

★ Right now, the official U.S. time is:

03:24:01 p.m.

12-hr 24-hr

Tuesday, May 14, 2019
Alaska Time (DST)
Corrected for network delay 302 m



Sun is shining in light region
It is night in dark region

THE U.S. TIME IS PROVIDED BY NIST & USNO

PRIVACY POLICY & SECURITY NOTICE TIME EXHIBITS

Also, try the [alternate Flash page](#) or see [About This Site](#)

Rcvd by: Renee Wheat

Date: May 14, 2019

Time: 3:24 pm

From: Sitka Sound Science Center

For: Fisheries Enhancement Fund

SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER

834 Lincoln Street, Suite 200
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Admin Phone: 907.747.8878
Email: info@sitkasoundsciencecenter.org



May 13, 2019

Dear Assembly members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit an application to the Fisheries Enhancement Fund. Sitka Sound Science Center is grateful for the funds we have received from this fund in the past. Over the last ten years, with support from the Fish Box tax, Sitka Sound Science Center has created a stronger hatchery program, strengthened our infrastructure, promoted Alaska aquaculture to visitors, expanded our fisheries enhancement educational opportunities to our Sitka students, and added to the common property fishery benefitting commercia.

We believe our hatchery program fits the spirit of what the voters intended when they approved this Fisheries Enhancement Fund with the fish box tax benefiting fisheries enhancement. The State of Alaska defines fisheries enhancement as salmon aquaculture. The fisheries enhancement facility we operate was started in 1972 by the students of Sheldon Jackson College and it was the first permitted hatchery in the State. This hatchery contributes directly to the local fishery to the benefit of a wide breadth of the community: children and elders can fish from Sage Beach, while subsistence, guided sport, sport and commercial gear groups land SJ Hatchery- originated salmon from around Sitka Sound.

Importantly, the large regional fishery enhancement facilities around the state, receive the proceeds from the fishery enhancement tax that commercial fishermen pay when they sell their fish. Sitka Sound Science Center does not receive those funds. Nor do we collect funds directly from the guided sport sector for fishery enhancement. The fish box tax revenue is meant to be guided sports contribution to fishery enhancement.

Sitka Sound Science Center is adding to Sitka's economy in many ways. We have created 19 full-time year-round positions and we have another 12 to 15 seasonal we hire in the summertime. Our educational programs are helping to launch a new generation of STEM educated workforce. Our aquarium and hatchery are also tourist attraction that brings visitors to shore, and we have attracted researchers from around the nation to help us better understand our natural world.

We respectfully request \$35,592.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Busch
Executive Director, Sitka Sound Science Center

Application City and Borough of Sitka Fisheries Enhancement Fund

Sitka Sound Science Center

2019

The Sitka Sound Science Center (SSSC) respectfully requests the City and Borough of Sitka consider providing the Sheldon Jackson Salmon Hatchery \$35,592 from the Fisheries Enhancement Fund. 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 \$8.3 million total value to the commercial fishing fleets of Sitka over the past ten years and millions to the guided sport industry. The salmon Sitka Sound Science Center release in front of our facility are valued at another \$300,000 just for the commercial catch. In 2018, SSSC contributed \$1.4 million to the commercial salmon fleet, and (though undocumented) enhanced the guided sport fishery. Our hatchery fish are also caught by recreational and subsistence fishermen in Sitka Sound and surrounding waters. 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 and aquatic ecosystems of Alaska through education and research. Our vision is to build on Sitka's legacy and potential as an educational and scientific community. We have 19 year-round staff members and 14 additional summer employees. We own the 1929-era Sage building 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. Our hatchery contributes to the guided sport and recreational fisheries, Sitka Sound common property fishery, the Deep Inlet chum fishery. The hatchery is also an educational tool that provides training to people in the UAS Fisheries Technology Training Program as well as in the Sitka School District and Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Students in these programs are the future of salmon enhancement and fisheries management. We provide an aquaculture class with hands-on, experiential learning to Pacific High School, Mt. Edgecumbe and Sitka High School students as well as facilitated mentorships for fisheries enhancement.

The Sheldon Jackson Salmon Hatchery was the first hatchery permitted in the State of Alaska. 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 the Science Center 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 research with a number of 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 NSRAA, Silver Bay Seafoods, and the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association.

Our programs:

What's new? We added a **facilitated mentorship in fisheries enhancement** for Sitka High and Mt. Edgecumbe High School students. In this mentorship students get hands on experience conducting authentic scientific research. We expanded our **aquaculture classes for high school students:** in which students receive exposure to fisheries enhancement issues, visit aquaculture facilities and do hands on activities with SSSC hatchery and education department staff to Sitka High School, Pacific High School and Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Our dive programs have also grown as the state and the nation become more interested in ocean acidification (OA) and mariculture. University of California Santa Cruz conducts dive research on kelp and OA educational programs and they also hold a winter dive field course for undergraduates in February.

We continued our strong partnerships with the University of Alaska Southeast Fish Tech program, NSRAA, Sitka School District, Mt. Edgecumbe High School, National Institute of Health, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Stanford University, University of San Francisco, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Mote Marine Laboratory, NOAA, US Geologic Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

We provide salmon culture workshops for students in the University of Alaska Fisheries Technology Program. Our 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, has been credited for raising science test scores and closing the academic achievement gap in science between Alaska Natives and non-Natives. Our other education programs include our Sprouts program for 3-5 years olds, a natural history seminar series, and Sitka WhaleFest. We institute community programs with Sitka Tribe of Alaska, the National Park Service, and The 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. **In 2018, the value of the chum salmon originating from SSSC's SJ Hatchery was valued at \$400,000 to the commercial fleet, and the chum salmon released at Deep Inlet was valued at \$1**

million. Because of our location, SSSC-reared salmon are easily accessible to commercial fishermen, recreational and guided sport fishermen including land-based sport 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 a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Alaska Southeast to provide hands on training to people in the University of Alaska Fisheries Technology Program. **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. SSSC continues to conduct controlled research experiments for the hatchery feed company Skretting in which we are testing alternative fish food ingredients. We continue to collaborate on doing research in partnership with University of Alaska Southeast and University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries, on humpback whales feeding on hatchery released smolt and fry.

Our facility received approximately 18,000 visitors annually last year, 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: Trish White (owner, White's Pharmacy); Kitty LaBounty (vice chair, UAS); Justin Penny (Wells Fargo), Linda Waller (Sitka Sound Seafoods); Steve Clayton (building contractor); Rob Allen (chair, Sitka Community Hospital administrator, treasurer); Alana Peterson (treasurer, restaurant owner) Madison Kosma (secretary, UAF graduate student)

Dollars Requested: Sitka Sound Science Center respectfully requests the balance of the fisheries enhancement fund \$35,592.

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. The funds provided by the fish box tax are vital for our

organization, particularly this year with diminished federal and state opportunities for grants and contracts.

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. We directly contribute to salmon fishing opportunities for all users in Sitka by:

- 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.

Additionally, we ensure fisheries enhancement into the future by:

- Train adults and students to become competent aquaculture technicians for work at NSRAA or other hatcheries/salmon enhancement projects through on-the-job training and UAS Fisheries Technology class laboratories.
- Introduce K-12 students 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 charter 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 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 (and narrative)

SSSC recent Balance Sheet

Support Letters

Sheldon Jackson Hatchery (SSSC) Profirma - Revenue
Return Projections & Revenue

Updated 6-May-19 WHC
Fish Box

Actual

Pinks

Brood Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
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
Associated Release	1,016,500	1,079,000	985,000	2,902,360	2,437,062	2,903,982	2,437,062	2,303,969	2,700,000	2,700,000	2,700,000	2,700,000	2,700,000

Recovery

Assumptions			
marine survival	3.5%	price	
commercial harvest %	65%	inflation	
comm. price per pound	\$ 0.23		2.5%
average weight	3.60 lbs		

Return Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
2 yr olds	91,013	104,007	101,583	85,297	101,639	85,297	80,639	94,500	94,500	94,500
Brood stock	5,485	4,584	11,257	5,000	5,589	5,000	5,001	5,002	5,003	5,004
Commercial catch	59,158	67,605	66,029	55,443	66,065	55,443	52,415	61,425	61,425	61,425
Cost Recovery (CR) Fish	60,919	123,782	182,248	47,502	122,717	24,854	23,223	28,073	28,072	28,071
CR price \$/lb	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.26
CR Pounds	207,125	433,236	757,520	179,420	515,410	89,474	83,601	101,063	101,059	101,056

Chum

Brood Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Permitted Eggs	1,000,000	1,000,000	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	500,000	920,000	2,946,059	2,333,519	2,795,979	2,293,105	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	1.5%	price	
3 yr	12%	inflation	
4 yr	66%		2.5%
5 yr	21%		
6 yr	1%		
commercial harvest	65%		
comm. price per pound	\$ 0.50		
average weight	7.90 lbs		

Return Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3-year-old	900	1,656	32	4,845	22,551	4,128	4,128	4,968	4,968	4,968
4-year-old	7,425	4,950	1,118	57,202	42,833	27,680	22,702	27,324	27,324	27,324
5-year-old	3,402	2,363	1,990	4,307	2,172	7,351	8,807	7,223	8,694	8,694
6-year-old	161	162	376	943	-	442	350	419	344	344
Total adults	11,888	9,131	3,516	67,297	67,556	39,600	35,987	39,935	41,330	41,330
Brood stock	1,282	512	2,812	4,591	2,082	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Commercial catch	7,727	5,935	2,285	44,627	55,470	25,740	23,391	25,958	26,864	26,864
Cost Recovery (CR) Fish	1,113	765	2,285	18,079	10,004	11,360	10,095	11,477	11,965	11,965
CR price \$/lb	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.72	\$ 0.74
CR Pounds	8,678	6,044	18,204	142,824	75,030	89,745	79,753	90,669	94,527	94,527

Coho

Brood Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Permitted Eggs	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,001	250,002	250,003
Associated Release	22000	210000	1320	40844	195,000	25,000	212,500	212,500	29,449	160,000	212,500	212,501	212,502	212,503

Recovery

Assumptions			
marine survival	3.3%	price	
commercial harvest %	50%	inflation	
comm. price per pound	\$ 0.83		2.5%
average weight	7.50 lbs		

Return Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3 yr olds	10,100	33	829	3,366	2,991	5,280	7,013	7,013	7,013	7,013
Brood stock	791	7	56	175	151	300	300	300	300	300
Commercial catch	9,088	17	772	2,085	2,194	2,640	3,506	3,506	3,506	3,506
Cost Recovery (CR) Fish	222	0	1	39	29	2,340	3,206	3,206	3,206	3,206
CR price \$/lb	\$ 0.63	\$ 1.03	\$ 0.53	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.19	\$ 1.22	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.28
CR Pounds	-	-	14	263	218	39,600	52,594	52,594	52,594	52,594

Revenue	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hatchery Return Revenue	\$ 827	\$ -	\$ 7	\$ 230	\$ 246	\$ 45,867	\$ 62,440	\$ 64,001	\$ 65,601	\$ 67,241
Research, grants and donation income	\$ 36,655	\$ 36,653	\$ 88,458	\$ 133,435	\$ 193,202	\$ 126,753	\$ 137,105	\$ 152,499	\$ 159,079	\$ 163,055
NSRRA Revenue (Funding agreement for use of 9 million chum fry for Deep Inlet release)	\$ 130,000	\$ 160,400	\$ 167,272	\$ 172,144	\$ 150,000	\$ 154,500	\$ 159,135	\$ 163,909	\$ 168,826	\$ 173,891
Total Revenue	\$ 166,655	\$ 197,053	\$ 255,730	\$ 352,423	\$ 393,202	\$ 331,253	\$ 346,240	\$ 366,408	\$ 377,905	\$ 386,947

SJ Hatchery Proforma Narrative - updated May 6, 2019, William Coltharp

- For the SSSC both the return year and fiscal year are the same. The SSSC works on the calendar year for its fiscal year.

- Assumptions for egg to fry/smolt release survivals and adult returns can be found within each species block

- In 2013, ADF&G approved a PAR for an additional 2 million chum at the SJ Hatchery. This will mean 3 million eggs and a resulting ~2.7 million fry. Increased adult chum salmon returns were observed in 2017 with the first returning 4 year olds. The first return year for fully increased chum production will be this year when all broodyears will be represented at the new 3 million egg permitted capacity.

- Price per pound for each species was updated for 2018 and projected 2019 prices and are then increased each year by 2.5%

- The hatchery operating budget assumes an annual increase of 2.5% per year including fish food

- The SJ Hatchery currently has agreements with our fish feed suppliers to offset costs. Skretting donates 4,000kg/year and this year Cargill (EWOS) has started donating a kilo for each kilo purchased. This is 42% of our fish feed that is donated.

- The current fish food budget is increased by 2.5% each year based on recent historical pricing.

- SSSC and NSRAA modified a previous agreement whereby NSRAA provided \$160,400 in 2015 and then increased the amount 3% annually until the spring 2017 board meeting at which time the board voted to have the funding level reflect the hatchery contribution to the Common Property Fisheries. This agreement has a floor of \$140,000 and a cap of \$200,000. The funding schedule is as follows:

<u>NSRAA</u>	<u>SSSC</u>
<\$5m CP value	→ \$140,000
>\$5m CP value	→ \$140,000
>\$9m CP value	→ \$150,000
>\$14m CP value	→ \$180,000
>\$18m CP value	→ \$200,000
>\$20m CP value	→ \$200,000 + fishery proposal for up to \$20,000

11:26 AM
05/06/19
Accrual Basis

Sitka Sound Science Center
Balance Sheet
As of April 30, 2019

	Apr 30, 19
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	458,918.91
Accounts Receivable	190,845.98
Other Current Assets	
13000 · Rental Deposit	1,000.00
13501 · Prepaid Insurance	16,096.64
Total Other Current Assets	17,096.64
Total Current Assets	666,861.53
Fixed Assets	
15000 · Sage Building	1,839,550.83
15002 · Lincoln Street Land	377,000.00
15003 · Hatchery Improvements	252,009.00
15500 · Equipment Capitalized	163,757.92
15555 · Accumulated Depreciation	-188,972.00
15560 · Construction in Progress	33,108.94
Total Fixed Assets	2,476,454.69
TOTAL ASSETS	3,143,316.22
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	2,488.49
Credit Cards	1,608.97
Other Current Liabilities	
240000 · Payroll Tax Liabilities	8,610.15
255000 · Sales/Bed Tax Payable	212.86
256000 · Grant Advance	6,478.55
260000 · Rental Deposits	300.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	15,601.56
Total Current Liabilities	19,699.02
Long Term Liabilities	
25600 · State of Alaska FERP #2	412,634.27
25700 · State of Alaska FERP #3	106,720.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	519,354.27
Total Liabilities	539,053.29
Equity	
32000 · Retained Earnings	2,348,008.92
32500 · Board Designated Reserves	
32501 · Operating Reserve Fund	151,355.00
32502 · Debt Service Reserve Fund	229,998.39
32503 · Reserve for Replacement Fund	38,074.00
32504 · Scholarship Reserve Fund	20,469.09
32505 · Endowment Fund	105,700.00
Total 32500 · Board Designated Reserves	545,596.48
Net Income	-289,342.47
Total Equity	2,604,262.93
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	3,143,316.22

NORTHERN



SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.

(907) 747-6850

FAX (907) 747-1470

EMAIL steve_reifenstuhl@nsraa.org

1308 Sawmill Creek Road Sitka, Alaska 99835

May 6, 2019

RE: Support for Sitka Sound Science Center 2019 Fish Box Tax Request

Dear Mayor Paxton & Sitka Assembly,

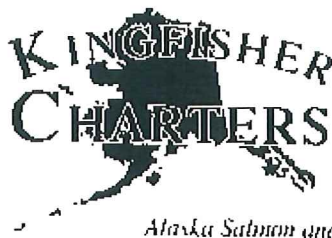
The Sitka Sound Science Center through its operation of the Sheldon Jackson Hatchery fully meets the criteria for receiving the 2019 Fish Box Tax funds in the category for salmon enhancement. SSSC conducts and is committed to salmon enhancement programs that benefit common property fisheries in Sitka. 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 125,000 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 2007 to 2018 is \$8,300,000. 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, silver brites (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



Kingfisher Charters, LLC
P.O. Box 1781
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-6136
(800) 727-6136
www.kingfishercharters.com
e-mail: kingfish@jtalaska.net
Fax (907) 747-7136

Alaska Salmon and Halibut Fishing Vacations

May 6, 2019

Dear Sitka Assembly,

This is a letter of support for the Sitka Sound Science Center's application for Fish Box Tax funds.

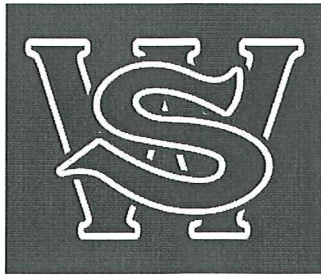
Kingfisher is a locally-owned fishing charter business. We employ several dozen people and add much to the local Sitka economy as independent travelers spend more than three times as much per day than any other kind of visitor. I've owned this business for 28 years and our clients have been paying the fish box tax since its inception.

Funds generated by the fish box tax should be used for fisheries enhancement which equates to aquaculture in our community. The Sitka Sound Science Center contributes to the common property fishery which our clientele take advantage of. Because the excise tax is placed on guided sport we feel strongly that guided sport should benefit from the collected funds. Sitka Sound Science Center provides salmon to the common property fisheries and also educates visitors about how fisheries work in Alaska. At the same time, Sitka Sound Science Center receives none of the funds from the commercial fish enhancement tax.

Providing fish box tax funds to this worthwhile non-profit is the most sensible use of these funds.

Thank you for your consideration,

Seth Bone
Owner



Sitka High School

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

May 14, 2019

Dear Assembly,

Sitka High School works with the Sitka Sound Science Center (SSSC) in a variety of ways including aquaculture education. One of the most important tools that the SSSC can offer to Sitka's kids is the opportunity to work at the hatchery. The Field Science class at Sitka High School spent about a third of the year working at the SSSC hatchery learning the skills of aquaculture. Students were exposed to various skill sets including spawning, tagging, otolith removal, pathology necropsies, species identification, and more. These opportunities cannot be taught from a book and are the hands on learning opportunities that excite students about working in fisheries. This excitement leads to discussions and exploration into jobs, educational careers and value to economics of our region and community.

As a science teacher in the district for sixteen years I have had a lot of experience working with the SSSC and have been extremely impressed with all of their learning opportunities, however, the integration of aquaculture into the schools goes above and beyond.

I believe that the Sitka Sound Science Center is the ideal outlet for funds that are meant for fisheries enhancement not just because of what they contribute to the common property fishery but for their invaluable contributions to science education in the community.

Sincerely,

Stacy Golden
Sitka High School Teacher
Life Science, Field Science, Marine Biology