

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

*DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
DIVISION OF SPORT FISH*

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Memorandum

Date: May 10, 2012

To: Cora Campbell
Commissioner

Thru: Jeff Regnart
Director
Division of Commercial Fisheries

Charlie Swanton
Director
Division of Sport Fish

From: Flip Pryor
S.E. Regional Resource Development Biologist
Division of Commercial Fisheries

Subject: Yakutat Regional Planning Team spring 2012 meeting.

The Yakutat Regional Planning Team (RPT) held its first meeting on May 1, 2012 at the ANB Hall in Yakutat. This memorandum contains two action items by the RPT, and a summary of information and discussion items.

Action 1: Yakutat Regional Planning Team unanimously approved a motion to elect Flip Pryor (ADF&G) chairman.

Action 2: Yakutat Regional Planning Team unanimously approved a motion; the chair will draft a letter of support from the Yakutat RPT on a funding request of \$150,000 from the Chinook Mitigation Fund to update the Yakutat Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plan (attached as appendix).

The Yakutat Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plan has not been updated since the original plan was written in 1984. The primary responsibility of each regional planning team is to develop a comprehensive salmon plan appropriate to their region (5 AAC 40.340). This contribution would help Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association to proceed with their desire to increase production of salmon in the Yakutat area for the economic benefit of the fishing industry and ultimately the City of Yakutat.

Informational Items

Regional Planning Teams: Their Role in Alaska's Salmon Fishery Enhancement Program (Sam Rabung, PNP Hatcheries, ADF&G).

The primary focus of the presentation was the ADF&G mission statement, statutes, and regulations that guide enhancement projects. Alaska's enhancement program is stakeholder driven. Regional aquaculture associations determine what fishery enhancement is desirable in the region. ADF&G determines what is appropriate with their mandate to protect natural production. The regional planning team process is a cooperative effort between the regional associations and ADF&G to act in an advisory role to the commissioner of ADF&G.

City and Borough of Yakutat Planning and Natural Resources; Project Update to the Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association and Yakutat Regional Planning Team (Bill Lucey, Yakutat City Planner).

The city recently received a state funding request to pay for the unfunded portion of a broad-reaching project that includes: preliminary work on a remote chum salmon release site; genetic sampling of local salmon stocks; initial funding of Yakutat Holding Group; planning and design of a coastal education and development center; a mariculture development program; and a project to develop self-sufficient power. The habitat is changing near Yakutat due to uplift. Other recent projects in the Yakutat area include road decommissioning, tree thinning, habitat restoration, watershed mapping, and fish pass projects. Additional discussion occurred around funding sources for aquaculture projects and where that money might be spent.

Updating the Yakutat Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plan (CSP).

A list of all possible projects needs to be compiled for the CSP and then those projects can be prioritized. Not all of the projects have to be large projects, such as a chum salmon release; smaller restoration projects should also be included. A significant amount of time was spent at the meeting discussing the pros and cons of specific project ideas. A remote chum salmon release site is a situation that can create a significant return of fish that can be monitored and maintained for a long time. Other projects, such as streamside incubators or restoration programs, are harder to evaluate and may only have short-term results. The first step for initiating a hatchery permit is for the hatchery association to request the department conduct a management feasibility analysis (MFA) for the new proposed project. The department determines a suitable broodstock during the MFA process.

The Yakutat RPT decided that the next meeting will be held on October 6, 2012 in Yakutat.

cc: Scott Kelley, Regional Supervisor, Division of Commercial Fisheries (CF), Douglas
Brian Frenette, Regional Supervisor, Division of Sport Fish (SF), Douglas
Geron Bruce, Assistant Director, CF, Juneau
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