



Dear CDFU Member,

CDFU has been aware of the two emergency petitions to the BOF to limit hatchery production in Valdez. This is just the start of a battle over science-based management with hatcheries. This is a direct attack on your livelihood from some sport fishing organizations. These petitions are about the entirety of hatchery production, not just pink salmon egg takes. The BOF has very little authority over hatchery production, but that could change with a regulation change. Some folks are claiming hatchery pinks are harming Chinook and sockeye without any proof. This misleading media is taking hold with some of the public.

CDFU wants to let you know we are taking action to counter this attack. CDFU has been working with PWSAC and other organizations to be organized and ready to take this issue on all summer long. This plan of action involves work in areas of economics and production numbers. There will be information provided to the commercial fleet, sports fishermen, local communities, and processors on how these hatcheries benefit our local economies in Prince William Sound. The processors have been alerted to what is happening and will be stepping up to the plate along with us. We do not want the politically appointed members of the Board of Fisheries, along with the RPT, to be in charge of hatchery production management plans that are made through scientific based management strategies.

CDFU's board of directors has met several times, we are going to publish letters about hatcheries, fishing communities, and other subjects all summer heading up to BOF work session in October, from the 15th-16th, when there will be presentations on the science and permitting process behind hatcheries. We will continue to keep you updated on what is going on through our website.

What can you do? Attend CDFU and BOF meetings on this subject. Get folks to donate or join, this will be a long and expensive battle. Standby to write letters when we send out our action alerts. Remember this issue is not to be taken lightly. At this point we cannot afford to lose hatchery production of pink, sockeye or chums.

Our hatcheries production supports a huge sport fish program throughout the state, and in PWS paid for by us the fishermen. CDFU will continue to work through these issues. Do your part and get fishermen to join. This is a serious situation, which affects your pocketbook as a seiner, gillnetter and set netter. Hatchery production is very important to PWS Fleet income.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune, Board President of CDFU