

Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association
PO Box 153
Yakutat, AK 99689

February 5, 2014

Ron Josephson, Section Chief
Fishery Monitoring, Permitting and Development
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1255 W. 8th Street
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Ron,

The Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association would like to request a definitive decision on whether Macaulay Hatchery chum eyed eggs could be used to build a chum program in Yakutat. The Management Feasibility Analysis touches on broodstock sources by stating, "Given that there are very limited wild chum salmon stocks in the Yakutat area, a non-indigenous stock would be required to start the program. . . . The closest hatchery in Southeast Alaska with a large enough return of summer chum salmon to provide 10 million chum salmon eggs would be Macaulay Hatchery which is approximately 200 miles away." The pathology section suggested NSRAA or DIPAC as potential sources with a preference of Hidden Falls. We have heard from NSRAA that they don't have the space or water necessary to help us.

A couple of members of the Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association met with DIPAC's Production, Research and Allocation Committee (on 2/5/14) which has drafted the following recommendation for the DIPAC Board of Directors approval.

Recommendation

The Production, Research and Allocation Committee recommends that the DIPAC Board of Directors directs the staff to write a letter to the Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association (YRAA) indicating its willingness to provide up to 10 million eyed summer chum eggs to YRAA for a period of up to four years provided that:

- 1. YRAA receives written approval from ADF&G to release DIPAC chums in Yakutat*
- 2. Identifies and secures a feasible hatchery site and adequate water supply.*

3. *Produces a completed hatchery design that includes incubation, thermal marking capabilities, fish ladder, and broodstock and eggtake facilities sufficient to support a self-sustaining program.*
4. *YRAA receives hatchery permit from ADF&G to operate in the Yakutat area.*

Successful completion of these conditions would constitute a situation under which the two parties can to get together and finalize an agreement for providing eggs to YRAA.

Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association has been moving forward on determining a hatchery location, checking water sources and volumes and before we continue farther down the road, and expending large sums of funds to gather the data and apply for a hatchery permit we need to know that a chum project using summer chum salmon eggs from Macaulay Hatchery (DIPAC) will be allowed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Hansen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen
Consultant