		
5 yr	62%		
6 yr	28%		price
commercial harvest %		54%	inflation
comm. price per pound		$ 2.63	2.5%
average weight		14.00 lbs	

Return Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2031
4		17	47	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
5		106	296	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155
6		48	133	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Total adults		171	478	251	251	251	251	251	251	251	251	251	251
Commercial catch		92	167	211	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
Cost Recovery (CR) Fish	5	11	311	54	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115
CR price $/lb	$ 2.63	$ 2.88	$ 3.88	$ 3.88	$ 3.98	$ 4.08	$ 4.18	$ 4.28	$ 4.39	$ 4.50	$ 4.61	$ 4.73	$ 4.73
CR Pounds	70	160	2,782	241	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615
Revenue	$ 184.10	$ 460.80	$ 10,794.16	$ 935.08	$ 6,423.46	$ 6,584.05	$ 6,748.65	$ 6,917.36	$ 7,090.30	$ 7,267.55	$ 7,449.24	$ 7,635.47	$ 7,635.47

Total Cost recovery revenue 2023	
All Species	$ 169,765.11

Sitka Sound Science Center

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10010 Wells Fargo Investment	8,907.68
10050 Petty Cash	900.20
Checking (2766)	1,958,650.38
PayPal Bank	858.09
Total Bank Accounts	**$1,969,316.35**
Accounts Receivable	
11000 Accounts Receivable	439,195.11
Total Accounts Receivable	**$439,195.11**
Other Current Assets	
10060 AK Airlines Ticket Refunds	0.00
12000 Undeposited Funds	28,171.11
12500 Rental Deposit	0.00
13000 Prepaid Insurance	31,654.46
13500 Prepaid	0.00
14000 Salary Advances	0.00
Payroll Refunds	0.00
Repayment	
Rent	0.00
Total Repayment	**0.00**
Total Other Current Assets	**$59,825.57**
Total Current Assets	**$2,468,337.03**
Fixed Assets	
15000 Sage Building	271,744.58
15001 Sage Building Improvements	1,567,806.25
Total 15000 Sage Building	**1,839,550.83**
15002 Lincoln Street Land	416,950.00
15003 Hatchery Improvements	252,009.00
15004 Mill Building	1,467,214.98
15005 1101 Edgecumbe Drive Property	680,000.00
15500 Equipment Capitalized	274,068.73
15555 Accumulated Depreciation	-502,903.00
15560 Construction in Progress	164,010.04
Total Fixed Assets	**$4,590,900.58**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$7,059,237.61**

Sitka Sound Science Center

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 Accounts Payable	86,749.36
Total Accounts Payable	**$86,749.36**
Credit Cards	
21000 Bank of America Visa	54,243.68
Total Credit Cards	**$54,243.68**
Other Current Liabilities	
22500 Accrued Payroll	0.00
23000 Sales/Bed Tax Payable	0.00
23500 Rental Deposits	0.00
24000 Grant Advance	0.00
24500 Deferred Revenue	0.00
City And Borough of Sitka Payable	0.00
Sales Tax Payable	0.00
Total City And Borough of Sitka Payable	**0.00**
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00
Grant Reimbursement Payable	0.00
Payroll Liabilities	0.00
AK Unemployment Tax	4,913.02
Federal Taxes (941/944)	10,857.66
Misc Deduction	0.00
MO Income Tax	455.00
OR Income Tax	182.00
Simple IRA	-461.40
Simple IRA Co Match	-460.39
Total Payroll Liabilities	**15,485.89**
Total Other Current Liabilities	**$15,485.89**
Total Current Liabilities	**$156,478.93**
Long-Term Liabilities	
25500 State of Alaska FELP #1	0.00
25600 State of Alaska FELP #2	0.00
25700 State of Aalska FELP #3	392,072.00
25800 SBA PPP Loan	0.00
25900 SBA PPP Loan II	0.00
26000 State of Alaska FELP #4	554,800.00
26100 1101 Edgecumbe Drive Property (Liability)	452,757.06
Total Long-Term Liabilities	**$1,399,629.06**
Total Liabilities	**$1,556,107.99**

Sitka Sound Science Center

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL
Equity	
30000 Opening Balance Equity	0.00
32000 Retained Earnings	4,842,512.68
32500 Board Designated Reserves	
32501 Operating Reserve Fund	151,355.00
32502 Debt Service Reserve Fund	147,423.91
32503 Reserve for Replacement Fund	38,074.00
32504 Scholarship Reserve Fund	22,138.70
32505 Endowment Fund	105,700.00
Total 32500 Board Designated Reserves	**464,691.61**
33000 Temporarily Restricted Funds	0.00
Net Revenue	195,925.33
Total Equity	**$5,503,129.62**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	**$7,059,237.61**

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA SOUTHEAST | FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY
SITKA CAMPUS

Sitka Campus
1332 Seward Ave
Sitka, AK 99835
Tel: (907) 747-7700
Fax: (907) 747-7793
Toll Free: (800) 478-6653
www.uas.alaska.edu/sitka

Sitka Sound Science Center
834 Lincoln Street
Sitka, AK 99835

May 16, 2024

Dear Members of the Assembly,

I am writing in support of the Sitka Sound Science Center's request for funds from the Fisheries Enhancement Fund. These funds help the Sheldon Jackson Hatchery continue the important work that they do to provide fish for our common property fisheries while educating students and the public on the role hatcheries play in supporting our economy and cultural identity as a Southeast Alaska coastal fishing community. These funds are most important for the hatchery during times like these when fish prices are volatile and cost recovery revenue uncertain.

The University of Alaska Southeast Sitka works closely with the Science Center on several research, hatchery, and educational programs. I am a professor in the Applied Fisheries Program, and I have worked in the aquaculture industry for 18 years as a technician, hatchery manager and now, educator. I believe the Science Center is carrying out the intent of the fisheries enhancement fund by providing salmon that are caught in our commercial, subsistence and sport fisheries. Additionally, they help educate local students and visitors about the importance of Alaska's salmon hatchery program, provide a platform for important fisheries research and train our future aquaculturists and fisheries managers. In addition, their facility enables our program to offer hands-on training to university students. I believe the intent of the funds is to enhance fisheries in the Sitka area and SSSC is doing that while also providing opportunities for important research and education in aquaculture and fisheries.

I support the work that they do and hope you will consider providing the funds they requested to help them keep doing great work.

Sincerely,
Angela J Bowers
Angie Bowers
Assistant Professor
University of Alaska Southeast

NORTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.

(907) 747-6850 1308 Sawmill Creek Road Sitka, Alaska 99835
FAX (907) 747-1470
EMAIL scott_wagner@nsraa.org

May 16, 2024

RE: Support for Sitka Sound Science Center 2024 Fish Box Tax Request

Dear Mayor Eisenbeisz & Sitka Assembly,

The Sitka Sound Science Center through its operation of the Sheldon Jackson Hatchery fully meets the criteria for receiving the 2024 Fish Box Tax funds in the category for salmon enhancement. SSSC conducts and is committed to salmon enhancement programs that benefit common property fisheries in Sitka. No other entity in Sitka, applying for the funds, fulfills that mission. In addition, SSSC provides several functions that support enhancement programs in important and fundamental ways, including kindergarten to college science education and aquaculture research, as well as providing student/employee salmon hatchery training.

Commercial fishermen have benefited directly from the 12 million chum eggs (increased from 10 million in 2013) associated with the Sheldon Jackson Hatchery permit. If it were not for SSSC operating the hatchery there would be 150,000 fewer adult chum salmon on average to catch in Sitka Sound each year. The total value of the SJ hatchery chum caught in Deep Inlet by the commercial fleet from 2006 to 2024 is $12,560,000. These dollars flow through Sitka's economy. While the ex-vessel value accrues to fishermen and the community, it doesn't pay for the SJ hatchery program which is why the box tax is significant and important to SSSC.

NSRAA is a private non-profit fisheries enhancement organization based in Sitka. We have several large salmon production facilities that benefit commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use fishermen in the region. The NSRAA board is comprised of 15 commercial fishermen representing the three salmon gear groups, one crew seat, and 9 non-commercial seats including subsistence, conservation, municipality, Native organization, and sport fishermen. NSRAA has a strong partnership with Sitka Sound Science Center that began at its inception. NSRAA believes SSSC is ideally suited for receipt of the fish box tax, and wholly deserves the funds.

The SJ hatchery was one of the very first permitted enhancement facilities in the State of Alaska. It has been producing salmon for common property fisheries in Sitka Sound since 1975. Importantly, SSSC has improved the hatchery infrastructure, staff, and programs. Fishermen depend on SSSC's 12 million permitted chum eggs.

A final comment regarding the origin of the 'box tax' that you may find relevant. The sponsors of the 'box tax' specifically wanted a tax levied on entities that were benefiting from enhanced salmon, particularly coho and chinook, but not paying or contributing to salmon enhancement costs. Commercial fishermen via NSRAA were and are footing 99% of local production costs for chinook, chum and coho through the 3% SET tax. In discussions with the 'box tax' sponsors, they expected the tax money to flow to NSRAA as a way to offset some of the costs. Subsequent to the 'box tax' implementation the NSRAA board established a policy prohibiting acceptance of sport charter derived money in order to maintain clean accounting of commercial

fishermen paying for 100% of the production costs. Therefore, it is logical that the only other producer of enhanced salmon in the Sitka area, SSSC should receive the 'box tax' funds for its intended purpose.

Please support this important enhancement operation in Sitka.

Sincerely,

Scott Wagner
General Manager

Sitka High School

1000 Lake Street
Sitka, AK 99835
Phone: (907) 747-3263
Fax: (907) 747-3229

April 20, 2024

Dear Assembly,

I would like to send this letter of support for Sitka Sound Science Center's (SSSC) application for the fish box tax funds.

I have taught science in our district for twenty years and am finishing my fifth year at Sitka High School. I currently teach Life Science, Field Science and Marine Biology.

During my field science class, I teach a course within a course on aquaculture in collaboration with SSSC. My students go to the hatchery at SSSC each week and participate in hands on learning. They start the year with spawning 3 species of salmon then progress through the year experiencing aquaculture skills including egg shocking and picking, tagging, ponding, sampling and feeding. They also work with pathology, system maintenance and aquaculture management. As part of the course students also participate in a career fair that is set up to connect these students directly to the aquaculture industry. Each of these hands-on experiences is accompanied by classroom instruction and relation to the ecosystem of Southeast Alaska.

Sitka High works hand and glove with Sitka Sound Science Center and believes this non profit, 501c3, is an important community partner that serves all of Sitka through its education, research and aquaculture program. These funds are an integral piece to the education our students and we believe Sitka SSC deserves these funds

Sincerely,

Stacy Golden

Stacy Golden
Sitka High School Science Teacher