

HB

359





Presented by  
 FDG FRED division  
 at 3/15 hearing  
 on HB359

Estimated Annual Hatchery Returns of <sup>Salmon</sup> Species <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>State</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>Alaska</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>1977</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>1978</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>1979</sup> <sup>(Forecast)</sup>  
 Public Facilities

	1975	1976	1977	1978	79 (Forecast)
Pink Salmon					
Southcentral					18,500
Prince William Sound					
Cook Inlet		3700	100	164,900	200,300
A Y K					
Rristol Bay					
Alaska Peninsula					
Kodiak	5500	12500	23900	36400	158800
Subtotal	5500	16200	27000	200400	317300

	1975	1976	1977	1978	79 (Forecast)
Chum Salmon					
Southcentral				3900	34000
Prince William Sound					
Cook Inlet					
A Y K					
Rristol Bay					
Alaska Peninsula					
Kodiak				3700	34000
Subtotal				7600	68000

	1975	1976	1977	1978	79 (Forecast)
King Salmon					
Southcentral		500	700	100	2100
Prince William Sound					
Cook Inlet	100	600	1200	1800	4300

Bristol Bay					
Alaska Peninsula					
Kodiak					
Sub Total	100	1100	1900	1900	6400
Coho Salmon					
Southeastern	12100	9800	1000	2600	14500
Prince William Sound					
Cook Inlet	10500	6500	9400	15100	32500
A. Y. K.					
Bristol Bay					
Alaska Peninsula					
Kodiak					
Sub Total	22600	16,300	10400	17700	47,000
Red Salmon					
Southeastern					
Prince William Sound					
Cook Inlet				17300	30400
A. Y. K.					
Bristol Bay					700
Alaska Peninsula					
Kodiak					
Sub Total	-	-	-	17300	31000
Grand Total	28700	33600	39300	241,200	495,700

by

Greg Cook, Executive Director  
Boards of Fisheries & Game

March 15, 1978

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

MY NAME IS GREG COOK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE BOARD OF FISHERIES AND BOARD OF GAME. I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS SECTION 8, OF THIS BILL, SINCE IT WILL RESULT IN A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATION OF AQUACULTURE IN ALASKA.

SECTION 8, REPEALS AS 16.10.440 (b). THIS SECTION OF EXISTING LAW GRANTS BROAD REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES. THE BOARD OF FISHERIES, ACTING UNDER THIS SECTION OF EXISTING LAW, HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE AQUACULTURE PROGRAM BY ISSUING PERMITS, SELECTING SITES FOR HATCHERIES, DECIDING ON THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SPECIAL HARVEST AREAS, AND ENSURING THAT THE FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF AS 16.10.470 ARE MET. OTHER REGULATORY POWERS ARE ALSO VESTED IN THE BOARD.

THE BOARD OF FISHERIES HAS PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE IN THESE AREAS IN THE PAST. THE BOARD'S DELIBERATIONS HAVE INCLUDED MUCH PUBLIC TESTIMONY. FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE JANUARY 1979 MEETING IN JUNEAU, 12 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TESTIFIED. IN JUNEAU THE PUBLIC ALSO WAS ABLE TO HEAR PERTINENT DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME STAFF REPORTS, TESTIMONY FROM OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCY OFFICIALS, AND THE OPINIONS LEADING TO THE FINAL DECISIONS.

THE PRIVATE NONPROFIT AQUACULTURE PROGRAM IN ALASKA IS NEW. PRIVATE NONPROFIT AQUACULTURE HAS ENGENDERED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC DEBATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS. BROAD INVOLVEMENT

BY THE BOARD OF FISHERIES INSURES THAT THE PUBLIC WILL BE HEARD ON THESE QUESTIONS.

THE BOARD OF FISHERIES HAS PROVIDED A PUBLIC FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF THE CONCERNS OF THE CITIZENS OF ALASKA. THE BOARD OF FISHERIES IS A RESPONSIBLE GROUP AND WHILE THEY ARE NOT IMMUNE FROM PRESSURE, THEIR STATUS AS PRIVATE CITIZENS AND THE FACT THAT THEIR DELIBERATIONS ARE PUBLIC, MAKES THEM LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO SPECIAL INTERESTS THAN DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.

THE BOARD OF FISHERIES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE PERMITTING PROCESS HAS ALSO BEEN BENEFICIAL. BY DECIDING TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF PERMITS FOR PRIVATE HATCHERIES, THE BOARD IS, IN EFFECT, MAKING AN ALLOCATION DECISION. THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE MAY PERHAPS CLARIFY HOW THIS OCCURS:

IMAGINE A PRIVATE HATCHERY IS PROPOSED TO BE BUILT ON RIVER "A." THEY WISH TO RAISE HUMPIES AND HARVEST THEM WITH GILL NETS. HEREBY THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT SPORT FISHERY FOR COHO. IF THE PRIVATE HATCHERY IS BUILT, AND A NET FISHERY IS BEGUN, THERE WILL BE AN INCIDENTAL CATCH OF COHO SALMON THAT WILL REDUCE THE SPORT FISHERY. SHOULD THIS PRIVATE HATCHERY BE BUILT? ALLOCATION DECISIONS OF THIS TYPE HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN MADE BY THE BOARD OF FISHERIES, SINCE THE BOARD MEETS IN PUBLIC AND RECEIVES TESTIMONY FROM ALL INTERESTED PERSONS.

THE EFFECT OF HB 359 AS IT CURRENTLY STANDS IS TO REMOVE THESE DE FACTO ALLOCATION DECISIONS FROM THE BOARD OF FISHERIES. IT WOULD REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE AQUACULTURE PROGRAM--A PROGRAM WHICH IS INTENDED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMON PROPERTY FISHERY WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING NATURALLY OCCURRING STOCKS.

IT IS, OF COURSE, THE PREROGATIVE OF THE LEGISLATURE TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE PRIVATE NONPROFIT BUSINESS OF AQUACULTURE. MY TESTIMONY BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE IS INTENDED SIMPLY TO REMIND YOU OF SOME OF THE BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC--AND COINCIDENTALLY, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AS WELL--WHICH HAVE RESULTED FROM THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE BOARD OF FISHERIES BY VIRTUE OF THE BROAD REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF AS 16.10.440 (b).

# Cordova District Fisheries Union

Headquarters: Box 939, Cordova, Alaska

April 9, 1979

Representative Terry Gardiner  
Speaker of the House  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

HB 359

Dear Terry:

By the time this letter reaches you, certain decisions will have been made which might or might not make my comments inappropriate or unnecessary. However, because I do have to be on the fishing grounds rather than in Juneau expressing my views, I do hope that my negative reactions to what I understand are possible proposed amendments to HB 359 will be considered. This is not just for the immediate future, but for over the long haul unless we find that reasonable compromises regarding the Board of Fisheries role in the hatchery permitting, brood stock and harvest allocation system are in fact impossible.

I personally feel, with no disrespect intended, that portions of HB 359 which are aimed at stripping all authority from the Alaska Board of Fisheries during the process of developing the PNP hatchery system not only verges on, but is, premature paranoia.

After sitting through last December's Board session on the PNP discussion, etc., I can appreciate much of the Regional Corporations' concerns and fears of what roles the Board might play and how they could create significant problems for PNP development. However, even though I don't live and breathe PNP, I am reasonably aware of these concerns and have spent an appreciable amount of time addressing these problem areas with various Board members on my own.

I also attended the portion of this past Board meeting which addressed these issues of concern and during which the Board actually reviewed a permit application and addressed the brood stock problem. Personal at present, I am very much satisfied with the role the Board is playing as expressed by their decision, attitudes, and associated actions on the evening of April 6.

It would be in the best interest of all concerned to review the last tapes of the Board meeting to see if your fears are justified. I sincerely feel they are not.

Representative Terry Gardiner  
Speaker of the House

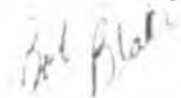
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I think I have a pretty good feel for the PNP concerns since I am a member of the PWS Regional Planning Team and on FWSAC's board. I can also relate to the average fisherman off the street's attitude, which unfortunately is often falsely based due to being uninformed, primarily caused by the nature of the beast.

I sincerely feel that the Board has a role to play in the process, especially in the conflict areas. The Board is still sorting out just what particular areas these entail, but they have come a long way since December. To legislate their role now is definitely premature and unnecessary.

For the most part, it is my opinion that the really controversial issues must be settled by the Board. Let them take the heat, because the Regional PNP associations cannot stand the losses that will be sustained if they are the conflict decision makers.

Sincerely,



Bob Blake  
Chairman

BB: jmr

cc: Representative Margaret Branson  
Senator Clem Tillion  
Senator Bob Mulcahy  
Senator Jay Kerttula  
Representative Alvin Osterback  
Keith Specking  
All Regional Aquaculture Corporations  
All Fishing Organizations  
UFA