Wild/Hatchery Salmon Management Tools

FY2018 Request: **$0**
Reference No: **54419**

AP/AL: Appropriation
Project Type: Research / Studies / Planning
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Contact: Carol Petraborg
Estimated Project Dates: 06/30/2017 - 06/30/2024
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
Pacific Seafood Processors and Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Inc., committed funding to support the Wild/Hatchery Salmon Management Tools capital project continuing from FY2013. Additional statutory designated program receipt (SDPR) authority is needed in order to receive these funds. This capital project supports a long-term research project designed to support management decisions related to hatchery production. In order to continue economic benefits provided by large-scale hatchery production, the state must ensure wild salmon stocks are managed for sustained yield as required by statute.

Funding:	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	Total
1108 Stat Desig	$5,950,000						$5,950,000
Total:	$5,950,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$5,950,000

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☑ On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:
Sec4 Ch18 SLA2014 P87 L23 SB 119 $2,000,000
Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P119 L12 SB 18 $2,000,000
Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P117 L14 HB160 $3,500,000
Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P117 L14 RPL 11-3-30338 $500,000

Project Description/Justification:
This project provides the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries (CFD) with $5,950,000 in statutory designated program receipts (SDPR) authority in order to receive funds from Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) and Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), Inc., over a seven year period for continued support of the Wild/Hatchery Salmon Management Tools program. The annual amount is $850,000 for seven years. This capital project supports the continuation of a long-term research project designed to support management decisions related to hatchery production. The CFD and hatchery operators collectively have designed this program and have both worked to support funding. Private sector fish processors recognize the importance of hatchery and wild production to their business and while staying well-removed from design of the studies, have pledged to financially support this important research.

When the initial capital project was discussed with the Legislature during the 2012 session, the topic of seeking additional financial support from processors was also discussed. Since there was no firm commitment of funding at the time, no SDPR receipt authority was added to the $3.5 million capital project appropriated in SLA 2012. In 2013 PSPA agreed to pay $500,000 annually over a five year period. This authority was provided via RPL#11-3-0338 and a subsequent supplemental appropriation. In 2014, Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC) committed $2,000,000 of funding to support the Wild/Hatchery Salmon Management Tools project.

This SDPR authority is directed at improving scientific understanding of the factors affecting productivity of both wild and hatchery salmon stocks, as well as improving knowledge about the interactions of wild and enhanced salmon populations. This work is important to the Division's core services to ensure the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments. The majority of the authority will be used to support a couple large contracts. There is no impact on the general fund, and this project does not fund new positions. This authorization is necessary to complete the study in FY2024.

In May of 2011, Alaska hatchery operators and department representatives identified three top priority research questions: 1) what is the genetic stock composition of pink and chum salmon in PWS and SE; 2) how much straying is there of both wild and hatchery pink and chum stock and how much annual variation is there and; 3) what is the impact on fitness (productivity) due to straying?

The first 4 years have been completed for field studies focused on straying and work on genetic stock structure of pink salmon populations is preliminarily complete. Field work for Questions 1 and 2 has been completed and analyses are nearing completion. Therefore, the scope of work for the research project has narrowed to address the fitness question. Intensive sampling directed toward studies of relative reproductive success is ongoing and should be completed in 2023.

A finance committee has been formed with hatchery operators, a processor representative, the commissioner's office and aquaculture section in the department, and has focused attention on essentials with a pared down program primarily directed at the questions about fitness. This project is expected to end in 2023 (FY2024) with the conclusion of the fitness analysis of chum salmon in Southeast Alaska.