

Wild/Hatchery Salmon Management Tools**FY2013 Request: \$2,500,000****Reference No: 54419****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact:** Jeff Regnart**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017**Contact Phone:** (907)267-2350**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

To continue economic benefits provided by large-scale hatchery production, the state must ensure wild salmon stocks are managed for sustained yield as required by statute. Research on possible interactions between wild and hatchery fish is required that will improve this knowledge in Southeast Alaska (SE) and Prince William Sound (PWS). Project results will help determine if wild stocks are surviving at levels commensurate with manager's expectations at current hatchery production levels. Benchmark information will also be provided for consideration of increases in hatchery production.

Funding:	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	Total
CFEC Rcpts	\$2,500,000						\$2,500,000
Total:	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is the first year for the project.

Project Description/Justification:

Jointly with hatchery operators, the department has identified three priority questions:

- (1) What is the genetic stock composition of pink and chum salmon in each region?
- (2) What is the extent and annual variability in straying of hatchery pink salmon in PWS and chum salmon in PWS and SE Alaska?
- (3) What is the impact on fitness (productivity) of wild pink and chum salmon stocks due to straying of hatchery pink and chum salmon?

Through use of marks on hatchery salmon otoliths (ear bones) and state-of-the-art genetic techniques, the department can now determine the relative differences (if any) between wild and hatchery fish when spawning in the wild. A group of research projects in each region would sample adults and juveniles from a set of streams and determine if there are differences in survival of fry from wild and hatchery parents, and if there are changes in fitness. In addition to its application in the aforementioned areas, the results would inform likely interactions in other areas with hatchery programs. Field work would be undertaken by a third party through contracts.

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The private-non-profit (PNP) hatcheries in these regions annually take 1.8 billion eggs, release 1.5 billion juveniles, and provide 45 million adult salmon to harvest, primarily pink salmon in PWS and chum salmon in SE Alaska. In 2008, the wholesale value of hatchery fish harvested in the commercial sector was nearly \$200 million in PWS and \$100 million in SE (McDowell Group 2010). In some years and in some areas, Alaska hatcheries have provided harvest opportunity to the fishing industry when wild stocks could not.

This project is consistent with the Governor's permitting initiative and will help improve relationships with the PNP hatcheries. In the past, the permitting process has been difficult and contentious at times. The state has formed a partnership with the PNP operators and fish processors, who have collectively agreed in concept to each fund one-third of the costs of the research projects over a five-year period.

This project is consistent with the Division of Commercial Fisheries core services of Harvest Management and Aquaculture Permitting. The results of this research will enable the department to better manage hatchery and wild stocks, while contributing to the economic benefits and jobs provided by hatchery programs. It will also provide stronger scientific information on which to base future decisions on hatchery permitting.

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Processors recently committed funding supporting the Wild/Hatchery Salmon Management Tools capital project appropriated in SLA2012. The department requests statutory designated program receipt (SDPR) authority in order to receive these funds. This capital project supports a long-term research project designed to support management decisions related to hatchery production. The Division of Commercial Fisheries and hatchery operators collectively designed this program and have worked to support funding; private sector fish processors recognize the importance of hatchery and wild production to their business and while staying well-removed from design of the studies, have pledged to financially support this research.

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Total:	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000

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Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P117 L14 HB160 \$3,500,000

RPL 11-3-0338 \$500,000 approved December 2012.

Project Description/Justification:

Since the appropriation was made, the processors have committed funding to the project. These private sector funds are available for disbursement via contract as soon as the department has sufficient SDPR receipt authority; these funds do not lapse, and are anticipated to be received in \$500,000 increments over the next five years. This request for \$2,000,000 combined with \$500,000 approved via RPL 11-3-0338 will be sufficient for the duration of the project.

This SDPR funding is directed at improving scientific understanding of the factors controlling productivity of both wild and enhanced salmon stocks, as well as improving knowledge about the interactions of wild and enhanced salmon populations. This work is important to two of the department's core services: stock assessment and harvest management. The line item distribution of the proposed expenditures will be contractual, as funding will support a contract with the Prince William Sound Science Center. This funding cannot replace existing general funds already

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appropriated for the project, but they will supplement those funds to help ensure project completion. There is no other impact on the general fund, and this request does not fund new or existing positions. No existing capital SDPR authority exists for receipt of these funds.

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Funding:	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Total
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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