

March 12, 2020

TO: Mayor O'Neil 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 5, 2020 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Mayor O'Neil 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 5, 2020 in Anchorage. My report on the meeting follows.

The majority of the meeting was spent hearing reports and updates from staff as well as a lengthy discussion about capital projects. The four hatcheries in the sound are aging and require significant capital upgrades. In the past a capital fund was established as a way forward. However, the age of the facilities combined with the remoteness makes it difficult to slowly save the money needed for upgrades. Going forward the fleet will commit more of the catch to cost recovery in order to fund the needed projects. This year the seine fleet will commit 32.3% of their catch and the gillnet fleet will commit 33.9% of their catch to cost recovery and brood stock. This larger commitment to cost recovery will likely continue for the next few years.

As has been the case recently, the budget for the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) was a topic of discussion. In particular the PWS Otolith Program. This program costs ~\$300,000 a year and is an essential tool to manage the fishery. For years the State of Alaska has paid for ~\$200,000 and PWSAC has paid for ~\$100,000. Recently, ADF&G has lost ~\$95,000 in funding for this program. Should the final State budget remain as is, there is a good chance PWSAC would contribute more money to that program.

Work continues to be done to help the Gulkana Hatchery reach the annual egg take goals. It has been a struggle in the past few years for multiple reasons, ranging from too much or too little water, floods, disease etc. There are some projects being considered which give a positive outlook for the future of the egg take goals.

There was not much discussion about the market or the possible effects of covid-19. The general projection is that price for fish this season will be in line with last year or possibly a little lower.

The fall board meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2020 in Cordova. Weather permitting, I will be attending that meeting.

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



Amanda Bauer