

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #24-45

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA,
SUPPORTING THE ALASKA SALMON HATCHERY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez benefits greatly from the Alaska Private Non Profit Salmon Hatchery Program; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program has operated for 50 years and supplements wild salmon harvests throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program is a model of sustainable economic development that directly benefits subsistence fishermen, personal use fishermen, sport fishermen, charter fishermen, commercial fishermen, seafood processors, as well as state and local governments such as Valdez; and

WHEREAS, Alaska hatcheries accounted for 76% of the total common property commercial catch and 64% of the total ex-vessel value totaling \$46 million in the Prince William Sound region in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) headquartered in Cordova and the Valdez Fisheries Development Association, Inc. (VFDA) headquartered in Valdez contribute significantly to the economies of Prince William Sound communities by providing jobs and an estimated \$200 million in combined economic output annually; and

WHEREAS, reducing hatchery produced Pink and Chum Salmon by 25% will significantly impact fisheries tax revenues Valdez receives and greatly reduce wharfage and dockage fees generated due to the loss of an estimated 4 million pounds of salmon products crossing the Port of Valdez shipping terminals annually; and

WHEREAS, cost recovery revenues from the sale of hatchery produced Pink salmon significantly fund VFDA's Coho salmon sport fish enhancement program, which is the cornerstone of the Valdez summer economy, providing salmon for many sport fish related businesses and the Valdez Fish Derbies; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program has proven to be significant and vital to Alaska's seafood and sportfish industries and the State of Alaska by creating employment and economic opportunities throughout the state and in particular coastal communities such as Valdez; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program is non-profit and self-funded through cost recovery and enhancement taxes on the resource and is a model partnership between private and public entities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has significantly invested in Alaska's salmon hatchery programs and associated research to provide for stable salmon harvests and to bolster the economies of coastal communities like Valdez, while maintaining a wild stock escapement priority; an

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon fisheries continue to be certified as sustainable by two separate programs, Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC); and

WHEREAS, salmon hatchery programs are permitted and overseen using a transparent public process, employ strong scientific methodology, and are built upon sound and sustainable fisheries policies intended to protect wild salmon populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that

Section 1. The City of Valdez affirms its support for Alaska's Salmon Hatchery Programs, including PWSAC and VFDA.

Section 2. The City of Valdez supports unbiased and scientific methods to assess the interaction of Alaska's salmon hatchery programs with natural stocks, such as the Alaska Hatchery/Wild Salmon Interaction Study which began in 2011 and the Salmon Ocean Ecology Program.

Section 3 The City of Valdez calls on the Alaska Board of Fisheries to reject proposals to reduce hatchery production, including Proposal 78, and work with the hatchery community, the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and industry leaders to further its understanding of the importance of the Alaska salmon hatchery program to all Alaskans and the scientific study surrounding hatchery wild salmon interactions.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 6th day of November 2024.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Dennis Fleming, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk