

Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Mitigation Program

The Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Fishery Mitigation Program was established to mitigate economic impacts of the 7.5% reduction in Chinook salmon harvest levels in the region under the 2019 revision of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Primary impacts of the harvest reduction are on “hook and line fisheries,” which include commercial troll and sport fisheries and associated interests.

The Alaska delegation to the Pacific Salmon Commission identified actions that would provide economic benefits to offset the losses to Treaty harvest shares and enhancement projects to produce hatchery salmon rated highest priority. Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook provide significant benefits because they may be harvested in addition to the annual Chinook harvest quota set under the Treaty.

Program components include:

- **Hatchery fish marking, tagging, and evaluation**— \$4.7 million (included in Fish and Wildlife Service FY20¹ funding). Alaska is interested in expanding its hatchery marking and tagging rate to expand access to hatchery-produced fish.
- **Hatchery enhancement projects**— \$17.7 million (\$1.5 million included in NOAA FY20 grant including NOAA overhead; another grant anticipated for FY21). Alaska is interested in replacing as much of the 7.5% reduction taken in the 2019 version of the Treaty as possible with increased hatchery production.
- **Hatchery Research.** Funds may also be used to develop brood stocks and to conduct critical hatchery-related research such as survivability and other information that can create increased fishing opportunity that works in conjunction with appropriate measures of reduced interception of wild Treaty stocks.

For guidance and oversight on the use of Chinook salmon mitigation funds, ADF&G is utilizing a process that includes a 10-member Chinook Salmon Mitigation Stakeholder Advisory Panel with representatives from sport, troll, gillnet, and seine fisheries, hatchery operators, and local communities.

FY20 Program

- \$4.7 M in Department of Interior funding is supporting the construction of two automated tagging trailers, tagging supplies, and operations.
- \$1.5 M in Department of Commerce funding is being allocated to expand hatchery infrastructure at four facilities (Port Armstrong, Whitman Lake, Neets Bay, and Sawmill Creek) to accommodate increases in salmon production.

FY21 Program

- Federal funding amounts are not currently known.
- ADF&G will be issuing a Request for Proposals on February 16 for FY21 awards.

¹ FY refers to federal fiscal years herein.