

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 18-33

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 State of Alaska Hatchery Program; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program has operated for 45 years and supplements wild salmon harvests throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program is an example 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, which receive raw fish tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, Alaska hatcheries accounted for 57% of the total common property commercial catch and 60% of the total ex-vessel value in the Prince William Sound region in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) headquartered in Cordova contributes significantly to the economy of Prince William Sound by providing 1,405 jobs, \$68 million in labor income, and \$192 million in total economic output in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Valdez Fisheries Development Association, Inc. (VFDA) headquartered in Valdez contributes significantly to the economy of Prince William Sound by providing 824 jobs, \$21.5 million in labor income, and \$80.1 million in total economic output between 2008 to 2012; 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 in 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; and

WHEREAS, Alaska salmon fisheries, including those of hatchery origin, continue to be certified as sustainable by two separate programs, Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC);

WHEREAS, salmon hatchery programs are permitted using a 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 is scheduled to conclude in 2023.

Section 3 The City of Valdez calls on the Alaska Board of Fisheries to 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.

Section 4 The City of Valdez supports the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game's approval of VFDA's permitted increase of 20 million pink salmon eggs taken in 2018 at the Solomon Gulch Hatchery.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 2nd day of October, 2018.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Jeremy O'Neil, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk