

HB

220

<TARGET><BILL>HB 220</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
220</SUBJECT><COMM>HFSH29</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE HOUSE

Session:

State Capitol Building,
Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-4922
Fax: (907) 465-2197



Interim:

1292 Sadler Way, Suite 308
Fairbanks, AK 99701
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REPRESENTATIVE DAVE TALERICO

Sponsor Statement for House Bill 220

"An Act relating to fish; and establishing a fisheries enhancement permit."

Fish have been one of the most valuable natural resources for Alaskans to harvest for recreation, business, and as a source of food. Most Alaskans want to see sustainable fisheries in the State so that all major user groups receive the benefits. Subsistence, commercial, and sport fishers have worked hard through the current fish management system to keep our fisheries strong. This system however, focuses more on how to maintain current fish levels instead of finding ways to increase fish for all users.

House Bill 220 will create another tool that Alaskans can use to increase fish populations through a Fisheries Enhancement Permit. This permit will allow Alaskan residents and organizations to increase natural fish populations, introduce fish to new bodies of water, and improve fish habitat for natural populations. HB 220 lets individuals and organizations to give back to Alaska and help ensure that future generations can enjoy the bounteous blessing of healthy natural fisheries.

HB 220 also contains effective controls in order to ensure that projects approved under this bill do not harm Alaskan fisheries. These include a prohibition of projects using invasive species or nonindigenous fish food sources, projects will only be allowed in areas that have low or nonexistent fish populations, and a requirement for applicants to reasonably communicate with local stakeholders including native tribes, governmental organizations, and other affected people.

House Bill 220 will benefit Alaskans by increasing natural fish populations, increasing scientific knowledge of our State's fisheries, and allowing residents and local organizations to invest their own time and money into sustaining our natural resources. HB 220 will be one more tool that we can use to ensure that all Alaskans, both today and in the future, can participate and benefit from Alaska's natural fish resources.

Staff contact: Joshua Banks, (907) 465-2847

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REPRESENTATIVE DAVE TALERICO

Section Analysis – House Bill 220

“An Act relating to fish; and establishing a fisheries enhancement permit.”

Sec. 1 – AS 16.05.855

Creates a new section in AS 16.05 to create a fisheries enhancement permit. AS 16.05.855 consists of the following subsections:

- (a) Creates a new subsection for the activities that are allowed under the new fisheries enhancement permit:
 - (1) Remove fish from water, incubate or fertilize eggs, and place eggs back in water
 - (2) Enhance habitat and augment nutrients in state water
 - (3) Create a hatchery subject to AS 16.10.375-16.10.480
- (b) Creates a new subsection setting what type of information must be on the application to obtain a fisheries enhancement permit. This information includes:
 - (1) The applicant’s name
 - (2) Reasoning and feasibility of the proposed project
 - (3) Documentation of conditions justifying project and any collaboration with local stakeholders
 - (4) Locations of water in which applicant will take fish and place fish eggs or fish
 - (5) Species and number of fish taken from water
 - (6) Applicant’s management plan for propagation or repopulation in permitted water
 - (7) Applicant’s goals, schedule, scope of work, budget, means of data collection, plan for genetics management, and watershed enhancement plan, if applicable.
 - (8) Application fee of \$100
- (c) Creates a subsection requiring that the Department of Fish & Game (DF&G) determine, before issuing a permit, that the project:
 - (1) May restore or introduce a fish population in a body of water where subsistence and escapement goals have not been met, where there are no established escapement goals and local stakeholders have identified a decline in fish populations, or the species of fish is limited or absent due to a lack of access to the body of water

- (2) Will result in public benefits
- (3) Will not introduce a nonindigenous fish species to a body of water in violation of AS 16.35.210
- (d)** Creates a subsection regarding factors that the commissioner of DF&G shall consider when determining if a permit will be issued, including:
 - (1) The department's assessment of the project
 - (2) The capabilities of the applicant
 - (3) The degree of communication that exists between the applicant and individuals affected by the project
 - (4) Comments relating to the project
 - (5) If the project is consistent with the constitutional and statutory requirements imposed on the department
 - (6) If the project will increase scientific knowledge and understanding of the natural resources affected by the project
- (e)** Creates a new subsection requiring a permittee to collect and provide project data and reports requested by the department and to reasonably communicate with individuals affected by the project.
- (f)** Creates a new subsection to allow a permit that is issued to be transferred to another qualified person as defined by subsection (k).
- (g)** Creates a subsection which sets the timeline for when DF&G must act on a permit application. Within 15 days, the department must notify an applicant whether or not their application is complete and can reject an incomplete application if it is not complete within 30 days of the notification. After the notification, DF&G must approve or reject the application within 60 days, otherwise the application is automatically approved.
- (h)** Creates a new subsection setting requirements for public notice and comment for a permit application. DF&G will provide public notice of an application on the department's website and by e-mail to individuals who request notification within 15 days after the department receives the application. A person may submit public comment within 30 days after public notice is given. DF&G will also provide public notice of the approval or rejection of an application within 30 days after a determination is made.
- (i)** Creates a new subsection to enact requirements of a permittee to:
 - (1) Preserve natural fish feeding behavioral patterns
 - (2) If necessary, use supplemental nutrients derived from indigenous sources in the state
 - (3) Implement controls to avoid the introduction of nonindigenous pathogens or to increase indigenous pathogens beyond acceptable levels
- (j)** Creates a new subsection requiring that information provided under subsection (e) must be made available on the department's website for at least six months, unless it is confidential by law.
- (k)** Creates definitions for the following terms under AS 16.05.855:
 - (1) "person" is defined as an individual, any business, governmental agency, or another legal or commercial entity

- (2) “qualified person” is defined as a state resident, a corporation organized under Alaska law, or a corporation not organized under Alaska law that collaborates with a resident or Alaskan corporation
- (3) “reasonably communicate” is defined as communicating significant information regarding the project by a mode of communication that is likely to notify persons that a reasonable person would know are affected by the project

Sec. 2 – AS 16.05.871

Creates a new section that requires the commissioner of DF&G to consider a fisheries enhancement project when determining if a project will provide sufficient protections of fish and game resources from project related damages.

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Summary of Changes to HB 220 – Version E to Version N

- Limits the type of fish allowed for the fisheries enhancement permit to anadromous or freshwater finfish (i.e. salmon, trout, grayling, etc.).
- Deletes section (a)(3) to ensure that large hatcheries cannot be permitted with the fisheries enhancement permit.
- Adds a condition to the permit application that an applicant must show documentation of a Private Non-Profit permit if required by law (Amendment N.1).
- Places a limit of 500,000 incubated and fertilized eggs or hatched fish that a permittee can place in Alaskan water.

Staff Contact: Joshua Banks, (907) 465-2847

29-LS1039\N
Bullard
1/21/16

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 220()

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE TALERICO

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to certain fish; and establishing a fisheries enhancement permit."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1.** AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 16.05.855. Fisheries enhancement permit.** (a) Subject to restrictions
5 imposed under this section, the department may issue a fisheries enhancement permit
6 to a qualified person that allows the person

7 (1) to remove anadromous or freshwater finfish from water of the state,
8 collect gametes or fertilize and incubate eggs taken from the fish, and place the
9 incubated and fertilized eggs or hatched fish in the same or other water of the state;
10 and

11 (2) to enhance habitat and augment nutrients in water of the state to aid
12 the survival of the fish.

13 (b) An applicant for a permit under this section shall apply on a form
14 prescribed by the department. The department shall make the application form
15 available on the department's Internet website and at the department's regional and

1 local offices. The department shall charge a fee for printing an application form
2 provided by the department's offices. An application for a permit must include

3 (1) the name of the applicant;

4 (2) a statement of the reasons for and feasibility of the proposed
5 project using historical and current data relating to habitat, the food web, and fish
6 populations in the project area;

7 (3) documentation of

8 (A) the conditions justifying the project;

9 (B) the applicant's collaboration, and plan for continued
10 collaboration, with a qualified person under (1)(2) of this section; and

11 (C) any communication, or plan for continued communication,
12 from the applicant with affected persons, relevant organizations with
13 applicable expertise, and stakeholders in the project area;

14 (4) the locations of the water from which the applicant will take fish
15 and the water in which the applicant will place fish eggs or fish;

16 (5) the species and number of fish to be taken and, if applicable, the
17 number to be taken for brood stock;

18 (6) a management plan that demonstrates the ability of the applicant to
19 carry out and sustain the proposed project, including the applicant's plan for fish
20 propagation or repopulation in permitted water;

21 (7) the applicant's goals, schedule, planned duration, performance
22 measures, scope of work, budget, means of collecting data, plan for genetics
23 management, and watershed habitat enhancement plan, if applicable, for the project;
24 and

25 (8) an application fee of \$100.

26 (c) The department may not issue a permit under this section unless the
27 commissioner determines that the project

28 (1) may restore or introduce a population of fish in a body of water in
29 which

30 (A) subsistence and escapement goals have not been met;

31 (B) there are no established escapement goals and local

1 stakeholders have identified a decline in the number of the species of fish; or

2 (C) the population of the species of fish is limited or the species
3 of fish is absent because of an identified factor including restricted
4 accessibility to the body of water for fish because of a natural or manmade
5 barrier;

6 (2) will result in public benefits; and

7 (3) will not introduce a nonindigenous fish or live fertilized eggs of
8 nonindigenous fish in violation of AS 16.35.210.

9 (d) In reviewing an application submitted under (b) of this section and
10 determining whether the department will issue a permit for a proposed project, the
11 commissioner shall consider

12 (1) the department's assessment of the proposed project;

13 (2) the capabilities of the applicant;

14 (3) the degree to which the applicant has reasonably communicated
15 with affected persons, including relevant organizations with applicable expertise, and
16 stakeholders in the project area;

17 (4) relevant and applicable comments relating to the proposed project
18 submitted under (h) of this section;

19 (5) the consistency of the proposed project with the constitutional and
20 statutory requirements and duties imposed on the department; and

21 (6) whether the proposed project will increase scientific knowledge
22 and understanding of natural resources affected by the project.

23 (e) A permittee or a person to whom a project is transferred under (f) of this
24 section shall

25 (1) collect and provide project data and reports reasonably requested
26 by the department;

27 (2) reasonably communicate with affected persons, including relevant
28 organizations with applicable expertise, and stakeholders in the project area.

29 (f) A permit issued under this section may be transferred to another qualified
30 person as defined in (I) of this section.

31 (g) Within 15 days after the department receives an application for a fisheries

1 enhancement permit, the commissioner shall notify an applicant that the application is
2 complete or incomplete. The commissioner may reject an application that is not
3 completed within 30 days after the commissioner notifies the applicant that the
4 application is incomplete. Within 60 days after the date the commissioner notifies an
5 applicant that an application is complete, the commissioner shall approve or reject the
6 application. If the commissioner fails to act within that period, the application is
7 approved and the department shall issue a permit.

8 (h) The department shall provide public notice of a permit application in
9 summary form within 15 days after the application is received by the department. A
10 person may submit comments to the department on a pending application within 30
11 days after the department provides public notice of the application. The department
12 shall also provide public notice of approval or rejection of an application within 30
13 days after the date of the project's approval or rejection. The department shall provide
14 public notice by electronic mail to a person who registers with the department and by
15 posting at the department's regional and local offices and on the department's Internet
16 website. The department shall charge a fee under AS 40.25.110 for a printed copy of a
17 public record related to a fisheries enhancement project.

18 (i) A permit issued under this section shall require that the permittee

19 (1) preserve natural fish feeding behavioral patterns to the extent
20 reasonably possible;

21 (2) may only use supplemental nutrients if the biological components
22 of the nutrients are from indigenous sources in the state;

23 (3) place no more than 500,000 incubated and fertilized eggs or
24 hatched fish into the water of the state;

25 (4) implement appropriate controls to avoid the introduction of
26 nonindigenous or invasive pathogens or the increase of indigenous pathogens beyond
27 levels acceptable to the department.

28 (j) Unless confidential by law, the department shall make information
29 provided under (e) of this section available on the department's Internet website for at
30 least six months after the information is provided to the department.

31 (k) Fish released into the water of the state under a permit issued under this

1 section are available to the people for common use and are subject to applicable law in
2 the same way as fish occurring in their natural state.

3 (d) In this section,

4 (1) "person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate,
5 trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, or government;
6 governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality; public corporation; or another
7 legal or commercial entity;

8 (2) "qualified person" means a state resident under AS 43.23.095, a
9 corporation organized under laws of this state, or a corporation not organized under
10 the laws of this state that collaborates with a state resident or corporation organized
11 under the laws of this state;

12 (3) "reasonably communicate" means communicating significant
13 information by a mode of communication likely to provide notice to persons a
14 reasonable person would know are affected by a project or proposed project.

15 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.871 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

16 (e) In making a finding that the plans and specifications for a proposed
17 construction, work, or use sufficiently protect fish and game under (d) of this section,
18 the commissioner shall consider related fisheries enhancement projects under
19 AS 16.05.855.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2016 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 220
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB-220-F&G-DCF-1-22-16
Title: FISH ENHANCEMENT PERMITS
Sponsor: TALERICO
Requester: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

Department: Department of Fish and Game
Appropriation: Commercial Fisheries
Allocation: Statewide Fisheries Management
OMB Component Number: 2171

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2017 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2017 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2017	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 12/31/16

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Prepared By: Peter Bangs, Assistant Director Phone: (907)465-8154
Division: Commercial Fisheries Date: 01/22/2016 04:59 PM
Approved By: Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner Date: 01/23/16
Agency: Department of Fish and Game

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

**STATE OF ALASKA
2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. HB 220

Analysis

This Bill creates a fisheries enhancement permit that will allow Alaska residents and other organizations to increase fish populations on a smaller scale than is currently allowed for by private nonprofit hatchery operators.

The department anticipates additional permit activity resulting from this bill, but the number of additional applications is unknown. The department will make every attempt to cover additional workload with existing staff. Between the FY 2016-2017 budget cycles, three positions have been eliminated from the Mariculture Program that will oversee this activity.

Tanana Chiefs Conference

Chief Peter John Tribal Building

122 First Avenue, Suite 600

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4897

(907) 452-8251 Fax: (907) 459-3850

SUBREGIONS

UPPER

KUSKOKWIM

McGrath
Medfra
Nikolai
Takatna
Telida

LOWER YUKON

Anvik
Grayling
Holy Cross
Shageluk

UPPER TANANA

Dot Lake
Eagle
Healy Lake
Northway
Tanacross
Tetlin
Tok

YUKON FLATS

Arctic Village
Beaver
Birch Creek
Canyon Village
Chalkyitsik
Circle
Fort Yukon
Venetie

YUKON KOYUKUK

Galena
Huslia
Kaitag
Koyukuk
Nulato
Ruby

YUKON TANANA

Alatna
Allakaket
Evansville
Fairbanks
Hughes
Lake
Minchumina
Manley Hot
Springs
Minto
Nenana
Rampart
Stevens Village
Tanana

January 22, 2016

The Honorable Dave Talerico
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801

The purpose of this letter is to support House Bill 220, "An Act relating to fish; and establishing fisheries enhancement permit."

We support this bill because the intent is to enhance the king salmon habitat and offer ways to increase the number of king salmon in Alaska Rivers. As you know, the king salmon is a central part of the diet for people in Alaska, especially rural areas.

After researching this bill, we found that this technology offers the most natural way to help the survival rates of young salmon. The technology avoids the "farmed salmon" technology, but instead returns eggs to their natural habitat.

If you have questions, please call Victor Joseph at (907) 452-8251 extension 3112, or e-mail victor.joseph@tananachiefs.org

Sincerely yours,
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE


Victor Joseph
President

Bellingham Technical College

Fisheries & Aquaculture Department
3028 Lindbergh Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225-1599

The Bellingham Technical College, Whatcom Creek Hatchery and Bellingham Trout Hatchery have used moist air incubators for over 5 years to eye Chinook and Chum salmon eggs. Whatcom Creek is our water source for the hatchery, and after each rain has a high level of suspended solids (silt) because of all the construction along the creek. If we try to eye eggs in conventional incubators, the eggs suffocate. The moist air incubators allow us to eye eggs in full recirculation without using the creek water and eliminates the silt problem.

We eyed Chinook eggs using the trays that come with the incubators and kept the level of eggs below the lip of the trays after disinfection in PVP Iodine for 60 minutes. After the eggs water hardened (60 min), the eggs would swell up to the top of the trays. We would then remove the lids off of the trays and incubate.

We change out 5 gal of water each day. We would remove the eggs from the incubators when they accumulated the right amount of TUs (750 to 800) to shock and pick. We would average about 95% survival at that point.

The Moist Air Incubation has many applications. One unique example is when the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife needed to slow the development of some Chinook eggs until they got some permits approved. We successfully used Moist Air Incubation to delay the development of the eggs to gain an additional 2 weeks of incubation time by using the built-in refrigeration to cool the eggs and thus delay their development. If we had not been able to do that, they would have hatched and not been able to be taken where they were intended to go. This was a major advantage in being able to change the time of hatch.

We have also eyed Chum eggs in the same manner as Chinook eggs. We had similar results with the same percentage of survival.

Our curriculum includes training students in the use of the moist air incubators as it is an accepted equipment utilized in State and Federal hatcheries. We give our students skills that can be used in industry which make them very employable. It is also important for them to see new technology used and be up to date in its use.

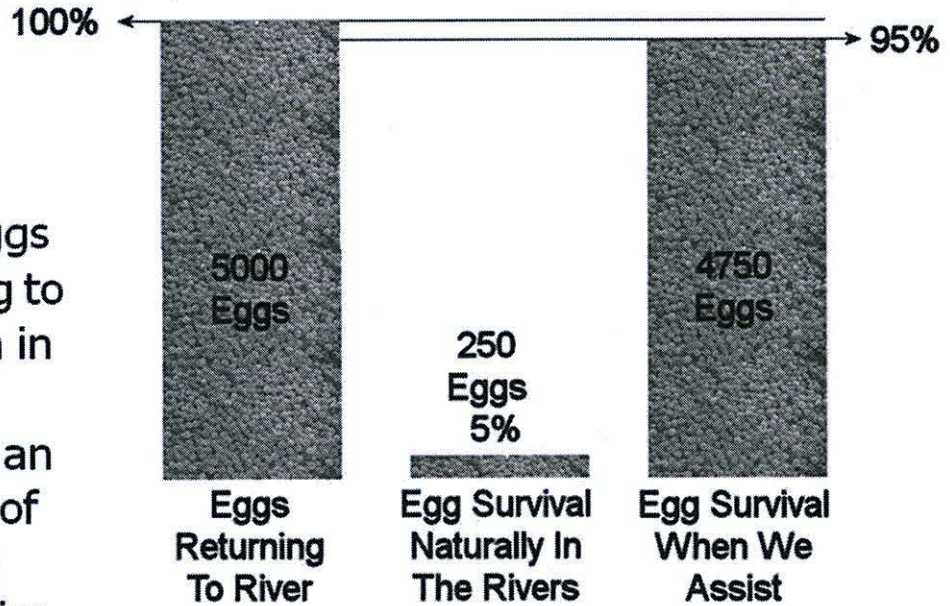
If you have any questions that I might be able to help you with, please feel free to contact me.

Earl Steele

Instructor, Hatchery Manager
Whatcom Creek Hatchery
Bellingham Trout Hatchery

Egg Survival Rate Comparison

Of the 5,000 eggs returning to a stream in a King Salmon, an average of only 250 will fertilize.



Types of fisheries enhancement, for differing objectives

Segregated Hatcheries

Designed to enhance harvest, the goal is typically to outplant salmon that will be captured in fisheries and also to ensure that those fish that avoid capture return to locations where broodstock can be collected or spawn when and where they will not interact with wild populations. (American Fisheries Society, March 2015)

Integrated Hatcheries

Return hatchery-produced salmon to the same locations where wild fish spawn to enhance the wild population. (American Fisheries Society, March 2015)

Conservation Hatcheries

Reintroduce fish into historical or recovered habitat with the strategy of releasing fish that will imprint and ultimately return to these locations as adults. (American Fisheries Society, March 2015)

Portable non-permanent operations and equipment (no hatchery)

Utilizes the benefits of advanced portable equipment to avoid the expensive capital costs of permanent hatchery facilities, hatchery operation costs and domestication issues (artificial rearing, feeding and imprinting challenges).

September 28, 2015

Monterey Bay Salmon & Trout Project
PO Box 417, Davenport, CA 95017
(831) 458-3095

To: Brian Ashton
ARED
730 Case Avenue, Box 406
Wrangell, AK 99929

Brian,

I wish to express my gratitude for your creation and production of Moist Air Incubator Units. Becoming familiar with their use during my time with US Fish and Wildlife Service while in western Washington state, I have been using one of the prototypes at Monterey Bay Salmon & Trout Project's Kingfisher Flat Genetics Conservation Hatchery near Davenport, California since October, 2011.

Due to our state's CEQA restrictions, our facility cannot apply prophylactic chemotherapeutic treatments (formalin, hydrogen peroxide) for prevention or control of parasitic aquatic fungus on developing salmonid eggs. Prior to use of the MAI, eggs were incubated in hatch jars which are historically used for catfish eggs, not salmonid eggs. The primary reason hatch jars were use was that will some fine tuning of upwelling flow, enough current could be generated to mildly turn eggs within the jar, not allowing fungal spores to seed and hyphae to grow and spread. Conversely, flow in jars had to be kept below a threshold that would not kill developing eggs with excessive agitation. This strategy did not always stave off all infestation and losses from smothering of healthy eggs by PAF occurred every season.

The hatchery conducts husbandry activities for two species; coho salmon and winter steelhead. Coho are federally listed "endangered" and ours is the only facility south of the Golden Gate Bridge capable of contributing to recovery of the species in the central California coast ESU, through artificial propagation. Being so critical, operations at the hatchery have to optimize survival from fertilization to release to the highest extent possible. The best foot forward to achieving that goal is to maximize survival from fertilization to emergent-fry stage and the MAI has done its job.

Consider the following:

- Prior to use, survival rate of coho during early egg incubation (fertilization to eye-up stage) was routinely below 10%.
- Since installation and use of the MAI, survival of coho eggs from fertilization to eye-up stage has averaged 63.58%.

A significant improvement, as you can discern, and an upward trend our operations intend to continue. It is clear to staff at our facility that this improvement would not have occurred if the MAI were used. Thanks again and you have my permission to share this with other interested parties.

Best regards,

Mark E. Galloway
Hatchery Manager

Testimony on HB 220 before the House Fisheries Committee
Will Mayo
January 26, 2016

My name is Will Mayo. I am the Executive Director of Tribal Government and Client Services for the Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, or TCC as we are commonly referred to. TCC is a consortium of 42 member communities in Interior Alaska.

I speak in favor of HB220.

Our member communities live first and foremost on a subsistence economy. Many people augment their livelihood with the cash economy, but living off the land is the true source of their food security.

Historically, 60% of the diet is derived from salmon, specifically King (Chinook) salmon. Chum salmon, though numerous, are not of equal quality, and Silver salmon have made up for some of the loss but the traditional methods of processing is difficult due to colder, wetter weather.

In recent years the Kings have declined alarmingly to the point that our member communities have even self-imposed a moratorium on harvesting Kings. This last season our fishermen worked cooperatively with ADFG in-season managers to take all necessary measures to increase escapement, agreeing to stringent management actions and limitations. The level of concern is extremely high. The commitment to recovery is total among our rural communities.

I spend many hours boating the Yukon River between my ancestral territory around Tanana, Rampart, and Stevens Village. I am a tribal member of Tanana and my father is from Rampart where my family has a camp. This last summer I traveled the river extensively with my family and witnessed the unbelievable. Fish camps sat empty for most of the season with no fish on the drying racks and smokehouses unused. There were few Kings to be had and camp activity was very minimal. It is a sad sight compared to my childhood memories of camp after camp full of activity with drying racks full. A low level of camp activity occurred toward fall-time with the arrival of the Silvers.

Under the direction of our tribes, TCC has been an active participant with the fisheries management systems. Our activities cover a wide spectrum of efforts, including regulatory processes, close interaction with state and federal managers, the creation of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (YRITFC), participation in the Yukon River Panel, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, training and advocacy, and scientific data collection projects with our biologists and local fishermen.

One area that we want to develop capacity in is in recovery and enhancement programs.

Everyone knows the great success of the Gulkana Hatchery program. This program successfully provides a personal use fishery in the Copper River drainage that contributes to food security for a broad swath of Alaskans all along the Alaska highway system, including Anchorage and Fairbanks. The Chitina dipnet fishery is one opportunity many Alaskans participate in annually.

We believe that there are also opportunities for the enhancement and recovery of Yukon river stocks that can be utilized along with the escapement model to address specific sub-species.

There is an advance in recovery technology that show promise for recovery efforts and with a track record in Alaska, Washington and California. It holds great potential promise for our interior discreet sub-species fisheries. This technology could benefit our remote communities similarly to what the Gulkana program has done for the urban populations. We wish to add this tool to our efforts, building skills and capacity for a well-balanced approach to fishery management. We want to do so with full cooperation and oversight by the ADFG through an expanded permitting system spelled out in this proposed measure.

This bill provides structure to the states' permitting system that is fair to everyone, allowing proposals to move forward while providing assurance that sound scientific processes are preserved.

We are not talking about hatcheries because we don't want that. We are only interested in the recovery of wild stocks through with as minimal intervention as possible, to preserve the wild nature of our resource.

Over the years, we have seen different discreet sub-species drop in returns to the point of cutting off important fisheries such as the crash of the Fall Chum runs in the 90's and now the Kings. We want to be effective partners in recovery efforts, working hand in hand with state managers to develop tools that work.

In these times of financial challenge, it makes good sense to work together utilizing affordable technology breakthroughs that can be scientifically applied under stringent controls and sound biology to aid in recovery efforts.

HB220 is a big step in the direction of sound scientific practices, applied to discreet sub-species recovery efforts. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony on HB 220 before the House Fisheries Committee
Will Mayo
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I speak in favor of HB220.

Our member communities live first and foremost on a subsistence economy. Many people augment their livelihood with the cash economy, but living off the land is the true source of their food security.

Historically, 60% of the diet is derived from salmon, specifically King (Chinook) salmon. Chum salmon, though numerous, are not of equal quality, and Silver salmon have made up for some of the loss but the traditional methods of processing is difficult due to colder, wetter weather.

In recent years the Kings have declined alarmingly to the point that our member communities have even self-imposed a moratorium on harvesting Kings. This last season our fishermen worked cooperatively with ADFG in-season managers to take all necessary measures to increase escapement, agreeing to stringent management actions and limitations. The level of concern is extremely high. The commitment to recovery is total among our rural communities.

I spend many hours boating the Yukon River between my ancestral territory around Tanana, Rampart, and Stevens Village. I am a tribal member of Tanana and my father is from Rampart where my family has a camp. This last summer I traveled the river extensively with my family and witnessed the unbelievable. Fish camps sat empty for most of the season with no fish on the drying racks and smokehouses unused. There were few Kings to be had and camp activity was very minimal. It is a sad sight compared to my childhood memories of camp after camp full of activity with drying racks full. A low level of camp activity occurred toward fall-time with the arrival of the Silvers.

Under the direction of our tribes, TCC has been an active participant with the fisheries management systems. Our activities cover a wide spectrum of efforts, including regulatory processes, close interaction with state and federal managers, the creation of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (YRITFC), participation in the Yukon River Panel, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, training and advocacy, and scientific data collection projects with our biologists and local fishermen.

One area that we want to develop capacity in is in recovery and enhancement programs.

Everyone knows the great success of the Gulkana Hatchery program. This program successfully provides a personal use fishery in the Copper River drainage that contributes to food security for a broad swath of Alaskans all along the Alaska highway system, including Anchorage and Fairbanks. The Chitina dipnet fishery is one opportunity many Alaskans participate in annually.

We believe that there are also opportunities for the enhancement and recovery of Yukon river stocks that can be utilized along with the escapement model to address specific sub-species.

There is an advance in recovery technology that show promise for recovery efforts and with a track record in Alaska, Washington and California. It holds great potential promise for our interior discreet sub-species fisheries. This technology could benefit our remote communities similarly to what the Gulkana program has done for the urban populations. We wish to add this tool to our efforts, building skills and capacity for a well-balanced approach to fishery management. We want to do so with full cooperation and oversight by the ADFG through an expanded permitting system spelled out in this proposed measure.

This bill provides structure to the states' permitting system that is fair to everyone, allowing proposals to move forward while providing assurance that sound scientific processes are preserved.

We are not talking about hatcheries because we don't want that. We are only interested in the recovery of wild stocks through with as minimal intervention as possible, to preserve the wild nature of our resource.

Over the years, we have seen different discreet sub-species drop in returns to the point of cutting off important fisheries such as the crash of the Fall Chum runs in the 90's and now the Kings. We want to be effective partners in recovery efforts, working hand in hand with state managers to develop tools that work.

In these times of financial challenge, it makes good sense to work together utilizing affordable technology breakthroughs that can be scientifically applied under stringent controls and sound biology to aid in recovery efforts.

HB220 is a big step in the direction of sound scientific practices, applied to discreet sub-species recovery efforts. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

CORDOVA LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Clifford Olsen

REPRESENTING: ME

BILL#/ SUBJECT: HB 220 fish

COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: Louise stormy states

I Am a life time resident of P.W.S. in my lifetime
things change a lot [redacted] 3-24 89 it was always
nice to have clams crab for dinner sometime or
lots it is import that we have P.S. Lobby I P.H.C
to let us to fish Halibut with pots stream
enhancement egg boxes Pete Olsen uncle Rina Olsen
94nt

