

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
RESOLUTION #2026-06**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES PROPOSALS 170,
171, AND 172, WHICH SEEK TO IMPOSE STATEWIDE REDUCTIONS AND
MORATORIA ON SALMON HATCHERY PRODUCTION**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries will consider three statewide hatchery proposals, Proposals 170, 171, and 172, at its 2026 Statewide Finfish Meeting, all of which seek broad regulatory actions limiting Alaska's Private Nonprofit (PNP) salmon hatchery system;

WHEREAS, Proposal 170 mandates a 25% reduction in permitted egg-take levels for pink and chum salmon at every Alaska hatchery statewide, affecting all 30 facilities, including 27 PNP hatcheries, two state-operated hatcheries, and one operated by the Metlakatla Indian Community;

WHEREAS, Proposal 171 seeks region-specific restrictions on Prince William Sound hatchery pink salmon programs, tying future hatchery production to undetermined stray-rate thresholds and imposing reductions even though existing data show low stray rates and no demonstrated ecological harm in Lower Cook Inlet;

WHEREAS, Proposal 172 imposes a statewide moratorium preventing *any increases* in pink and chum salmon hatchery production beyond 2025 levels, effectively freezing hatchery capacity indefinitely and overriding the Regional Planning Team (RPT) science-based review process established under 5 AAC 40.340;

WHEREAS, all three proposals are characterized by fisheries stakeholders and hatchery organizations, including Salmon Hatcheries for Alaska, as broad, preemptive regulatory actions lacking scientific evidence that hatchery production is causing the conservation issues cited;

WHEREAS, Alaska's PNP hatchery system was established under the 1974 Alaska Hatchery Act with the intent to supplement depleted salmon stocks without harming natural populations, and has for decades provided essential economic, subsistence, sport, and cultural benefits to coastal communities across the state;

WHEREAS, similar proposals to reduce hatchery egg-take levels have been repeatedly rejected by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in prior cycles due to a lack of conclusive scientific evidence linking hatchery production to declines in wild salmon populations;

WHEREAS, Proposals 170, 171, and 172, if enacted, would:

- reduce juvenile releases and adult returns statewide,
- destabilize commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries,
- decrease revenue streams that support hatchery operations and regional economies, and
- harm working families, seafood processors, and community-based aquaculture programs;

WHEREAS, these proposals abandon Alaska's long-standing science-based adaptive management, replacing targeted, data-driven oversight with blanket restrictions unsupported by biological necessity;

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Assembly of the Petersburg Borough, as follows:

Section 1. The Borough Assembly formally opposes Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals 170, 171, and 172 due to their adverse impacts on regional economies, fisheries stability, hatchery operations, and the long-term sustainability of Alaska's coastal communities.

Section 2. The Borough Assembly urges the Alaska Board of Fisheries to reject all three proposals and instead maintain Alaska's science-based, adaptive hatchery management framework.

Section 3. The Borough Assembly supports continued operation of Alaska's PNP hatchery system at current permitted production levels and affirms the importance of hatcheries in supporting commercial harvests, local employment, food security, Tribal traditions, and fisheries research.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Assembly of the Petersburg Borough, Alaska this
16th day of March 2026.

Robert Lynn, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca Regula, Borough Clerk