



SPAWNING NEWS

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL
AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

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14 Borch Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
www.ssraa.org

Fast action preserves Neets Bay pipeline after storm-driven landslide rips hillside

Severe January rains put the hatchery water supply at risk

By **MATT ALLEN**

Neets Bay Hatchery Manager

On the afternoon of Jan. 15, a large landslide was discovered half a mile from the Neets Bay Hatchery on the logging road that provides access from the hatchery to Bluff Lake. The day before, a heavy, wind-driven storm deposited more than 3 inches of rain in 12 hours.

THE EXTENT OF THE SLIDE was not appreciated at first glance. Upon closer inspection, we saw that the slide began 200 yards or more up the hillside and had carried earth, rock, trees and debris down through the power line corridor for the Swan Lake-Tyee Lake intertie, through a 100-yard strip of old growth, and over the logging road, terminating about 100 yards downslope at Neets Creek.

Most alarming was the discovery of a 40-foot section of exposed water pipeline. The buried pipe was exposed when the slide carried away earth on the downhill side. Liquefied earth had brought several large boulders to precarious perches a few feet above the pipe. These boulders posed a potential threat to the integrity of the pipe and operation of the hatchery. The area was unstable and prone to additional activity if weather conditions worsened.

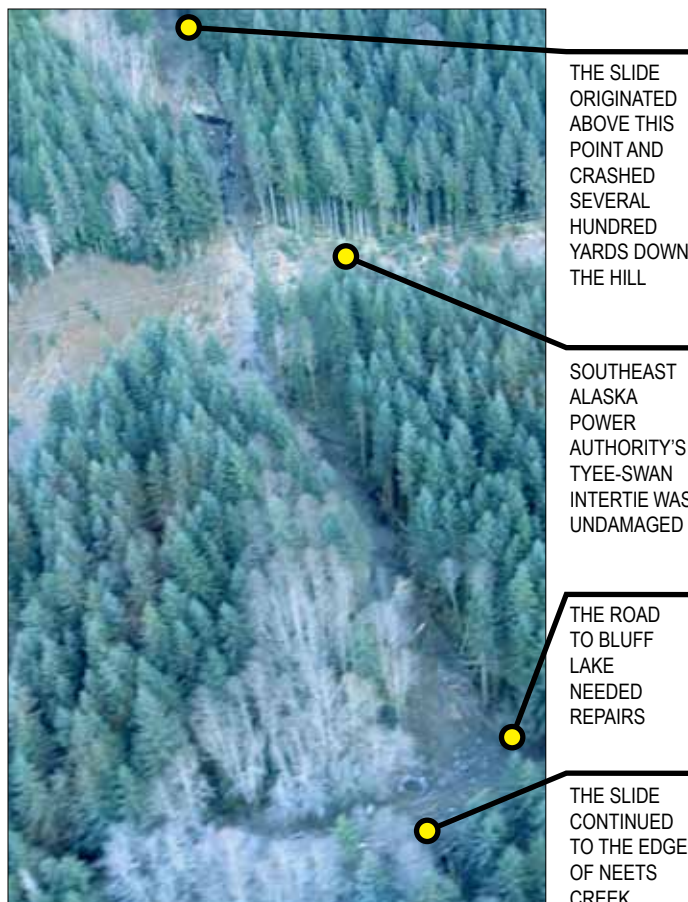
SEVERAL SLIDES OF THIS NATURE have occurred in Neets Bay along different logging systems over the past few years, but this was the first in the history of the site to impact the hatchery.

Shortly after we discovered the slide, hatchery staff contacted production manager Bill Gass and maintenance manager Mike Blanchard. Hatchery staff tried to stabilize the slide site and prepared for a possible interruption in pipeline operation.

On Jan. 17, Blanchard flew out to inspect the slide and the pipeline with Ray Perin—a local excavation contractor very familiar with SSRAA operations and sites. Immediate mobilization was warranted to secure the pipe, repair the site and take precautions in the event of additional slide activity.

BLANCHARD, PERIN AND Neets Bay Hatchery maintenance staff worked on the slide site on Jan. 19 after heavy equipment was delivered to Neets Bay Hatchery by a chartered landing craft. Over the course of three days, the pipeline was secured, a new culvert and runoff diversion were installed on the rebuilt section of road and measures were taken to reduce the likelihood of future slide activity.

Everyone interested in SSRAA owes great thanks to Ray Perin, Mike Blanchard and the Neets Bay maintenance staff for a quick and efficient response.



THE SLIDE ORIGINATED ABOVE THIS POINT AND CRASHED SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS DOWN THE HILL

SOUTHEAST ALASKA POWER AUTHORITY'S TYEE-SWAN INTERTIE WAS UNDAMAGED

THE ROAD TO BLUFF LAKE NEEDED REPAIRS

THE SLIDE CONTINUED TO THE EDGE OF NEETS CREEK



The pipeline carrying the critical water supply for Neets Bay Hatchery was exposed and vulnerable after a violent, wind-driven rainstorm.



A contractor well-acquainted with SSRAA infrastructure re-buried the pipeline and provided better protection against bad weather to come.

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ssraa.org

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Voters tap two new members for association's board of directors

Seiners and gillnetters put new gear-group representatives on the SSRAA board of directors in balloting that finished in December.

Dan Castle of Ketchikan takes a seine seat vacated by Rick Lindblom, who served out his second stint on the board. Brennon Eagle of Wrangell joins the board in a gillnet seat given up by longtime member Wayne Jackson.

Incumbent troll representatives Tom Fisher and Charlie Piercy won re-election unopposed.

The four members elected by SSRAA members will serve three-year terms ending in late 2016.

GILLNET

[1 seat up for election]

Brennon Eagle	76
Jeff McKean	47
Write-ins	1

SEINE

[1 seat up for election]

Dan Castle	50
Leif Dobszinsky	30

POWER TROLL

[2 seats up for election]

Tom Fisher	124
Charlie Piercy	121
Write-ins	6



Flying fish

Neets Bay staff members Mike Moreno, Brian Lundeen and Chris Lundeen help pilot Ryan McCue load 1.5 million fall coho eggs into his floatplane on Jan. 31. The eggs went to incubation trays at Burnett Inlet Hatchery and the resulting fry will be reared in net pens at Neck Lake for eventual release at either Anita Bay or Neets Bay. For more on SSRAA's 'spring' logistics, see the article on page 7.



SSRAA calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
March 6							
March 6							
March 7							
April 8							
April 10							

SSRAA Spawning News is published by the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, a private, non-profit aquaculture corporation based in Ketchikan, Alaska. Our web site is www.ssraa.org.

This publication is mailed free to all limited-entry salmon permit holders for purse seine, drift gillnet, power troll and hand troll in Alaska Districts 1-8. It is also mailed free to any person interested in SSRAA.

To receive Spawning News, send a request with your name, your organization's name and your address to: Spawning News / 14 Borch St. / Ketchikan, AK 99901.

For changes of address for permit holders, notify: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission / 8800-109 Glacier Highway / Juneau, AK 99801. The CFEC fax number is 907-789-6170.

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SSRAA Board of Directors

SEINERS

Dan Castle	Ketchikan	F/V Little Lady
Russ Cockrum (president)	Ketchikan	F/V Viking Maid
Mitch Eide	Petersburg	F/V Rose Lee
John Peckham	Ketchikan	F/V Alsek

GILLNETTERS

Brennon Eagle	Wrangell	F/B Danegeld
Rudy Franulovich	Ketchikan	F/V St. Raphael
Chris Guggenbickler	Wrangell	F/V Maranatha
Bob Martin	Petersburg	F/V Sumner

POWER TROLLERS

Tom Fisher	Ketchikan	F/V Carol W
David Otte	Ketchikan	F/V Sarah E.
Charles Piercy (vice president)	Ketchikan	F/V Tuckahoe
Tom Sims	Wrangell	F/V Arctic Nomad

HAND TROLLER

Craig Ring	Ketchikan
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APPOINTEES

John Clifton (treasurer)	Ketchikan	Sport fish
Paul Cyr	Ketchikan	Processor
David Landis (secretary)	Ketchikan	Native Corporation
Cindy Lasiter	Ketchikan	Public at Large
Nick Ohmer	Petersburg	Municipality
Mike Painter	Ketchikan	Municipality
John Scoblic	Ketchikan	Public At Large
John Yeager	Wrangell	Subsistence

The 21-member SSRAA Board of Directors includes 13 commercial fishers along with representatives of interest groups and the public.

SSRAA Staff

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

John Burke	General Manager
Bill Gass	Production Manager
Bret Hiatt	Operations Manager
Leslie Brewer	Bookkeeper
Cindy Walters	Administrative Assistant

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Susan Doherty	Research & Evaluation Manager
Michelle Leitz	Research & Evaluation Assistant Manager
Alan Murray	Fish Technician III

WHITMAN LAKE HATCHERY

Jay Creasy	Hatchery Manager
Mark Tollfeldt	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Mike Blanchard	Maintenance Manager
Ted Addington	Assistant Manager for Special Projects
Cody Pederson	Fish Technician III
Jesse Knock	Fish Technician II

NEETS BAY HATCHERY

Matt Allen	Hatchery Manager
Brian Lundeen	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Shane Ewalt	Maintenance & Constr. Supervisor
Chris Lundeen	Maintenance Technician III
Mike Moreno	Fish Technician II
Maria Adams	Fish Technician II
Jared Jillie	Fish Technician II

BURNETT INLET HATCHERY

J.R. Parsley	Hatchery Manager
Steve Reid	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Jon Thorington	Fish Technician III

CRYSTAL LAKE HATCHERY

Loren Thompson	Hatchery Manager
Kevin Chase	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Don Franklin	Fish Technician III

SSRAA PEOPLE

Gillnet rep leaving board thinks SSRAA operations are clicking

Wayne Jackson went to meetings of the SSRAA board of directors before he had to. He looked in as a gillnetter who was interested in what the 21-member body was doing with a massive, complicated, debt-burdened hatchery system.

“I went to meetings to find out how things were going for the association. Really, I just wanted to see how it clicked,” Jackson said in early February.



Wayne Jackson with a commissioned portrait of his boat

He just completed 21 years on the board—helping SSRAA to keep clicking through a period of paying down debt and ramping up contributions to commercial fisheries.

“That’s about 20 and a half years longer than I expected,” he said. When he volunteered as a gillnet candidate at the suggestion of board veteran Ken Duckett, it was more out of duty than desire. “At that

time, they had a lot of trouble getting people to serve. I thought somebody else would sign up to run, but nobody did,” he said in a phone interview.

He said board work was difficult and often contentious.

“There was a lot of debt. We were \$17 million in debt when I got on there. They were worried about that,” Jackson said. He kept one principle in mind whenever issues got sticky.

“Without SSRAA, we wouldn’t be fishing,” he said. “I always thought it was something we needed, or we wouldn’t be fishermen. And look what’s happened.”

Jackson has been commercial fishing since 1959. His first decade was spent as a crew member on gillnet and seine boats. Life at sea is literally second nature: Jackson said he was “born on a hospital ship in Klawock harbor.” He lived in Ketchikan after he was in first grade.

He bought his own 35-foot stern picker in 1969 with loans from a bank and from relatives. His family was well-acquainted with Alaskan fishing. His grandfather on his mother’s side was a fisherman.

He knew, after 10 years as a crewman, that he liked the way of life, but he’s matter-of-fact about his career choice.

“I needed the money, so I fished,” he said. The chase took him far from home. “We went as far as Haines in the early years. We were fishing pinks. That’s about all we had.”

He favored the 3 percent levy on salmon landings set up to support SSRAA in the 1970s.

SSRAA’s Tree Point chum returns were his mainstay. He also dabbled in self-marketing with Ocean Pearl brand smoked salmon, named for his next to last gillnet boat.

Jackson said he owned seven gillnet boats during his more than 40 years as a gillnetter, each boat an upgrade from the one before.

“As you get better at what you’re doing, you tend to get better gear,” he said. “And I quit going north.”

Jackson looks back on SSRAA board service with pleased relief.

“Early on, we had two or three meetings a week. We were in survival mode. You wore multiple hats, as a gear representative and board member,” he said. “But you had to make sure the company survived.” Self-marketing of SSRAA fish helped, for several years.

“That area, too, is evolving and changing. Overall, we’re well-managed and very productive,” he said.

Jackson kept the family’s commercial fishing legacy going. He sold his permit, and leases his boat, to his nephew, who fished with him for about 15 years.

In one era and out the other: board stints span most of SSRAA

Rick Lindblom left the SSRAA board of directors in January after two distinct tours of duty at the governing table—in effect, he’s participated in two eras for the hatchery organization.



Rick Lindblom

He took a seine seat in the early days and recalls the board as “fiercely divided” and its meetings as “grueling and hostile.” After nearly two decades away, Lindblom was apprehensive as he rejoined the board eight years ago. He’d run seiners for decades. He’d mixed it up in fisheries politics as a longtime board member for Southeast Alaska Seinners Association (SEAS). But he worried about resuming SSRAA board service.

“I admit to having come back on the board feeling defensive,” Lindblom wrote from his home on Puget Sound. “Several personalities changed during the last eight years and today I find the board to be well-balanced, proactive,

positive and of a ‘win-win’ philosophy. The financial status is good, management is excellent and the board is aware of, and working toward, orderly transfer of management authority.”

Lindblom grew up in Marysville, Wash., and in 1969 spent his first summer in Alaska, fishing on a 42-foot seiner. His older brother crewed on Alaska boats before him, but the brother married and left the water. By the mid-’70s, Lindblom was running seiners for Whitney-Fidalgo. He bought his own limit seiner in 1982. Technology was simpler then. “We had big crews and strong backs,” he said.

Lindblom learned from elders in the fleet, whom he recalls as “passionate, colorful, ethnic and simple.” For all their good advice, they also played him on the grounds: Lindblom had a propensity for “self-righteous indignation when confronted with anything I found to be unfair.” Oldtimers “baited me into talking on old AM radio sets and VHF channels.” It was just pranks until an old salt heard Lindblom at Steamboat Bay “bitching about the state of our fishery.”

“Willy Colvin—one of our loudest skippers—said, ‘Look kid. It’s easy to stand on the dock and poke holes in the air with your fist! Why the f--- don’t you run for a seat on the board where you can do some good? And while you’re at it, pay your godd---d dues!’” Lindblom was ushered into fisheries politics by veterans on the SEAS board. “I learned how to think and feel proactively about our Southeast salmon fishery,” he recalled.

He was in the room at New England Fish Co. on Lake Union when old hands in the fleet started talking about hatcheries for southern Southeast.

“Our pink fishery was sporadic and we were faced with extreme volatility in harvestable surplus. The idea was to establish a buffer for deep dips in harvest opportunity. We all agreed, and SSRAA happened,” Lindblom remembered. Some time later, SSRAA board member Fred Dobszinsky “tapped me on the shoulder and said, ‘You’re next.’” Lindblom was then on the SEAS board and “very suspicious of hatcheries. On Puget Sound, too often I saw fisheries managed around hatcheries.”

“When I joined the SSRAA board in the ’80s, SSRAA was deep in debt and operating in the red,” he recalled. “The board was fiercely divided on allocation issues. Meetings were grueling and hostile. The manager was dissatisfied and disliked. In spite of this near-hostile working environment, the people we had working in the field were the opposite. They loved the process of raising fish, the culture—both fish and people—and were a pleasure to be around from the get-go.”

A health issue forced Lindblom’s first departure from the board. He left voluntarily this time, confident that “these associations are one of the most effective tools at our disposal to protect our industry from external political threats, bogus fish culture, international issues and bad public image—and they put fish on our boats.”

Early on, we had two or three meetings a week. We were in survival mode. You wore multiple hats, as a gear representative and board member. But you had to make sure the company survived.

Wayne Jackson

I admit to having come back on the board feeling defensive. Several personalities changed ... and today I find the board to be well-balanced, proactive, positive and of a ‘win-win’ philosophy.

Rick Lindblom



FINANCIALS

Southern Southeast
Regional Aquaculture Association

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

For the years ended June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2012



SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For the Years Ended June 30, 2013 and 2012

	2013	2012
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash received from fish marketing, tours, and other sources	\$ 13,630,208	\$ 12,773,062
Cash received (paid) from enhancement taxes, contracts and agreements	(695,616)	5,563,831
Cash paid to employees and vendors	(10,965,306)	(12,821,527)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,969,286</u>	<u>5,515,366</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest received	565	2,309
Purchase of investments, net	(17,616)	(1,457)
Purchase of property and equipment	(880,214)	(951,564)
Net cash used for investing activities	<u>(897,265)</u>	<u>(950,712)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Principal payments on long-term debt	-	(138,219)
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	42,804	-
Deferred interest payment	(245,590)	(245,590)
Net cash used for financing activities	<u>(202,786)</u>	<u>(383,809)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	869,235	4,180,845
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	6,672,044	2,491,199
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 7,541,279</u>	<u>\$ 6,672,044</u>
RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in net assets from operations	\$ 5,514,116	\$ 1,938,019
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation and amortization	814,333	817,961
Loss on disposal of assets	49,012	-
(Increase) decrease in:		
Accounts receivable, net	(465,806)	156,345
Income taxes receivable	(915,329)	-
State contracts receivable	(243,102)	(17,360)
Inventory	(9,840)	(100,535)
Prepaid expenses	(16,890)	13,919
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	14,877	(101,009)
Payroll and payroll taxes payable	11,542	5,317
Accrued vacation payable	22,517	(4,833)
Accrued pension payable	1,942	(544)
Accrued income tax payable	(2,808,086)	2,808,086
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 1,969,286</u>	<u>\$ 5,515,366</u>

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
June 30, 2013

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	
Investments	
Accounts receivable, net	
Income taxes receivable	
Grants and contracts receivable	
Inventory	
Prepaid expenses	
Total current assets	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	
OTHER ASSETS	
Restricted investments - State of Alaska performance	
Loan fees, net of amortization	
Total assets	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	
Payroll and payroll taxes payable	
Accrued vacation payable	
Accrued pension payable	
Income tax payable	
Deferred interest payable, current	
Total current liabilities	
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	
Deferred interest payable	
Long-term debt	
Total long-term liabilities	
Total liabilities	
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted, undesignated	
Unrestricted, designated by the Board	
Total net assets	
Total liabilities and net assets	



SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.
FINANCIAL POSITION
For the Years Ended June 30, 2013 and 2012

	2013	2012
Assets	\$ 7,541,279	\$ 6,672,044
Accounts receivable	252,358	234,958
Inventory	530,850	65,044
Prepaid expenses	915,329	-
Equipment	434,787	191,685
Accumulated depreciation	(169,450)	(159,610)
Land	98,018	81,128
Accounts payable	(9,942,071)	(7,404,469)
Accrued liabilities	(7,727,887)	(7,712,084)
Bonds	386,446	386,230
Other	5,333	4,267
Total	\$ 18,061,737	\$ 15,507,050
Liabilities	\$ 246,525	\$ 231,648
Accounts payable	52,068	40,526
Accrued liabilities	138,841	116,324
Deferred maintenance	35,596	33,654
Other	-	2,808,086
Retained earnings	245,590	245,590
Total	718,620	3,475,828
Equity	2,701,314	2,946,904
Contributed capital	604,585	561,781
Retained earnings	3,305,899	3,508,685
Total	4,024,519	6,984,513
Other	6,528,711	1,300,473
Retained earnings	7,508,507	7,222,064
Total	14,037,218	8,522,537
Total Assets	\$ 18,061,737	\$ 15,507,050



SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the Years Ended June 30, 2013 and 2012

	2013	2012
OPERATING REVENUE		
Direct fish marketing	\$ 13,954,207	\$ 12,434,355
Grant revenue, fisheries enhancement tax	2,209,653	1,608,830
Contract and agreement revenue, restrictions satisfied:		
Crystal Lake operations	394,660	545,355
Chinook Enhancement	200,000	200,000
Deferred Maintenance Grant	328,060	-
McDonald Lake	-	18,920
KPU Lake	42,852	-
Crystal Lake maintenance and improvements	95,676	400,000
Tours	151,630	142,341
Other	(9,823)	40,021
Total operating revenue	17,366,915	15,389,822
OPERATING EXPENSES		
HATCHERY OPERATIONS		
Harvest and marketing	5,015,128	4,325,226
Hatcheries and rearing facilities	3,431,830	2,912,622
Maintenance and improvements	674,494	698,261
Rearing, release, and transport	719,393	692,443
Tagging and otolith laboratory	236,123	228,236
Research and planning	152,683	145,272
Total hatchery operations	10,229,651	9,002,060
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	1,720,458	1,641,657
FEDERAL INCOME TAXES	554,102	2,156,674
STATE INCOME TAXES (REFUNDS)	(651,412)	651,412
Total operating expenses	11,852,799	13,451,803
Change in net assets from operations	5,514,116	1,938,019
OTHER REVENUE		
Investment and interest income	565	791
Change in net assets	5,514,681	1,938,810
Net assets, beginning of year	8,522,537	6,583,727
Net assets, end of year	\$ 14,037,218	\$ 8,522,537

For more information, visit us or write to us.

SSRAA
14 Borch St.,
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Call us at 907-225-9605

Capital program at midpoint of a year dedicated to upgrading decades-old hatchery facilities

Items from housing to dock cranes lead the list

By **BILL GASS**
Production Manager

SSRAA's hatchery at Neets Bay, the association's newest, turned 30 years old in 2013. The other facilities were all constructed in the 1970s and are showing their age in various ways.

Considering the aging infrastructure, the SSRAA Board of Directors passed a \$1.2 million capital budget for the fiscal year that ends on June 30. Hatchery staff and maintenance personnel have been very busy attempting to accomplish all of the tasks approved before the end of the fiscal year.

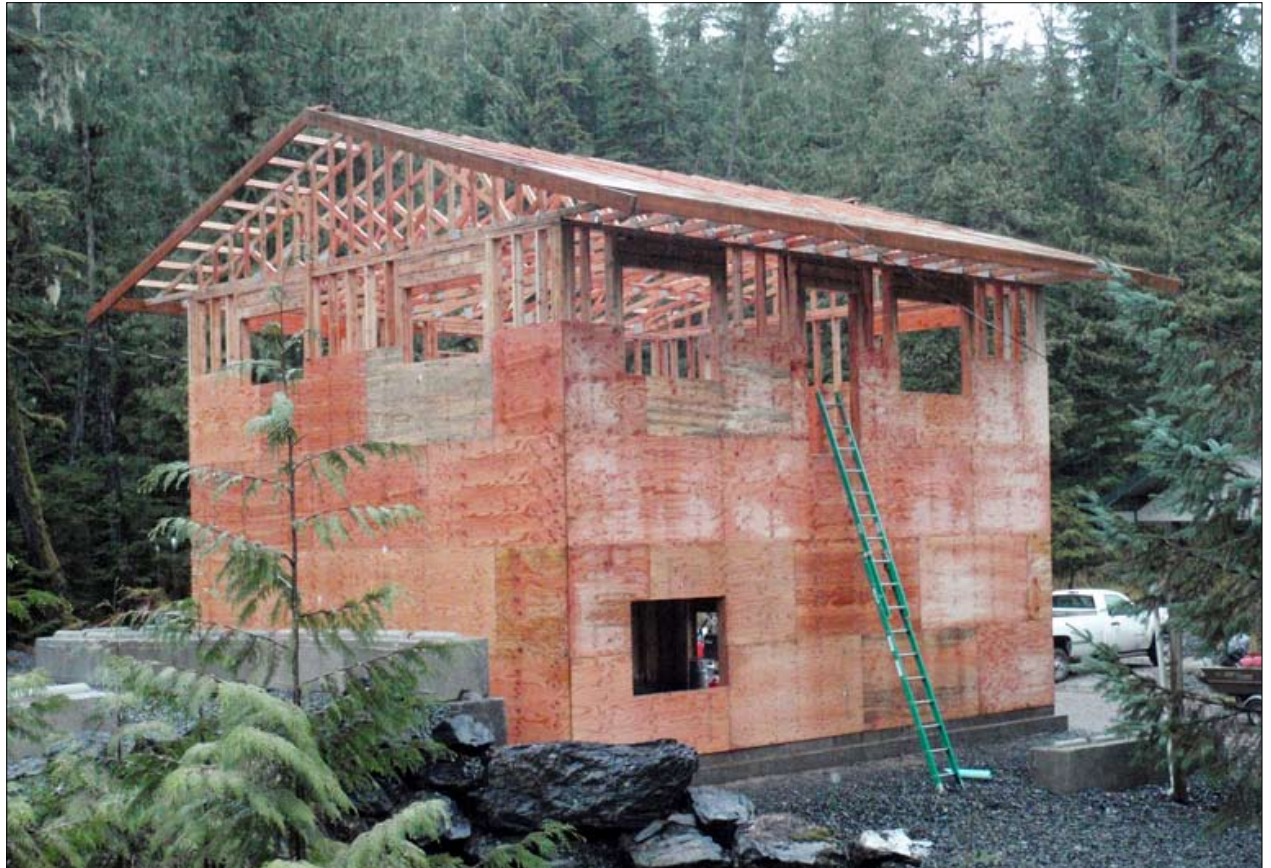
High on the list is installation of a new permanent residence at Whitman Lake Hatchery to replace the 1970s-era mobile home that's been on site since 1978. A permanent residence is also being constructed at Neck Lake.

The Whitman Lake Hatchery building is slated for a face-lift this spring, when it will receive a new roof and a paint job. The Neets Bay shop finally got an addition that will allow some of the larger equipment to roll under cover when work needs to be done.

Equipment purchases were also approved in the capital improvement program. Neets Bay Hatchery decommissioned the 1963 Hyster forklift and replaced it with an extend-a-boom model with rough-terrain wheels. Neets Bay also purchased a truck and a new Bobcat skid-steer. Other purchases for Neets Bay included a new net pen array for four more net pens. New dock cranes were installed at both Neets Bay and Burnett Inlet hatcheries and the Anita Bay remote camp got a new generator.

Whitman Lake Hatchery purchased a new truck and replaced the forklift that has been onsite since 1980.

This infusion of capital equipment and maintenance ensures that SSRAA is able to meet the organization's production goals well into the future.



Housing and shop space will share a new building going up at Neck Lake as part of the association's CIP for this fiscal year. A new skid-steer tractor at Neets Bay improves productivity.



State OKs boost in releases at Nakat Inlet and Anita Bay

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has approved SSRAA's proposal to increase fall coho releases at Nakat Inlet and Anita Bay.

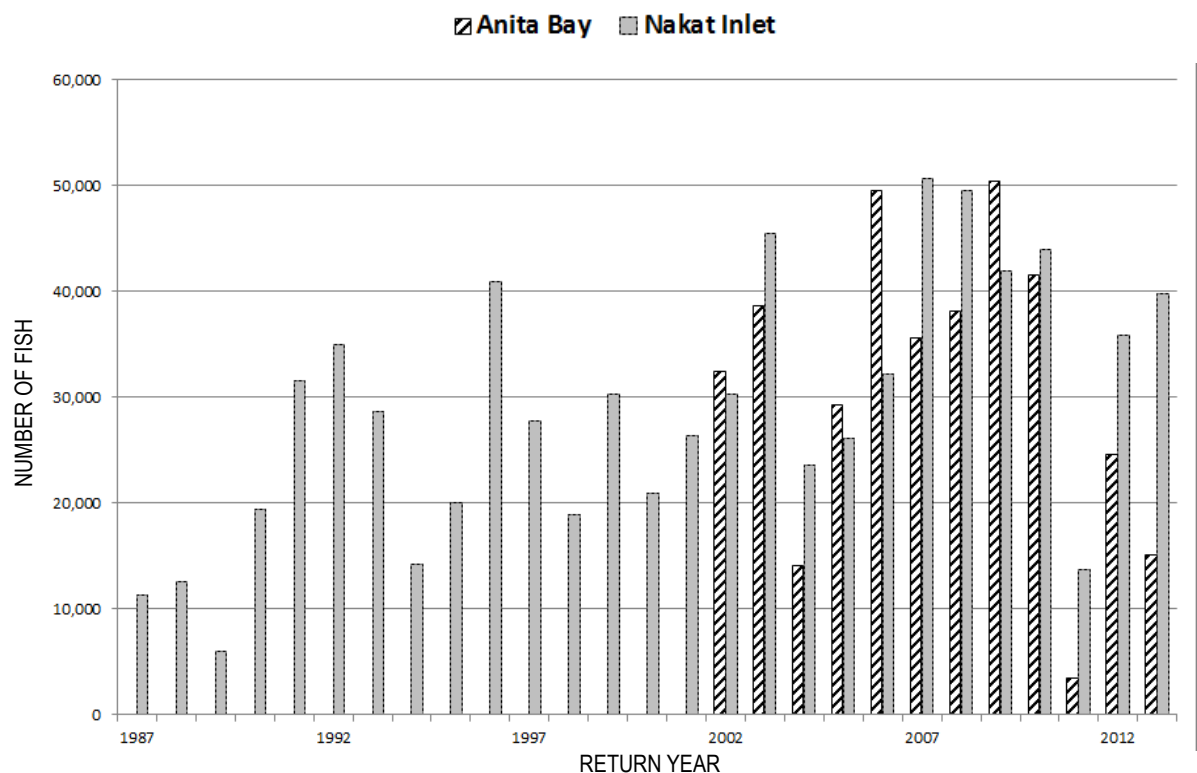
SSRAA submitted two permit alteration requests to the Regional Planning Team in December, asking to increase releases of fall coho at Nakat Inlet by 300,000 smolts and at Anita Bay by 400,000 smolts. The smolts would come from the Neets Bay release and reduce it to about 4.3 million fall coho smolts—a negligible effect on the Neets Bay return.

The permit alterations approved by ADF&G in January will bring the release number to 600,000 at each site. If fish transport permits are approved soon, the increased release could happen this spring.

Recent release numbers have been approximately 300,000 at Nakat and 200,000 at Anita. Using the graph to the right showing historical contributions, fishermen can anticipate doubled coho returns at Nakat and tripled returns at Anita. The SSRAA Board of Directors hopes the magnitude of the potential coho returns in the near-shore environment will help to spread out the fleet and attract more effort.

These fish typically average 8 pounds in traditional fisheries. If the value is similar to ADF&G preliminary estimated average exvessel value for Southeast Alaska in 2013—when the average price for coho was \$1.17 per pound—fishermen may want to put these areas on their radar as early as 2015.

Historical Contribution of Coho With a 100,000 - 300,000 Release



Easy first half of winter drives earlier fish logistics for staff

By **BILL GASS**
Production Manager

“Spring rearing season” in the hatchery business generally refers to a time frame that begins around Feb. 1 with the emergence of the first summer chum fry and ends by June 1 with the last release of netpen coho. The 2014 spring season began on Dec. 30, 2013, when Neets Bay Hatchery personnel ponded the first netpen of summer chum to saltwater netpens; had that occurred just 10 days earlier, the hatchery spring season would have started on the last day of fall.

PRODUCTION report

The challenges of starting so soon are mostly logistical for the staffs at Neets Bay, Whitman Lake and Burnett Inlet, as well as the vessels under contract for fry transport and the tug hired for camp placement. Staffs at the remote camps are seasonal workers who generally make plans for the winter assuming a start date in late January. The Kendrick Bay crew was in Maine with tickets back to Ketchikan in late January that had to be changed to January 15.

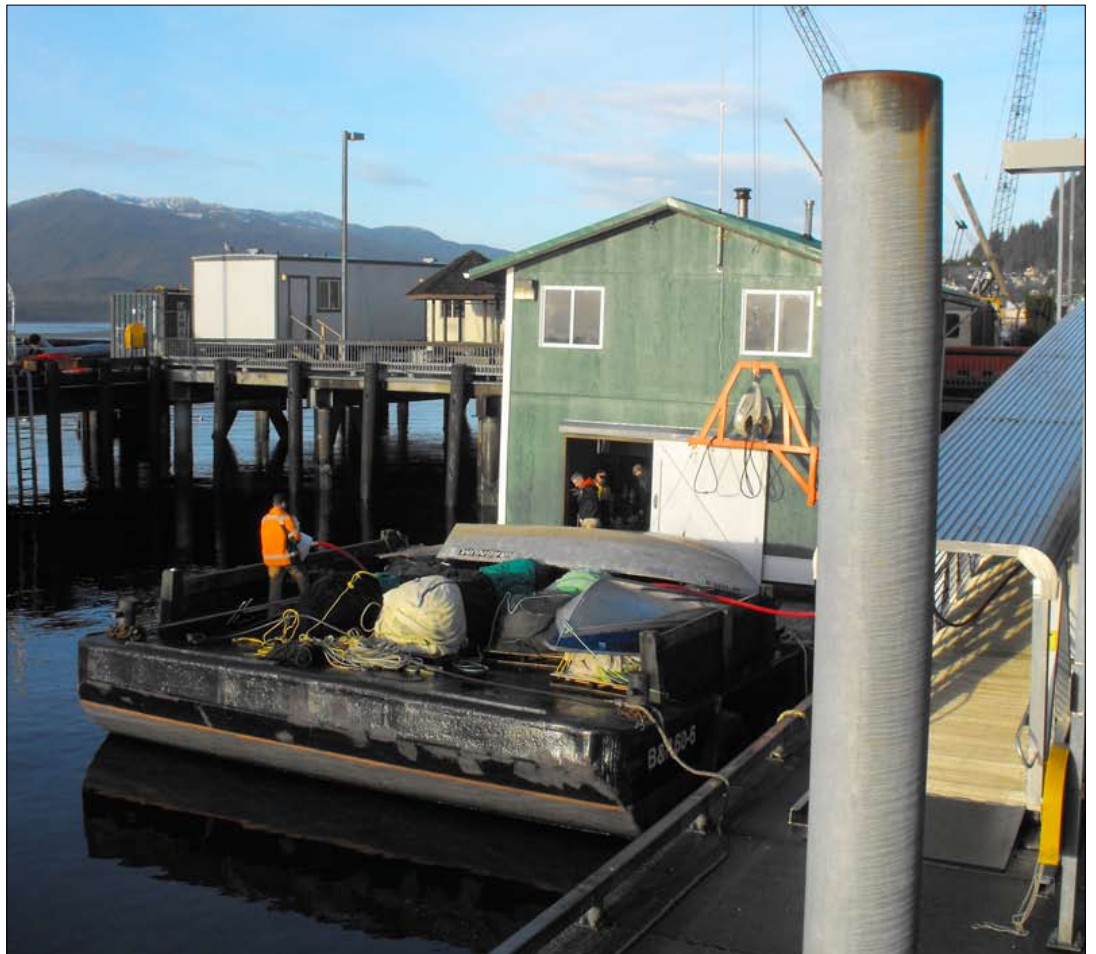
The camp barges had to be towed from Neets Bay to Ketchikan—to be outfitted with fuel, supplies and fish food to last four months—before being towed to Anita Bay, Kendrick Bay and Nakat Inlet. The first 100 tons of fish food was barged to Neets Bay and 60 million fry are being transported from Burnett Inlet and Whitman Lake to the remote camps.

Everything came together and as I write this on Jan. 29, Neets Bay has all of their summer chum in the water; Burnett Inlet has transported 22 million to Anita Bay; Kendrick Bay is receiving its last transport from Whitman Lake; and Nakat Inlet is scheduled to have the final summer chum transport of the season on the traditional start date of Feb. 1. All of that makes a grand total of 125 million fry safely ponded to saltwater.

This is not the earliest that SSRAA has ever ponded summer chum and in fact this mild winter is not really as exceptional as it may seem. The month of January has not set a single high temperature record so far.

We have some concern about the lack of snowpack on the mountaintops, but all we can do is worry—which never seems to help. Whether the early start has a beneficial or detrimental effect on the rest of the season, and ultimately on survival of this brood year, is yet to be seen. But in simplest terms, it is better to

Whether the early start has a beneficial or detrimental effect on the rest of the season, and ultimately on survival of this brood year, is yet to be seen. But in simplest terms, it is better to be early than late.



Floating-camp equipment and culturing gear covers the deck of SSRAA's Kendrick Bay barge in January before the vessel is towed out for net pen deployment. It's all part of what qualifies as “spring rearing season” in the hatchery world.

be early than late: If you are early you can still be on time, but if you are late, you are late.

Once all of the fish are in place and growing, it is possible to reduce feed without causing any harm while waiting for the proper release window. From a production standpoint, getting all of the fish out of the hatchery buildings and into netpens is a huge relief and brings us one step closer to a successful conclusion of another spring rearing season.

So we are enjoying the nice weather while we can and waiting for the one certainty. It will change.

Commercial fishing industry stars in exhibit of images and artifacts

More than a century of images and objects related to Ketchikan's first major industry goes on view at Tongass Historical Museum soon.

First in Fish: Ketchikan's Commercial Fishing Traditions opens with a reception 5-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, at the museum beside Ketchikan Creek. The exhibition continues through the summer.

The City of Ketchikan's Museum Department has an extensive collection of artifacts and photos related to commercial fishing. The 2014 show features the progress of fishing technology as well as images of hard-working people at sea and ashore. Among artifacts in the exhibition are a halibut dory sail from circa 1906 and hand-made trolling spoons—as well as the tools used to fashion them—from the early 1900s.



Fishermen and processors pose at rest on the dock near Ketchikan Cold Storage & Marlyn Fish Co. in downtown Ketchikan. Circa 1930s. KM 2008.2.7.2

The wood old days? A wooden hand gurdy represents the arduous early days of commercial fishing. Also in the museum exhibition are these hand-made trolling spoons and this remarkable hammer for tooling lures—made from copper tubing and an orca's tooth.



Museum soliciting personal pix and reminiscences tied to commercial fishing

Local folks with ties to commercial fishing are invited to be part of Tongass Historical Museum's exhibition, *First in Fish*. Museum staff will assemble a digital slide show of firsthand material to accompany the showing of images and artifacts from the museum's own archives.

Residents may submit one commercial fishing photo, with explanatory information, and a paragraph of text. The deadline is Feb. 14. The digital album of images and recollections will be saved in the museum's collection for future generations.

Contact Ann Froeschle at Ketchikan Museums, 907-225-5900, or send email to annf@city.ketchikan.ak.us.

2013 harvest value of SSRAA production

Species	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Total	% of Value
Coho	\$968,700	\$129,400	\$2,500,100	\$3,598,200	25.6%
Chinook	\$979,500	\$379,200	\$832,800	\$2,191,500	15.6%
Summer Chum	\$2,577,400	\$4,419,200	\$1,091,900	\$8,088,500	57.5%
Fall Chum	\$105,800	\$42,800	\$18,600	\$167,200	1.2%
Sockeye	\$11,300	\$4,300	—	\$15,600	0.1%
Totals	\$4,642,700	\$4,974,900	\$4,443,400	\$14,061,000	
% of Value	33.0%	35.4%	31.6%		

2014 forecast of returns for all species and sites

Species	Site	5 YR	4 YR	3 YR	CP	Terminal	Total
Summer Chum	Neets	200,000	1,200,000	400,000	486,000	1,314,000	1,800,000
Summer Chum	Nakat	40,000	200,000	40,000	140,000	140,000	280,000
Summer Chum	Anita	88,000	343,000	70,000	250,500	250,500	501,000
Summer Chum	Kendrick	116,000	500,000	84,000	490,000	210,000	700,000
Fall Chum	Neets	10,000	100,000	30,000	35,000	105,000	140,000
Fall Chum	Nakat	5,000	no release	5,000	3,500	6,500	10,000

Species	Site	6 YR	5 YR	4 YR	CP	Terminal	Total
Chinook	Whitman	700	6,600	5,000	3,690	8,610	12,300
Chinook	Neets	1,000	10,000	7,100	5,430	12,670	18,100
Chinook	Anita	2,000	9,000	4,400	4,620	10,780	15,400
Chinook	Crystal	600	2,000	700	1,650	1,650	3,300

Species	Site	CP	Terminal	Total
Coho	Whitman	17,700	5,900	23,600
Coho	Neets	207,200	88,800	296,000
Coho	Nakat	21,600	2,400	24,000
Coho	Anita	13,200	2,300	15,500
Coho	Neck	34,000	34,000	68,000
Coho	Burnett	10,300	12,700	23,000
Coho	Crystal	5,300	3,600	8,900

These numbers are preliminary and represent the best estimates of research and evaluation staff, based on historical averages or robust multi-regression analytical models.