

Presented by: The Mayor
Presented: 01/06/2025
Drafted by: Law Department

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 3088

A Resolution Opposing Proposal 156, Alaska Board of Fisheries.

WHEREAS, salmon hatchery programs in Juneau, Alaska, have successfully operated since 1976, supplementing wild salmon harvests and supporting commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries across the state; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 156 seeks to reduce hatchery production of pink and chum salmon by 25%, posing a significant risk to hatchery-supported ecosystems in southeast Alaska and threatening the stability of salmon resources on which coastal communities like Juneau depend; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in hatchery production would not only diminish the availability of pink and chum salmon for commercial fishing, but would also limit access to these salmon for subsistence, personal use, and sport fishing, thereby directly impacting food security, cultural practices, and recreational opportunities in Juneau; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) and other southeastern Alaska hatcheries such as the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) and Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) play critical roles in generating economic stability, providing jobs, and supporting local communities through hatchery operations; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 156 would create uncertainty for hatchery production, complicate long-term planning and financial commitments for these organizations, and jeopardize the sustainability of Alaska's hatchery program; and

WHEREAS, DIPAC employs 28 year-round employees and up to 50 seasonal employees, offers free education programs to the Juneau School District which includes free transportation for students, is frequented by tourists and tour operators, and is a regular source of tax revenue for Juneau; and

WHEREAS, DIPAC and other southeastern Alaska fisheries rely on revenue from chum and pink salmon to fund production of sockeye, coho, and Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposal 156 would potentially force DIPAC to close its doors within the next 10-15 years, which would devastate Juneau seafood processors that rely on DIPAC for the viability of their programs and would also result in a significant loss

44 in fishing opportunities and income to commercial fisheries users, sport charter programs,
45 marine and shoreside sport users, and personal use fisherman, thereby impacting the tax
46 revenue Juneau gains from local fishery-related businesses; and
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48 WHEREAS, the current data on hatchery impact on wild salmon populations remains
49 inconclusive and does not substantiate the drastic cuts proposed by Proposal 156; and
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51 WHEREAS, Alaska’s hatchery system operates as a nonprofit model funded through
52 cost recovery and enhancement taxes, following stringent public permitting and scientific
53 standards to ensure that wild salmon populations are protected while benefiting all user
54 groups; and
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56 WHEREAS, Proposal 156 introduces an additional oversight mechanism that would
57 conflict with the established regulatory framework, risking the proven balance between
58 hatchery and wild stocks that has been achieved under existing management.
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60 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:
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62 **Section 1.** The City and Borough of Juneau strongly opposes Proposal 156,
63 scheduled for consideration at the January 28 to February 9, 2025, Alaska Board of
64 Fisheries meetings, and urges the Board to reject this proposal to prevent detrimental
65 economic and social impacts on Alaska’s hatchery programs and the communities they
66 support.
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68 **Section 2.** The City and Borough of Juneau reaffirms its support for DIPAC and
69 other southeastern Alaska fisheries including SSRAA and NSRAA, acknowledging their
70 essential contributions to Juneau’s economy, community well-being, and sustainable fishery
71 practices.
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73 **Section 3.** The City and Borough of Juneau calls upon the Alaska Board of
74 Fisheries to commit to science-based, objective assessments for hatchery management,
75 working in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, industry leaders,
76 and the hatchery community to ensure that management decisions reflect the value and
77 benefits Alaska’s hatchery programs bring to all residents.
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79 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after
80 its adoption.
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82 Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2025.
83

84 _____
85 Beth A. Weldon, Mayor
86

86 Attest:
87 _____
88 Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk