

Sport Fish Hatchery Facility Upgrades and Improvements - FY2019 Request: \$1,500,000
Crystal Lake Reference No: 46468

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Renewal and Replacement
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Petersburg **House District:** Sitka/Petersburg (HD 35)
Impact House District: Southeast Region (HD 33-36) **Contact:** Thomas E Brookover
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2023 **Contact Phone:** (907)267-2150

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Division of Sport Fish annually prioritizes resources for the production and release of over 6 million Chinook and coho salmon, rainbow trout, and both Arctic char and Arctic grayling throughout Alaska. Three primary hatchery facilities support these efforts, including the Crystal Lake Hatchery located in Southeast Alaska. The hatchery's raceways and plumbing are deteriorating and may compromise future hatchery production.

Funding:	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>Total</u>
1024 Fish/Game	\$1,500,000						\$1,500,000
Total:	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

The Crystal Lake Hatchery (CLH) was built by the State of Alaska in 1971. A fire in 2014 destroyed most of the original facility. When structures were rebuilt, the plumbing supporting the rearing raceways were left unchanged. These components and sections of infrastructure are deteriorating and require renewal. The most secure process to repair the plumbing beneath the raceways is to tear out the concrete raceways and failing plumbing at the same time, and replace them with modern plumbing and concrete raceways. The needed improvements are projected to increase the annual production by 120,000 Chinook smolt to the existing 1.9 million. Thus, providing for a release of over 2.02 million into the common property fisheries in Southeast Alaska.

The Crystal Lake Hatchery is used to produce Chinook and coho salmon under the administration of the Department of Fish and Game. The facility is currently operated by a private non-profit (PNP) under contract with the Sport Fish Division to ensure releases of Chinook salmon benefit sport angling opportunities. The hatchery is also used as a central incubation facility (CIF) for the PNP's Chinook program in central and southern Southeast Alaska, with large numbers of pre-smolt transferred prior

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to release and imprinted in netpens at remote release sites. This is done to benefit the regional common property fisheries as well as to support a number of terminal harvest areas for commercial uses.

The CLH facility currently supports production of 1.9 million Chinook salmon eggs and 216,000 coho salmon eggs. Egg production is allocated to smolt releases of: 600,000 Chinook salmon into Blind Slough at the hatchery site (south of Petersburg); 500,000 Chinook for release into Neets Bay (north of Ketchikan); 450,000 Chinook smolt for release into Anita Bay (near Wrangell), and 120,000 Chinook smolt for a saltwater netpen release near City Creek (north of Petersburg). In addition, 80,000 yearling coho and 80,000 pre-smolt coho are released into Blind Slough near the hatchery.

Given the broad geographic extent of the releases, production from the CLH facility are caught in Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka and even Juneau, Haines and outer coast. This facility is truly a regional hatchery with realized benefits in virtually every community and in all fishing sectors of Southeast Alaska.