



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Peter Micciche
Chair, Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 504

DATE: 3/4/2020

FROM: Director David Rutz
Division of Sport Fish
Alaska Department of Fish & Game

SUBJECT: 2/28/2020 Committee Response

On Friday, February 28th the Department of Fish & Game (DF&G) presented to the Senate Resources Committee Senate Bill 189 which establishes the sport fish enhancement surcharge. Enclosed you will find an amended sport fishing license surcharge breakdown and a memo from the Department of Law regarding dedicated funds. There were several other questions provided following the hearing. Please see answers below.

Q: Can the department provide a list of all state-owned hatcheries and the maintenance needs of each?

A: The state still owns 11 hatchery facilities around the state from when the Fisheries Rehabilitation and Enhancement Division still existed under the Division of Commercial Fisheries (Table 1). All but one are leased to private non-profit (PNP) operators at no cost to the state. The legacy facility on the list, Crystal Lake in southeast Alaska, and the two new Sport Fish hatcheries (William Jack Hernandez in Anchorage and Ruth Burnett in Fairbanks) are the only facilities specifically designated as “sport fish hatchery” facilities. There are also 3 other legacy Sport Fish hatcheries that still serve a purpose as part of the sport fisheries enhancement program (Fort Rich, Elmendorf and Crooked Creek).

Q: What are the priority maintenance needs of each?

A: In the stocking FAQ provided by the Division of Sport Fish there is a more exhaustive list of maintenance needs however, the following items are the priorities for each:

- Raceway rehabilitation at Crystal Lake Hatchery
- Upgrades to water discharge system, egg-take work area and visitor viewing platform at the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery
- A third back-up well at the Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery

Q: Can the department further define the term “sport fishing facilities”.

A: There is no formal definition in Alaska’s statutes or regulations. However, a fish hatchery is an establishment in which young fish are produced and reared especially for later release in natural waters. Therefore, a “sport fish hatchery” would be a hatchery that produces and rears young fish for later release into natural water for the primary benefit of sport fishing.

Q: Are there other facilities around the state where these funds could be expended?

A: The Division of Sport Fish currently uses \$0.5M of the surcharge funds to augment production and rearing of Chinook salmon for release into saltwater around important sport fisheries in Southeast Alaska. Contractual agreements are in place with private-non-profit (PNP) hatchery operators to do this activity for the division to increase sport fishing opportunities across the region. As mentioned above, the division still continues to use the older hatchery facilities to perform some functions necessary to the overall program and maintenance needs at those still exist. For example, Crooked Creek plays an important role for collecting brood stock and egg-takes. The division also uses other funds to pay for salmon production in Kodiak through a cooperative agreement with Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association.

Table 1. Listing of state-owned hatchery facilities as of 2011.

Organization	Hatchery	Year Built	Power	PNP Permit Issued	Contract Expires	Land Ownership
KRAA	Kitoy Bay	1964	Hydropower	7/5/1988	11/16/2031	Afognak Native Corp./BLM
SSRAA	Crystal Lake	1969	Public Utility	N/A	Sport Fish Div.	
PWSAC	Gulkana I/II	1973	Gravity	7/5/2000	6/30/2013	GHI: DNR, GHII: BLM
CIAA	Tutka	1975	Public Utility	1/3/1994	6/30/2011	DNR: Kachemak Bay State Park
POWHA	Klawock	1977	Public Utility	2/14/1996	7/17/2035	Klawock-Heenya Corporation
NSRAA	Hidden Falls	1978	Hydropower	6/22/1988	6/30/2022	USFS-Special Use Permit
PWSAC	Cannery Creek	1978	Diesel Generation	6/22/1988	7/31/2011	USFS-Special Use Permit
DIPAC	Snettisham	1979	Public Utility	7/15/1996	12/31/2016	State-AIDEA
PWSAC	Main Bay	1980	Hydropower	4/17/2001	12/31/2010	USFS-Special Use Permit
CIAA	Trail Lakes	1981	Public Utility	6/22/1988	6/30/2028	State-DNR
KRAA	Pillar Creek	1990	Public Utility	5/1/1998	6/30/2013	Kodiak Island Borough