

Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook Fishery Mitigation

FY2022 Request: \$7,700,000
Reference No: 48948

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: Sam Rabung

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2026

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Fishery Mitigation Program was established in 2009 as part of the Pacifica Salmon Treaty (Treaty) negotiations. The Treaty was designed to alleviate economic impacts resulting from the 15 percent reduction in Chinook salmon harvest levels under the 2009 revision of the Treaty. This program continues to be necessary due to an additional 7.5 percent reduction in Chinook harvest levels under the 2019 revision. Alaska’s willingness to accept another loss to Chinook fisheries was predicated, in part, on a mitigation package designed to offset economic consequences.

Funding:	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>Total</u>
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$7,700,000						\$7,700,000
Total:	\$7,700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,700,000

<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"/> Ongoing
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 Treaty provides for the conservation and management of salmon that span the international borders between the U.S. and Canada. Since ratification in 1985, the Treaty has been instrumental in reducing interceptions, preventing overfishing, and improving salmon management. Southeast Alaska is home to a significant number of salmon enhancement facilities and programs. Primary impacts of the harvest reduction are on Southeast Alaska “hook and line fisheries,” which include commercial troll and sport fisheries and associated interests.

The contributions of hatchery raised Chinook and coho salmon are important to the troll and sport fisheries most affected by the reduction in Treaty harvests. Alaska hatchery produced Chinook salmon provide significant benefits because they may be harvested in addition to the annual Chinook salmon quota set under the Treaty.

Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Fishery Mitigation Program components include the following:

Hatchery fish marking, tagging, and evaluation – \$4.7 million (included in Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) federal FY2020 funding). Alaska is held accountable for gaps in its

information by what is known as the *risk factor*. In short, the risk factor considers potential errors in Alaska's data and reduces Chinook harvest levels accordingly.

Hatchery enhancement projects – \$1.5 million included in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) federal FY2020 funding. Alaska is interested in replacing as much of the 7.5% reduction taken in the 2019 agreement as possible with increased hatchery production. Hatchery production will be expanded across seven locations for an increase of up 2.5 million yearling releases per site per year.

Hatchery Research. Funds may also be used to develop brood stocks and to conduct critical hatchery-related research into marine survival, alternate life history traits, migration and other information that can increase fishing opportunities.