

REGIONAL PLANNING TEAMS

Their Role in Alaska's Salmon
Fishery Enhancement
Program

ADF&G MISSION STATEMENT

To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.

THE INTENT OF SALMON FISHERY ENHANCEMENT IN ALASKA

- ◉ To contribute, by artificial means, to the **rehabilitation** of the state's depleted and depressed **salmon fisheries**
- ◉ The salmon hatchery program in Alaska was initiated in the 1970s to **rehabilitate** depleted **salmon fisheries**
- ◉ Statutes, regulations and policies intended to provide for salmon fishery enhancement without adversely affecting natural production
- ◉ There is a statutory priority for **protecting wild stocks**
- ◉ There is a State constitutional mandate to manage for **sustained yield**

ALASKA'S PROGRAM IS STAKEHOLDER DRIVEN

- ◉ The users of the resource within each region determine what fishery enhancement is desirable.
- ◉ The ADF&G determines what is appropriate within their mandate to protect natural production.
- ◉ The mechanism for this cooperative effort is the Regional Aquaculture Association working with ADF&G within the Regional Planning Team (RPT) process.

HOW THE RPT IS ESTABLISHED

- ◉ The Commissioner of ADF&G establishes Salmon fishery enhancement regions statewide, each with a RPT.
- ◉ The Commissioner appoints 3 ADF&G voting members to each RPT.
- ◉ Each ADF&G Commissioner approved RAA appoints 3 voting members.
- ◉ The ADF&G Commissioner sometimes also invites ex-officio (non-voting) members.
- ◉ The 6 voting members select a chairman who has specific duties described in 5 AAC 40.320.

WHAT THE RPT DOES

The RPT meets annually, or as necessary, in order to fulfill its advisory role to the Commissioner of ADF&G on regional salmon fishery enhancement activities by:

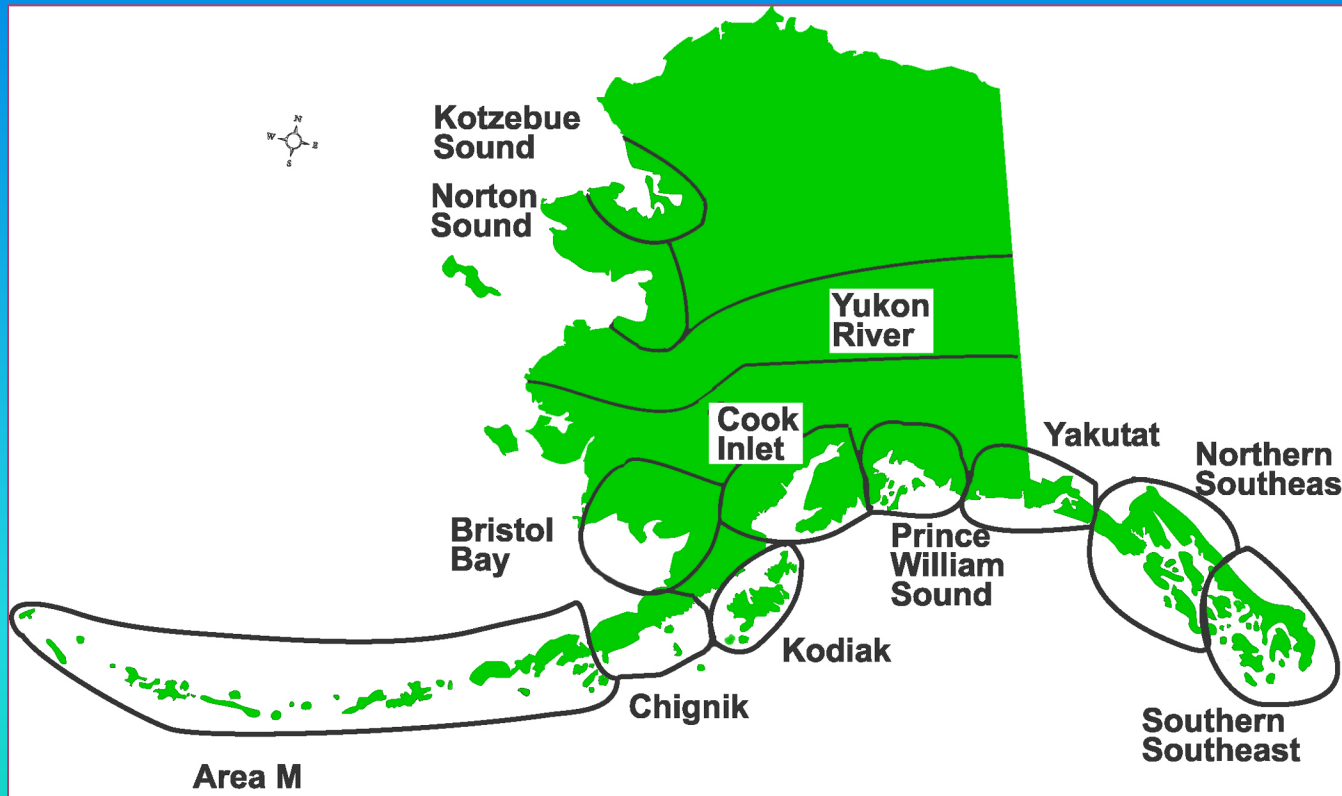
- ◉ Drafting the regional salmon plan, and updates, and providing them to the Commissioner for approval;
- ◉ Reviewing hatchery permit applications and alteration requests and making recommendations to the Commissioner;
- ◉ Reviewing hatchery AMPs and making recommendations to the Commissioner;
- ◉ Reviewing certain FRP applications and making recommendations to the Commissioner.

REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM GUIDANCE IN STATUTE

AS 16.10.375 REGIONAL SALMON PLANS.

The commissioner shall designate regions of the state for the purpose of salmon production and have developed and amend as necessary a **comprehensive salmon plan** for each region, including provisions for both public and private nonprofit hatchery systems. Subject to plan approval by the commissioner, comprehensive salmon plans shall be developed by **regional planning teams** consisting of department personnel and representatives of the appropriate qualified regional associations formed under AS 16.10.380 .

SALMON PLANNING REGIONS



RPT GUIDANCE IN REGULATION

5 AAC 40.300. Regional planning teams in general

The commissioner will establish regions and regional planning teams for the **primary purpose of developing comprehensive salmon plans** for various regions of the state. The provisions of 5 AAC 40.300 - 5 AAC 40.370 govern the structure and functions of each regional planning team and the development of a comprehensive salmon plan for each region.

5 AAC 40.310. Regional planning team composition

- (a) Each regional planning team consists of six members. Three are department personnel appointed by the commissioner, and three are appointed by the board of directors of the appropriate regional aquaculture association, qualified under AS 16.10.380 .
- (b) The commissioner will, in his or her discretion, request the involvement of representatives of federal and state agencies to assist a regional planning team if their contribution will aid in the development of the regional comprehensive plan.

THE RPT CHAIRMAN'S GUIDANCE IS ALSO IN REGULATION

5 AAC 40.320. Chairman of regional planning team

- (a) Each regional planning team shall elect a chairman to serve at the pleasure of the team.
- (b) The chairman or his delegate shall
 - (1) conduct regional planning team meetings, including recording of proceedings, and employing agreed-upon rules of order;
 - (2) set the agenda and meeting time and place for regional planning team meetings; and
 - (3) coordinate regional planning team staff in the accomplishment of tasks assigned to the chairman by the team, including
 - (A) providing the commissioner with team communications requiring commissioner review or approval;
 - (B) contacting members to determine who will be attending the next scheduled meeting; and
 - (C) preparing minutes of the previous meeting.

THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RPT IS REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE SALMON PLANNING

5 AAC 40.340. Regional planning team responsibility

Each regional planning team shall **prepare a regional comprehensive salmon plan**, for the appropriate region, to rehabilitate natural stocks and supplement natural production, with provisions for both public and private nonprofit hatcheries. Each region planning team shall consider the needs of all user groups and ensure that the public has opportunity to participate in the development of the comprehensive salmon plan. Each regional comprehensive plan must define regional production goals by species, area, and time.

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE SALMON PLANS

- Kodiak - Phase III 2010-2030
- Cook Inlet - Phase II 2006-2025
- Southeast- Phase III 2004
- Yukon River - 1998
- Norton Sound/Bering Strait - 1996-2010
- Prince William Sound - Phase III 1994
- Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Area M - 1993
- Chignik - 1993
- Sikusuilaq/Kotzebue Sound - 1992
- Bristol Bay - 1989
- Yakutat - 1984

THE RPT HAS OVERSIGHT OF HATCHERY PERMITS

5AAC 40.170 Regional planning team review

- (a) The appropriate regional planning team, as established under 5 AAC 40.300, shall review each application to determine if the proposed hatchery is compatible with the appropriate regional comprehensive salmon plan. The regional planning team shall use the following application review criteria:
- (1) the contribution the proposed hatchery would make to the common property fishery;
 - (2) the provisions for protection of the naturally occurring stocks from any adverse effects which may originate from the proposed hatchery;
 - (3) the compatibility of the proposed hatchery with the goals and objectives of the comprehensive salmon plan for the region; and
 - (4) whether the proposed hatchery would make the best use of the site's potential to benefit the common property fishery.
- (b) An applicant may review the regional planning team determination and comment on it by letter to the commissioner.

5 AAC 40.850. Notice of permit alteration

- (c) The regional planning team may, if the commissioner so requests, review and make a recommendation to the commissioner on the permit alteration request.

THE RPT MAY REVIEW HATCHERY ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

5 AAC 40.840. Annual management plans

- (a) Beginning with the first year of operation of the hatchery, and on an annual basis after that, the department will prepare, in conjunction with the permit holder, an annual management plan to guide and condition hatchery operations for the succeeding calendar year.
- (b) The PNP coordinator will organize the appropriate department staff and the permit holder in preparing a draft annual management plan. The appropriate **regional planning team** and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development **may also review the plan**. This plan must organize and guide the hatchery's operations, for each calendar year, regarding production goals, broodstock development, and harvest management of hatchery returns.

THE RPT ALSO HAS OVERSIGHT OF SOME FISH RESOURCE PERMITS

PERMIT CLASSIFICATIONS

III. Propagation C. Vocational.

2. Regional planning team (RPT) review at a regularly scheduled meeting is required. Based on the recommendation of the RPT, additional restrictions may be required for fisheries management and conservation needs, and cumulative impacts from multiple projects in an area or drainage may be carefully assessed;

III. Propagation D. Propagative. 2. Site Suitability

(d) RPT review at a regularly scheduled meeting is required. Based on the recommendation of the RPT, additional restrictions may be added for fisheries management and conservation needs;