

Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association INC  
PO Box 93  
Yakutat, AK 99689

May 1, 2012

State of Alaska  
Attn: Gordy Williams  
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Chinook Mitigation Funding Request

Dear Chinook Mitigation Stakeholder Panel,

On September 6, 2011 the Commissioner of Fish and Game Cora Campbell qualified the Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association (YRAA) as meeting the statutory requirements to be recognized as an aquaculture association in the Yakutat area for salmon enhancement and rehabilitation purposes in accordance with the provisions of AS 16.10.375-470. The YRAA finalized election of a Board of Directors of all users groups on April 30, 2012. At that same meeting the newly elected Board of Directors passed **a motion to request \$150,000 from the Chinook Mitigation Stakeholder committee** for an update/rewrite of the Yakutat Regional Comprehensive Plan.

The Yakutat Regional Comprehensive Plan was written in 1984. At that time, the citizens of Yakutat wrote the Comprehensive Plan for rehabilitation projects only. The Board of Directors of the YRAA and the community of Yakutat are interested in looking at all types of enhancement and rehabilitation and are open to all possibilities but believe the best option for a quicker returns and economic benefit to Yakutat might come from starting with a chum remote release program in Yakutat Bay. **To move forward with enhancement for the economic benefit of Yakutat, an update of the comprehensive plan is necessary. Recent updates of other comprehensive plans around the state have ended up costing as much as \$225,000 (Kodiak). By updating the Comprehensive plan, Yakutat will be able to move forward with enhancement projects in the future that will then help compensate for the 15% loss of king salmon due to the treaty provisions.**

Yakutat is finally in the position to rewrite the comprehensive plan as they now have a recognized Regional Planning Team (RPT) that will be meeting for the first time on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The Comprehensive plan is one of the main responsibilities of the RPT in cooperation/collaboration with the local regional aquaculture association to look for the funding opportunities and/or provide the funding for established associations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry Bemis Jr, President