

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 25-5373505****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. - Comprehensive Salmon Plan Update, Planning, Data Gathering and Office Set Up

State Funding Requested: \$200,000
One-Time Need**House District: 35 / R****Brief Project Description:**

Yakutat Comprehensive Salmon Plan update, planning, data gathering for permitting of enhancement in the Yakutat region and office set up.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$300,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$100,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	(\$200,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

FY 13 - \$100,000

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Yakutat Regional Aquaculture was recognized by the Commissioner of Fish & Game in September 2011 as the regional aquaculture association for the Yakutat region. In July 2012, YRAA received an appropriation of \$100,00 for start up costs for this newly formed association. This request will provide additional funding to finish the Yakutat Comprehensive Salmon Plan update to completion, allow additional planning and data gathering for permitting of enhancement in the Yakutat region, and funds to set up an office and hire staff in Yakutat.

Project Timeline:

Expenditures would occur as soon as funds are received.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Larry Bemis
Title:	President
Address:	P.O. Box 153 Yakutat, Alaska 99689
Phone Number:	(907)586-6652
Email:	

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc.
PO Box 153
Yakutat, AK 99689

February 5, 2013

Honorable Gary Stevens
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 429
Juneau, AK 99801

Honorable Alan Austerman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Sen Stevens and Rep Austerman,

The Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association (YRAA) was recognized by the Commissioner of Fish and Game in September 2011 as the regional aquaculture association for the Yakutat region. In July of 2012, YRAA received from the Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development authorization and start of payments of the \$100,000 grant provided to every newly formed regional aquaculture association under AS 16.10.510(8).

We are writing today to request additional grant funding in the amount of \$200,000 for the Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association as part of a Capital Improvement Project. AS 16.10.510(8) authorizing the \$100K grant was enacted in approximately 1977 and that funding equates to \$23,394 in today's buying power. In the legislation that established the grant it states "It is the policy of the state, under AS 16.10.500 - 16.10.560, to promote the enhancement of the state's fisheries by means of grants for organizational and planning purposes to regional associations described in AS 16.10.510 that have qualified under AS 16.10.380. . . " The \$100K grant is inadequate to provide enough funding

for organizational and planning purposes in order to be in a position to approach the DCCED loan program for a hatchery permit.

The grant funding we are requesting would be used to finish the Yakutat Comprehensive Salmon Plan update to completion (\$100K) and planning, data gathering for permitting of enhancement in the Yakutat region, set up an office in Yakutat and an employee to see these tasks to completion (\$100K).

YRAA is using the current grant funds received to start the Yakutat Comprehensive Plan update (originally written in 1984 and states no hatchery enhancement will occur in the region) at \$50K, Planning and implementing an enhancement tax assessment election at \$30K and other organizational tasks at \$20K such as board election votes, meetings, filings for permits and IRS tax exemption status etc. YRAA should know by mid-April if the tax election vote was successful but funding wouldn't be received until July of 2014 for tax funds collected in the remainder of 2013.

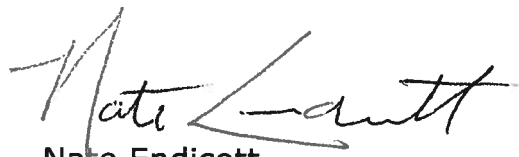
As you are aware, the Kodiak Comprehensive Plan update ended up costing approximately \$225K. With our current plan stating no hatchery or enhancement, an update is absolutely critical for permitting to move forward. We have contracted for the update to be written with the contract split in thirds with the first payment due (which funding is secured for with the first grant) on a first draft provided to YRAA and RPT for comments, second payment after YRAA & RPT/ADFG comments are included and a public hearing is conducted and the final payment when the Commissioner of ADFG signs off on the plan.

Additional information can be found on our website developed as part of the public informational requirement for the tax assessment at www.yraa.org or call 586-6652.

Sincerely,



Larry Bemis
President



Nate Endicott
Vice-President

CITY & BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 12-198

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT ASSEMBLY
SUPPORTIING THE YAKUTAT REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.
EFFORT TO IMPROVE AND ENHANCE THE YAKUTAT REGION'S SALMON AND
PROVIDE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY OF YAKUTAT**

WHEREAS, Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. (YRAA) has met the State of Alaska statutory requirements and been recognized by the Commissioner of Fish and Game as an aquaculture association in the Yakutat area for salmon enhancement and rehabilitation purposes in accordance with the provisions of AS 16.10.375-470; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners recognition of YRAA entails the formation of the Yakutat Regional Planning Team (RPT) consisting of three members from YRAA and three members from the Department of Fish and Game appointed by the Commissioner to work together for planning and implementing projects in the Yakutat area; and

WHEREAS, Yakutat is facing the real possibility of the Hubbard Glacier causing a washout of the Situk River system which could devastate the historical local fishery; and


WHEREAS, enhancement has been shown to be beneficial in Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound in economic benefits to the commercial fishermen, community benefits in increased jobs in fishing, processing and hatchery operations; and

WHEREAS, YRAA has a long-term goal of providing enhancement opportunities in order to provide a sufficient livelihood (\$50K - \$100K per permit) that locals can remain in Yakutat without moving or fishing in other regions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the City and Borough of Yakutat supports enhancement of the Yakutat region by the Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc.


FURTHER RESOLVED, the City & Borough of Yakutat Mayor and City staff will cooperatively work with the Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. to pursue and accomplish these goals.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly this 1 day of November, 2012



Cindy Bremner, Mayor

ATTEST:



Cathy Bremner, City Clerk

