

March 23, 2021

TO: Mayor Scheidt and Members of the Valdez City Council

FROM: Amanda Bauer  
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RE: Report from Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation Board of Directors Meeting held March 10, 2021 via Zoom

Mayor Scheidt and Council Members,

As your appointed representative on the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) Board of Directors, I attended the annual Spring Board Meeting on March 10, 2021, held online due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. My report on the meeting follows.

The first item of business was to approve hiring a new General Manager. The board unanimously voted for Geoff Clark to fill the position. Geoff has more than two decades of experience working for PWSAC and has been the interim General Manager since last October.

The rest of the meeting was spent hearing reports and updates from staff as well as discussions about ongoing capital projects and the operating effects of Covid -19. As you can imagine, operating five remote hatcheries presents a variety of operating scenarios when dealing with a pandemic. Thus far PWSAC has been 100% successful in keeping Covid-19 out of the workplace.

There was a lot of discussion about the low returns of fish last year and possible low returns this year, combined with a growing annual budget. Cost recovery for PWSAC is completed using various gear types and species of fish. It is important to make sure each gear class is being fairly represented in the effort to meet the cost recovery goals. As always, the group came to a consensus and landed on a goal of \$9,394,069 in Pink Salmon and \$6,524,753 in Chum/Sockeye Salmon for the 2021 cost recovery.

The release of the fry this spring is expected to go as planned and should be occurring in the very near future.

The fall board meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 15, 2021. Whether or not this will be an in-person meeting will be decided later in the summer.

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent the City of Valdez.

Amanda Bauer