

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**

**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)**

**Grant Recipient: SSRAA**

**Federal Tax ID: 92-0057726**

**Project Title:**

**Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

# Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association - Net Pens and Hatchery Deferred Maintenance

**State Funding Requested: \$400,000**

**House District: 1 / A**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Net pens (6) to rear increase summer chum production at Neets Bay and Kendrick Bay. Deferred maintenance: floating dock replacement at Burnett Inlet Hatchery and at standing dock replacement Neets Bay Hatchery.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$400,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	(\$400,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:*  
 SSRAA's annual operational costs are approximately \$5.5 million. To meet these costs: SSRAA receives revenue from the annual cost recovery harvest of returning salmon, annual revenue from the enhancement tax levied on regional fishermen, and state contracts for the production of chinook to enhance urban sport fisheries.

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Item 1. The first Item we listed is 6 Wavemaster net pens. These pens are needed for a planned program expansion. SSRAA is increasing summer chum production at both Neets Bay (12 million fry) and Kendrick Bay (10 million fry). These increases were initiated by the SSRAA Board of Directors and supported by the Joint SE Regional Planning Team through the most recent Board of Fish meeting in Sitka. They are designed in large part to bring the allocation agreement, between the three salmon fleets in SE back into balance. The increase at Neets assures a new chum troll fishery of at least 200,000 fish a year (We have done that the past two years.). It is possible with this increased release we can increase the troll target above 200,000 fish. This release would also contribute significant numbers of summer chum salmon to both drift and troll corridor fisheries as the fish return to Neets Bay. These fisheries are in District 101, 106 and 108 Drift gillnet and District 101, 102, 103, 104 and 107 seine. The cost of the net pens is \$155,000 when we consider construction and transportation. We will have additional costs for installation, but SSRAA will bear those costs.

Item 2. The main dock (floating portion) at Burnett Inlet Hatchery must be replaced this year. SSRAA inherited Burnett Inlet Hatchery from the state even though Burnett was never a state facility. The original operator and associated program went into bankruptcy about 15 years ago. The state received the hatchery in bankruptcy in lieu of the state loans required to build it. SSRAA took over the hatchery from the State in the late 1990's and has produced salmon there since that time. The hatchery currently produces about 1.7 million summer coho. The primary harvest of these fish is done by drift gillnet in

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\$400,000  
Approved

District 106, Clarence Strait, immediately in front of Whale Pass. This release also creates a significant sport harvest in Whale Pass...in essence the only current revenue generating opportunity the Whale Pass area. We (SSRAA) are currently retrofitting the facility to also incubate 25 million summer chum eggs. These fish will be the summer chum released in Anita Bay near Wrangell. The Anita Bay fish are distributed equally between seine and gillnet gear. The floating dock in front of the facility is important for coho rearing as net pens are secured to the dock. It is also important for normal hatchery operations as all fish transports, equipment transports, movement in and out of watercraft and etc depend on this dock. Our estimate (taken from the FY2012 Budget for the SSRAA Board) for replacement of the dock is \$75,000. Currently in the summer of 2011 or early spring of 2012.

Item 3. Loading dock replacement at Neets Bay. Neets Bay is a SSRAA facility, built with SSRAA funds (loans, since repaid, from the Dept. of Commerce). Neets Bay is a very large facility: 140 million summer chum eggs collected at the site; 30 million fall chum eggs collected, 3 million fall coho reared and released each year (number will be increased to 4.2 million in 2013); and, 700,000 chinook reared and released each year. There is one loading dock at Neets Bay and it is critical to the operations there. It is the only way things are moved to or from the water (tenders, barges, etc.). The dock has a small crane and etc. The dock is getting too old to be safe. This is deferred maintenance. The replacement will involve new pilings and the dock itself. We plan to replace the dock in the summer of 2011. This is a high priority project for SSRAA. Our project cost estimate in the FY2012 SSRAA Budget is \$175,000.

### Project Timeline:

Net pens will be purchased in the summer of 2011 as they must be installed in Neets Bay by early (January/February) 2012. The dock at Neets Bay must be replaced in the late spring and early summer of 2011, prior to significant harvest activity in Neets Bay. The dock at Burnett Inlet may be installed in the summer of 2011, and if not, it will be installed in the spring of 2012.

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

SSRAA

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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