



Yakutat Salmon Board
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Re: Remote chum release project for Yakutat

Pros:

- Potential increase in average annual income per gillnet permit
- Creation of new fishery would help relieve crowding on the Situk and Yakutat Bay Fisheries
- Project would be managed through either NSRAA or DIPAC
- There are few naturally occurring chum runs of any size in the area
- Remote release sites have successful track records
- Recent scientific studies indicate that Taku River wild chum and DIPAC hatchery chum do not compete in the near shore marine environment for food though there is a timing overlap during outmigration. (M.V. Sturdevant et al NOAA 2010)

Cons:

- Hatchery chum can stray into rivers competing with wild salmon species
- Yakutat Wild marketing campaign would need to be altered
- A 3% hatchery tax would be levied to support incubation efforts

Further information needs:

- Assess potential release sites for salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and plankton distribution
- Assess disease risk
- Calculate stocking densities in a phased approach
- Business plan for calculating egg take, incubation, transport, rearing and cost recovery requirements to turn a profit
- Create a monitoring program to evaluate the effects of straying on local rivers
- Conduct ADF&G permitting through NSRAA or DIPAC

Attached is a graph depicting a average annual gill net permit earnings from 1980 to 1988 adjusted for inflation in 2008 buying power. The overriding economic issue is the massive influx of farmed salmon on the market suppressing prices. However, increasing volume through ocean ranching and marketing efforts can offset some of this impact.