

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA OPPOSING PROPOSAL 156 TO
BE CONSIDERED AT THE JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 9, 2025,
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING**

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska's salmon hatchery programs have successfully operated for almost 50 years, supplementing wild salmon harvests and supporting commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries across the state, which are vital to communities such as Sitka; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 156 seeks to reduce hatchery production of pink and chum salmon by 25%, posing a significant risk to the hatchery-supported ecosystem in Southeast Alaska and threatening the stability of salmon resources on which coastal communities like Sitka depend; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in hatchery production would not only diminish the availability of salmon for commercial but would also limit access to salmon for subsistence, personal use and sport fishers, thereby directly impacting food security, cultural practices, and recreational opportunities in communities like Sitka; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program is responsible for supporting approximately 4,200 jobs, \$219 million in labor income, and \$576 million in economic output annually, benefiting over 14,000 Alaskans who earn part of their livelihood from hatchery salmon; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Southeast Alaska Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC), and Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) play critical roles in generating economic stability, providing jobs, and supporting local communities through hatchery operations; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 156 would create uncertainty for hatchery production, complicating long-term planning and financial commitments for these organizations, potentially jeopardizing the sustainability of Alaska's hatchery program, which has historically been a successful partnership between private nonprofits and the state; and

WHEREAS, the current data on hatchery impact on wild salmon populations remains inconclusive and does not substantiate the drastic cuts proposed by Proposal 156; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's hatchery system operates as a nonprofit model funded through cost recovery and enhancement taxes, following stringent public permitting and scientific standards to ensure that wild salmon populations are protected while benefiting all user groups; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 156 introduces an additional oversight mechanism that would conflict with the established regulatory framework, risking the proven balance between hatchery and wild stocks that has been achieved under existing management.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA, ALASKA:

Section 1. The City and Borough of Sitka strongly opposes Proposal 156, scheduled for consideration at the January 28 - February 9, 2025, Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, and urges the Board to reject this proposal to prevent detrimental economic and social impacts on Alaska's hatchery programs and the communities they support.

Section 2. The City and Borough of Sitka reaffirms its support for SSRAA, DIPAC, and NSRAA, acknowledging their essential contributions to Sitka's economy, community well-being, and sustainable fishery practices.

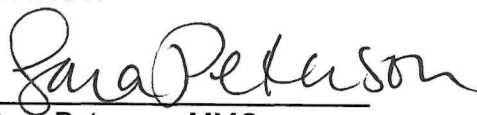
Section 3. The City and Borough of Sitka calls upon the Alaska Board of Fisheries to commit to science-based, objective assessments for hatchery management, working in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, industry leaders, and the hatchery community to ensure that management decisions reflect the value and benefits Alaska's hatchery programs bring to all residents.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 17th day of December, 2024.



Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading: 12/17/2024

Sponsors: Mosher/Christianson