



# SPAWNING NEWS

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SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL  
AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

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## Deer Mtn. production is under way

Chinook in the first release class will lead an expanding program

SSRAA reached another milestone in March when new production arrived at the Deer Mountain Hatchery in Ketchikan.

About 90,000 Chinook pre-smolt reared at Whitman Lake Hatchery were transported to the site beside Ketchikan Creek and ponded in circular tanks. The Chinook are on a daily feeding regimen until their scheduled release into the creek in May.

This is the beginning of a more robust Chinook program for SSRAA and coincides with other production changes that require freeing up space at Whitman Lake Hatchery and providing broodstock security for these Chickamin River stock Chinook. The recently acquired space at Deer Mountain allows these changes.

Deer Mountain Hatchery will be used this year as a rearing site. SSRAA will pond 500,000 Chinook fry at the facility. Starting in the spring of 2016 and continuing each year thereafter, approximately 100,000 Chinook smolt will be released into Ketchikan Creek. The remainder will be released at one of our remote release sites. SSRAA received permitting approval for a former SSRAA Chinook release site



Fish culturist Henry Hastings stands next to a holding tank at Deer Mountain Hatchery, where some of 90,000 Chinook pre-smolt are fattening up for release into Ketchikan Creek in May.

in Carroll Inlet—the SSRAA Board of Directors' current preferred release site for this facility's remaining production.

SSRAA also anticipates using the hatchery as an educational outreach center that will welcome visitors. This is a great opportunity for the association to educate the public about salmon enhancement programs and the important work done for the region's economy by

Southeast's hatchery community.

But Deer Mountain Hatchery needs extensive renovation before we're ready to accommodate visitors. The facility will not be readily accessible to the public until the summer of 2017.

SSRAA this June will again be a sponsor of the annual City Park Spring Kids Fishing Derby, providing fish from Deer Mountain Hatchery to stock City Park ponds.

## Association searching for next general manager

The present general manager of Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association will retire in January 2016. With this announcement, we are soliciting interest in the position.

SSRAA is a nonprofit regional aquaculture association operating the equivalent of six salmon hatcheries with an annual operating budget of \$10 million.

The general manager works at the will of the SSRAA Board of Directors and directly supervises the production manager, operations manager and research and evaluation manager, and, through these positions, is ultimately responsible for all personnel actions.

**The primary responsibility** of the GM is the general wellbeing of the organization, including:

- With project managers, developing an annual budget proposal for modification and approval by the Board of Directors; generating real-time cash flow estimates through the course of the year and providing them to the Board of Directors.

- Arranging, scheduling and participating in all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
- Coordinating all programs and activities with the appropriate state and federal agencies, including: State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Department of Commerce; Alaska State Legislature; Board of Fisheries; Regional Planning Teams; Seine and Gillnet Task Forces; and other groups that have an impact on SSRAA or the larger salmon enhancement community.
- Overseeing SSRAA's cost recovery harvest activities and the real-time management of cost recovery and common property fisheries in Neets Bay SHA.
- Overseeing all contracts with other parties and any legal matters involving the organization.

**Knowledge and skills:** Familiarity with Alaska salmon fisheries, salmon management and salmon fishery enhancement; successful experience in administration, supervision, planning and coordination of

See 'GM search' on 2

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## PRODUCTION UPDATE

By **BILL GASS**  
SSRAA Production Manager

The SSRAA hatchery production cycle closes at the end of May with the release of yearling Chinook and coho smolt. Chum fry are usually released in late April or early May after approximately 100 days of feeding. A complete summary of the year's production will be available before early June and will be published in next year's newsletter and on the SSRAA web site. It is possible in mid-April to make some broad generalizations.

**SUMMER CHUM** — Summer chum are the keystone stock in SSRAA production and require the most energy and resources. With the addition of Burnett Inlet Hatchery, SSRAA releases summer chum at five locations: Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, Kendrick Bay/McLean Arm, Anita Bay and Burnett. Summer chum releases for 2015 are all at full production and the fish were above target size at release. As of April 15, about 80 million of the 125 million fish have been released. Adults from this release will return in 2017-2019.

**FALL CHUM** — The fall chum egg-take in 2014 came up short of full production goals and the SSRAA board voted to direct the shortfall to Neets Bay rather than to Nakat Inlet or Burnett. SSRAA did succeed in accelerating the eggs with warm water to allow early emergence from incubation; the result will be that all fish reach target size for release at the proper time. We anticipate that all fall chum will be released by the first week of May, with totals of 8 million at Nakat; 5 million at Burnett Inlet and 12 million at Neets Bay. Adult returns will be in 2017-2019.

**FALL COHO** — This will be the second year of SSRAA's releasing 5.8 million coho smolt from four different sites. Neets Bay will release 4.3 million; Nakat Inlet, 600,000; Anita Bay, 600,000; and Whitman Lake, 300,000. At this time there are still about 2 million fish in Neck Lake that need to be transported to Neets and Anita, but the majority of SSRAA fish are in salt-water netpens and headed for release in May. Adults will return in 2016.

**SUMMER COHO** — Most of SSRAA's summer coho (about 1.7 million) are released at Neck Lake in May of each year. Fish are released directly into the lake and out-migrate naturally within days. Burnett Inlet releases 200,000 fish, which produce the broodstock for the program. As with the fall coho, adults from this release will be back in 2016.

**CHICKAMIN RIVER STOCK CHINOOK** — Whitman Lake Hatchery collects Chickamin Stock eggs for release at Whitman Lake, Neets Bay and Deer Mountain. About 500,000 eggs are incubated and reared at Crystal Lake before being transported to Neets Bay. The fire of March 2014 at Crystal Lake destroyed all of the Chickamin River eggs in the facility, and that loss will be reflected in the release this year. SSRAA was able to cover some of the loss with excess eggs from Whitman Lake, but the release at Neets Bay this spring will be approximately 300,000 fish below the production goal. Whitman Lake and Deer Mountain will be at full production and adults from this release will return in 2017-2019.

**ANDREWS CREEK STOCK CHINOOK** — Andrews Creek Stock eggs are collected at Crystal Lake and released at Crystal Lake, Anita Bay and City Creek. There will be no release at City Creek this year and the Anita Bay release will be about 100,000 short of full production due to losses incurred in the fire. The release from the hatchery will be a full complement of 600,000 and the fish will be the largest smolt that SSRAA has produced at the facility.

*Summer chum releases for 2015 are all at full production and the fish are above target size*

### GM search *continued from 1*

projects; and knowledge of Alaska's fisheries regulatory processes. Classic people skills are important.

**Minimum qualifications:** Experience in salmon fishery enhancement in Alaska or the Pacific Northwest. A bachelor's degree or equivalent in a field related to fisheries or business administration. (An advanced degree in fisheries or business is beneficial, although extensive successful experience can be substituted for advanced studies.) Experience with or knowledge of the commercial salmon fishing industry including harvesting, processing and marketing. A successful work history is required, and experience working with a strong Board of Directors is helpful.

**Working Conditions:** The primary work station is in Ketchikan. Significant travel in Alaska is required and, occasionally, trips through the Pacific Northwest. Some fieldwork is available, but not required.

**Compensation:** Pay for the position is similar to that of like positions and is negotiable and largely dependent on experience.

Recruitment will remain open through mid-August 2015. Please address responses to John Burke, SSRAA, 14 Borch Street, Ketchikan, AK 99901; or johnb@ssraa.org. If you have questions, phone us at 907-225-9605.

## Nominations are sought for four seats on SSRAA's board

SSRAA is encouraging salmon fishers to turn in nominations for four gear seats on the board of directors.

The seats come open in January 2016 and include one seine seat, two gillnet seats and one power troll seat. Nominations are due Oct. 16, 2015.

Nominations must be in writing and must include the permit holder's name; address; vessel name; and phone number. Nominees must be active southern Southeast commercial salmon permit holders. If you're nominating yourself for a board seat, include a brief statement of interest. If you're nominating another fisher, provide a short summary of the nominee's background. Limited-entry permit holders nominate only people in their gear groups. Nominations may be submitted by mail or by email.

- By mail: SSRAA, Attn: Liz Jones / 14 Borch St., Ketchikan, AK 99901
  - By email: [lizj@ssraa.org](mailto:lizj@ssraa.org)
- For more information, call the association at 907-225-9605.

### SSRAA Board of Directors

#### SEINERS

Dan Castle	Ketchikan	F/V Little Lady
Jim Castle	Ketchikan	F/V Miss Ada
Russ Cockrum	Ketchikan	F/V Viking Maid
Leif Dobszinsky	Port Townsend	F/V Chasina

#### GILLNETTERS

Brennon Eagle	Wrangell	F/V Danegeld
Chris Guggenbickler (v.p.)	Wrangell	F/V Maranatha
David Klepser	Ketchikan	F/V Hannah Point
Bob Martin	Petersburg	F/V Sumner

#### POWER TROLLERS

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

#### HAND TROLLER

Craig Ring	Ketchikan
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#### APPOINTEES

John Clifton (treas.)	Ketchikan	Sportfish
Paul Cyr	Ketchikan	Processor
David Landis (sec.)	Ketchikan	Chamber of Comm.
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
Bret Hiatt	Operations Manager
Bill Gass	Production Manager
Vacant	Assistant Production Manager
Cindy Walters	Executive Administrative Assistant
Liz Jones	Administrative Assistant
Jay Johnson LLC	Accounting Services

#### RESEARCH & EVALUATION

John Holt	Research & Evaluation Manager
Stephanie Sanguinetti	Lab Supervisor
Alan Murray	Technician III
Whitney Walters	Technician III

#### WHITMAN LAKE HATCHERY

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

#### NEETS BAY HATCHERY

Stephen Hilton	Hatchery Manager
Brian Lundeen	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Vacant	Maintenance & Constr. Supervisor
Jeremy Wingate	Maintenance Technician III
Mike Moreno	Fish Technician II
Stan Rice	Fish Technician II
Gavin Roa	Fish Technician II
Dale Wainscott	Seasonal Fish Technician II
Caitlin Brady	Fish Technician II / Otolith Lab
Stephan Smith	Seasonal Fish Technician II

#### BURNETT INLET HATCHERY

Steve Reid	Hatchery Manager
Jon Thorington	Maintenance Supervisor
Tony Belback	Fish Technician II

#### CRYSTAL LAKE HATCHERY

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

#### NECK LAKE REARING & HARVEST FACILITY

JR Parsley	Facility Manager
Dolores Loucks	Fish Technician II

#### DEER MOUNTAIN HATCHERY

Matt Allen	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Michelle Leitz	Fish Technician III

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](http://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.

SSRAA uses mailing labels from the CFEC. If your address is wrong, please contact CFEC; SSRAA cannot correct your address for CFEC.



## President's message to the fleets

By **CHARLIE PIERCY**

President of the SSRAA Board of Directors

I am taking the opportunity, for the first time, to address readers of the *Spawning News* with a message from the president of the Board of Directors. I hope this will happen every year.

The presidency of the SSRAA Board of Directors is for a term lasting two years and rotates among the three primary gear groups. I fill a troll seat. The next president will be a gillnetter, followed by a seine representative. This rotation of the president's chair provides a unique and ever-changing view to the SSRAA Board of Directors. I would like to use this space to give you my perspective on how SSRAA is doing in regard to the allocation of enhanced salmon among the gear groups. I will try to be objective, wearing the SSRAA "hat" first, but I am a troller and my perspective comes from that basis.

I HAVE SERVED ON the SSRAA board for more than nine years. During that time, particularly in recent years, the distribution of SSRAA-produced salmon among the three commercial gear groups has been reasonably close to the designated overall Southeast-wide allocation ranges for the three gear groups. In other words, SSRAA has done a good job. The aquaculture association has achieved the gear-group balance through increases in production targeted to specific areas designed for specific user groups. The processes of creating real production increases are cumbersome and lengthy, taking an average of four years from conception to the first common-property harvest. The numbers of new salmon available for harvest are usually small when they return for the first time—for example, four years from egg-take to harvest for chum salmon—but the runs increase with the subsequent contributions of additional year classes. Through the past 15 years, SSRAA has managed to increase production, pay off most of its old debts and provide salmon equitably.



Charlie Piercy aboard the FV Tuckahoe

The board historically has tried to balance gear-group allocation inequalities with new production. There are two major factors that will make this method of addressing allocation difficult in future years: 1) the further growth possibilities for SSRAA, and 2) the new method in which we have chosen to finance our fish production activities.

SSRAA PRODUCES common-property harvest in the \$35 million range on a budget of about \$9 million. We recently financed the expansion of Burnett Inlet Hatchery. This is the last major project available to SSRAA that doesn't require finding a new hatchery site. All future expansions will have to start at the beginning, which means locating a suitable water source that all governmental agencies would bless through

extensive permitting processes. I believe expansion is possible, but I am also realistic. If this is to occur, it will be much more expensive than current projects and will take a long time. Increasing production is fast becoming a poor tool in the balancing of allocation inequalities.

SSRAA HAS RECENTLY GONE to a bid process to select and license a processor to provide the cost recovery needed for operations.

We no longer custom-process and self-market chums

harvested in Neets Bay. The current bid method of obtaining revenue for SSRAA operations does not allow any large windfalls in revenue. Historically, we would get extra revenue when Mother Nature provided us with a windfall. Today, the goal is to budget what we need in operating revenues and to provide common-property fishing opportunities for the returning fish in excess of that requirement. As a board, we will have to be extra vigilant since we have changed this methodology.

There is no free lunch; in order to provide current fishing opportunities, SSRAA must use a portion of the return for operations. The balancing act the Board of Directors will be tasked with is to determine what

See 'President's message' on 8

“Neets Bay should not have to bear the whole burden of cost recovery. The allocation inequalities can be achieved—and in the future probably will have to be achieved—by taking specific cost-recovery revenue from specific sites.”

## Statistics expertise from work in neuroscience leads to R&E

### New manager of research and evaluation takes a 'serendipitous' path to SSRAA

The association's new research and evaluation manager comes to the job with relatively little knowledge of fish, but deep experience with data. Number-crunching was essential in John Holt's earlier career as a neuroscientist—a field in which he earned master's and doctoral degrees.

Holt took over the R&E desk in March with the retirement of Susan Doherty. He acknowledges that he's learning fisheries science on the job.

Holt said his route to SSRAA was "serendipitous." A native of Redmond, Wash., he'd spent considerable time in Ketchikan as an adult after his mother moved here in the early 1980s because "she loved to fish."

During Holt's pursuit of a bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Alaska Anchorage he became involved in scientific research and developed skills in data acquisition and analysis.

Along the way, he discovered an aptitude for statistics. He said he couldn't afford a calculator for his required stat class, so he did the work in pen on paper. He couldn't work fast enough to excel on timed tests, but he got the gist of it. "I understood the principles very well," Holt said.

Holt attended graduate school at Rutgers University. He earned master's and doctoral degrees at the New Jersey school, specializing in acquisition and

“I had no fisheries background until a month and a half ago. But I have a lot of experience taking very large data sets and reducing them to just a few variables that explain one condition.”

— John Holt



John Holt knows Ketchikan and is getting to know SSRAA stats.

analysis of data arising from sophisticated neuroimaging—MRIs (magnetic resonance imaging), fMRIs (functional magnetic resonance imaging) and MR spectroscopy. His dissertation was founded on work at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C., where Holt had a fellowship. He ran a lab that conducted long-term neuroimaging studies on schizophrenia patients; the studies stretched for six months to a year with each patient. "Those analyses can be very complicated, with a lot of variables," said Holt. "Those are the kinds I like to do. I was able to connect with where the science is and how we can use it."

Holt worked for Pfizer, the pharmaceutical and chemical company, but maintained a link to Ketchikan while his mother was here. He spent more than 10 summers in the First City with his step-daughter as she was

growing up. Holt also worked at a research lab at the University of Hawaii, again conducting neural imaging and analysis.

"I was trying to find a job as a neuroscientist in Alaska for 20 years," Holt said—but no jobs in his specialty opened up in the 49th State. A couple of years ago, he moved to Juneau to work for the state Division of Public Health; at the core of his job was maintenance and management of the Alaskan Hospital Discharge Database. "I decided I'd go back to Alaska and roll the dice," Holt said.

See 'Research and evaluation' on 8

# FISHING CALENDAR 2015

See the article on page 6  
outlining management of Neets Bay SHA in 2015

**JUNE 2015 - NEETS BAY - PROPOSAL "B"**  
**Special Harvest Area Rotation Calendar**  
**ALL FISHING CONFINED INSIDE OF BUG ISLAND UNTIL JULY 1ST**

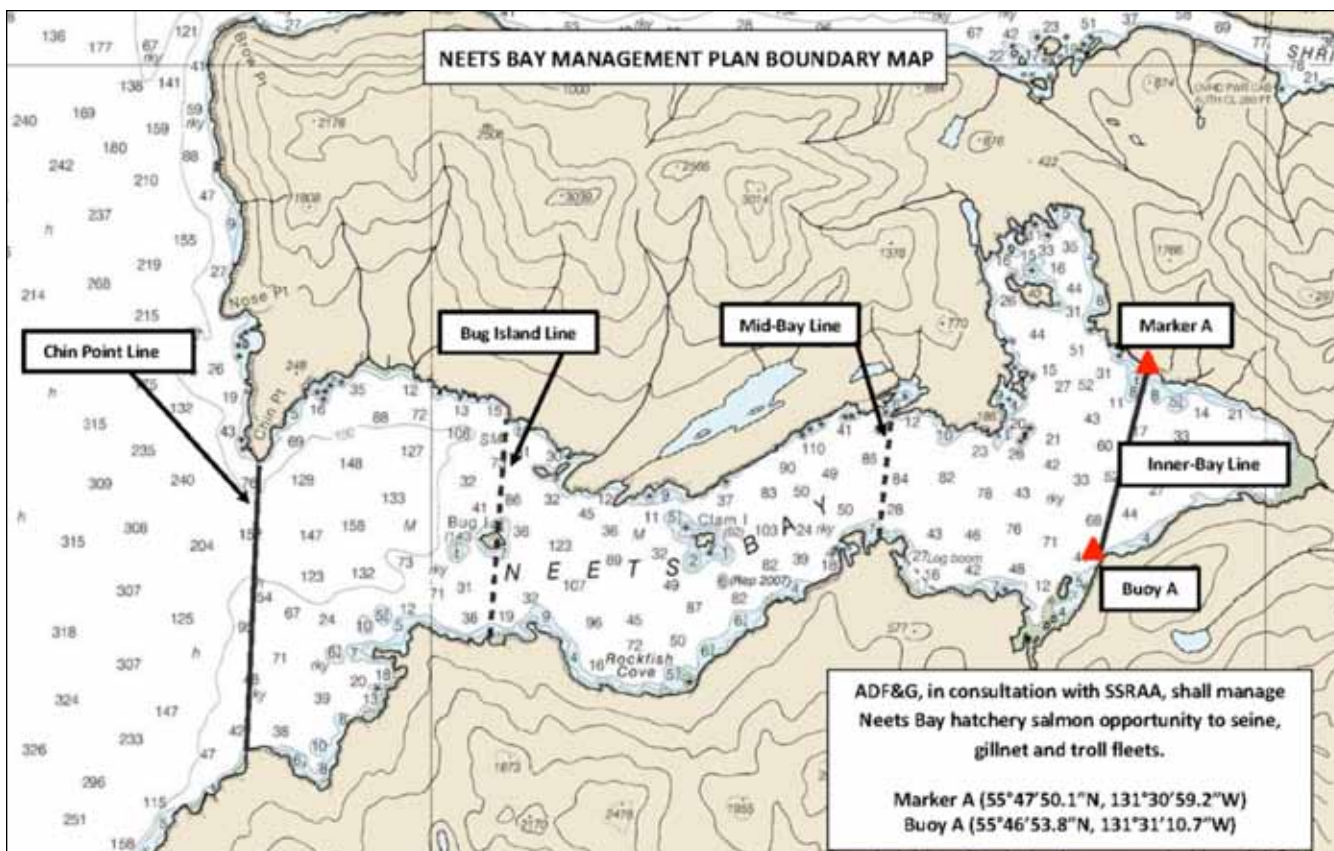
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER			Ends Noon	Troll		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Break 42 Hour			Troll		Break 42 Hour	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Noon Gillnet Noon		Noon Seine Noon		Noon Gillnet Noon		Seine Noon
28	29	30				
Troll						
Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon					

**May 2015- NEETS BAY**  
**Special Harvest Area Rotation Calendar**  
**ALL FISHING CONFINED INSIDE OF BUG ISLAND UNTIL JULY 1**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
	31					

**July 2015- Neets Bay**  
**Special Harvest Area (SHA) Rotation Calendar**  
**SHA EXPANDED TO CHIN POINT ON JULY 1**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Troll			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				Seine Noon noon	Ends Noon	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



## NEETS BAY SPECIAL HARVEST AREA OPENING

The Neets Bay SHA will be open to the harvest of salmon by troll, drift gillnet and purse seine gear from 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 1, through noon on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 followed by gear rotations.

Note: All fishing will be confined inside of Bug Island until July 1. The total return of Chinook is forecast at 21,500; summer chum at 1,180,000; fall chum at 210,000 and coho at 340,000.

Any additional gear rotations occurring at Neets Bay or other pertinent fishing announcements will be available by calling the fish hotline at 907-228-4399.





**May 2015- Anita Bay  
Special Harvest Area Rotation Calendar**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
31						

**June 2015 - Anita Bay  
Special Harvest Area Rotation Calendar**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Troll		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Troll		
28	29	30				
Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Troll				

**July 2015- Anita Bay "Proposal B"  
Special Harvest Area Rotation Calendar**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
Troll						
			Noon Gillnet Noon		Noon Seine Noon	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Troll						
Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Troll						
Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Troll						
Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon
26	27	28	29	30	31	1- August
Troll						
Gillnet Noon	Break 12 Hour	Seine 6 am-6 pm	Break 12 Hour	Gillnet Noon-Noon	Break 12 Hour	Seine 6 am-6 pm
						Gillnet Noon-Noon

**August 2015- Anita Bay "Proposal B"  
Special Harvest Area Rotation Calendar**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
Troll						
						Gillnet Noon
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Troll						
Break 6 am-8 pm	Seine 6 am-6 pm	Break 12 Hour	Gillnet Noon-Noon	Break 12 Hour	Seine 6 am-6 pm	Break 12 Hour
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Troll						
Break 12 Hour	Gillnet Noon-Noon	Break 12 Hour	Seine 6 am-6 pm	Break 12 Hour	Gillnet Noon-Noon	Break 12 Hour
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Troll						
Gillnet Noon	Break 12 Hour	Seine 6 am-6 pm	Break 12 Hour	Gillnet Noon-Noon	Break 12 Hour	Seine 6 am-6 pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Troll						
Break 12 Hour	Seine 6 am-6 pm	Break 12 Hour	Gillnet Noon-Noon	Break 12 Hour	Seine 6 am-6 pm	Break 12 Hour
30	31					
Break 12 Hour	END REASON					

**September 2015 - Anita Bay  
Special Harvest Area Rotation Calendar**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS Until closed on November 10 or by emergency order						
27	28	29	30			

**SPECIAL HARVEST AREAS 2015**

**KENDRICK BAY SPECIAL HARVEST AREA OPENING**

The return at Kendrick Bay in 2015 is expected to be about 745,000 summer chum salmon. Kendrick Bay terminal harvest area is an exclusive purse seine fishery. Kendrick Bay will open on June 15, 2015, and will remain open through Sept. 30, 2015.

**NAKAT INLET SPECIAL HARVEST AREA OPENING**

The Nakat Inlet special harvest area opens on June 1, 2015, and is an exclusive gillnet/troll fishery. Projected returns are approximately 220,000 summer chum; 75,000 fall chum; and 48,000 coho. The SHA will remain open until Nov. 10, 2015.

**ANITA BAY SPECIAL HARVEST AREA OPENING**

The Anita Bay special harvest area opens on May 1, 2015, to all fishers. Gear access changes throughout the time period until it closes on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015. Approximately half of the anticipated 370,000 return of summer chum is expected to be harvested in the terminal area. Additionally, 10,500 of the anticipated 15,000 chinook are anticipated to be caught in the terminal area and 9,400 of the anticipated 47,000 coho are expected to be caught in the terminal area.

Any pertinent fishing announcements will be available by calling the fish hotline at 907-228-4399.

# Neets Bay special harvest area management in 2015

## Outline of distinct fisheries in Neets Bay SHA

Each summer, there are several distinct fisheries in the Neets Bay special harvest area (SHA): 1) Early-season chinook and summer chum gear rotations; 2) chum troll; 3) summer chum cost recovery and broodstock collection; 4) mid-season summer chum rotations if and when the revenue goal is met; 5) fall chum broodstock management and cost recovery; and 6) fall chum and coho rotational fisheries. And there are bear tours! Neets Bay is a busy place.

## Areas, species, dates and harvest targets for 2015

- **Neets Bay Early Season Fishery** Because of concern for the current status of the Unuk River Chinook, the Neets Bay SHA will be open only from the area of the barrier seine outward to Bug Island starting on May 1 and continuing through June. The SHA will not be open outside of Bug Island during this period. In addition, the usual net rotational fishery, beginning on June 12, will be modified with longer rest periods in the first 10 days of the rotation. Please see the calendars on pages 4-5 of this newsletter for specific details.

The fishery starts on April 16, when the SHA is open at all times to all gear groups. At noon on June 10, net rotations begin, with 48-hour rest periods between them. The SHA remains open to troll fishers at all times throughout the fishery. This fishery concludes at noon on July 2. Note: the outer portion of the SHA will be open on July 1 so that the SHA for the final seine rotation will extend to Chin Point. Chinook are the primary target of this fishery, though in one previous year (2012) there was a large harvest of summer chum—but that harvest was unusual.

- **Chum Troll** Please note that for 2015, only the inner portion of the Neets Bay SHA—from Bug Island to the area of the barrier seine—will be open prior to July 1. Behm Canal will not be open, nor will the outer portion of the SHA, from Bug Island to Chin Point, until July 1. This should not have an impact on this fishery, as summer chum are not often abundant in the terminal area until after the Fourth of July—and sometimes even later. The SSRAA Board of Directors designated a troll target of 400,000 chum salmon. That target is not a promised harvest number; the fleet will be allowed to harvest what it can up to that number. The outer portion of the SHA, from Bug Island to Chin Point, will be open to expand troll harvest opportunity. The target represents the point at which harvest may be curtailed by SSRAA; we will not attempt to limit harvest in the outer SHA unless that target is reached and, if there are enough chums present to provide that level of harvest, we would not likely curtail harvest. This fishery ends for most participants in late July, while for some it extends well into September, when fall chum and coho are present.

- **Summer Chum Cost Recovery and Broodstock Collection** Trident Seafoods will begin cost recovery in early July. SSRAA will manage the SHA to allow broodstock to build at the barrier until about July 20, when broodstock collection will begin. Harvest and broodstock collection will continue until Trident has harvested enough summer chum to meet the SSRAA revenue goal and about 140,000 summer chums are put across the barrier. Something new: SSRAA will attempt to passively collect broodstock this summer, allowing fish to swim through the barrier. We will monitor fish passage at the “gate” when the barrier is open. We will have our usual broodstock seiner stand by.

- **Mid-Season Summer Chum Rotational Fisheries** There is no hard date associated with the start of this fishery. This is a conditional opening. The condition is that SSRAA meets its summer chum revenue and broodstock needs. The cost recovery revenue goal is \$5 million this summer. The actual need is \$6.5 million; we will use the \$1.5 million granted from DIPAC in 2014 toward the goal and attempt to put additional fish in common property harvest. Since the SHA will be closed to all net gear until broodstock is secure and the \$5 million goal is met, achieving this level of common property harvest depends on the abundance of summer chum. The gear rotation will resemble the similar opening of 2014. We will configure the fishery—which part of the SHA is opened—relative to broodstock management at the time of the opening.

## Specific rotational fisheries for 2015

FIRST 72 HOURS ...

- Troll only outside of Seal Rocks
- 24-hour seine opening inside of Seal Rocks
- 24-hour troll only all SHA
- 24-hour gill net opening inside of Seal Rocks

FOLLOWED BY CONTINUING ROTATIONS ...

- 24-hour troll only all SHA
- 24 hour seine all SHA
- 24 hour troll all SHA
- 24 hour gill net all SHA
- 24 hour troll all SHA

This schedule will continue until fall chum are noted in the harvest (usually about Aug. 25).

The 2014 fishery occurred well after most of the summer chum had been harvested; there were few fish to catch and there was very little participation. With the DIPAC grant, SSRAA's revenue goal is smaller in 2015; there is a better chance there will be fish to harvest when and if this fishery occurs.

## Fall chum broodstock and cost recovery

- **Fall Chum Broodstock and Cost Recovery** This begins with the cost recovery seiner cleaning up the area of the barrier seine on about Sept. 1, to remove the mix of very late summer chum and early fall chum. This will be done by the Trident seiner and tenders. After resting the area for several days, SSRAA will begin seining for fall chum broodstock. Broodstock collection will go on for at least several weeks. Excess males will be sorted from the seine sets with any early-arriving coho. Excess male chum and fall coho become incidental harvest during broodstock collection. These fish will be sold to EC Phillips. About 40,000 fall chum are required to meet the egg-take goal, which means about 40,000 fish must survive behind the barrier and move into the raceways where eggs can be taken. This may take three weeks. In most recent years, we have not reached our goal, or taken what was possible, until about Sept. 25. We are hoping we can take five days or a week off of this starting date with the new strategy, but that is not certain.

## Fall chum and coho rotational fisheries

- **Fall Chum and Coho Rotational Fisheries** This opportunity has occurred annually for a number of years. If the revenue goal is met during the summer chum return, and that is likely, a fall fishery will open whenever we are assured of reaching the fall chum egg-take goal. This sounds easy and straightforward, but it isn't. It has been hard to capture broodstock and keep them alive until they enter the raceways where eggs can be collected. In short, even when there is sufficient broodstock over the barrier, it doesn't mean those fish will live to enter the raceway, where eggs can be collected. We annually hold off opening this fishery until we have all the fish we need in the raceway, or when there is little hope of capturing additional broodstock to replace those that were lost.

This year we will change our strategy and attempt to more quickly meet the egg-take goal. The key word is “attempt.” We usually don't collect broodstock until the male to female ratio approaches 1 to 1. Waiting for this to happen usually brings fall coho into play. Fall coho are wasted once they are behind the barrier and their presence is a serious nuisance to the crew collecting fall chum eggs. This year we'll waste some male chum salmon early in the return, as opposed to wasting fall coho later in the return. The outcome should be a net positive for all parties, egg-take crew and common property harvest alike. The rotations will start with seine, as the seiners are still below their value allocation. This is usually a good fishery (fall chum and coho) for at least several rotational periods continuing into October, as long as local processors are willing to purchase the coho. The barrier seine is generally removed around Oct. 10.

## POWHA update

### Mild Southeast winter leads to early ponding for Klawock's coho

By **JEFF LUNDBERG**

Prince of Wales Hatchery Manager

It must be spring, because we are moving fish in all directions!

Spring is not a date on a calendar. When it comes to fish, their growth and development are regulated by water temperature. Again this winter, we experienced mild temperatures, as did everyone else in Southeast Alaska. Because of the warmer water temperatures, Prince of Wales Hatchery Association ponded brood year 2014 in March. I have personally never ponded a single coho in March, let alone a whole brood year.

**Brood Year 2013**

We currently have 4.1 million smolt rearing in net-

pens in the lake and in Klawock estuary. We moved 900,000 smolt to the estuary April 1-8. These fish average 22 grams and will be released on May 15. The remaining 3.9 million smolt are rearing in the lake. On May 15, we will release 1.2 million and the remainder of the production will be released June 1. The average size of the smolt rearing in the lake is 25 grams.

**Brood Year 2014**

We had 99 percent survival from hatch and ponded 4.8 million smolt into netpens in the lake. They are growing well; the earliest-ponded fish are 0.5 grams. We don't have a problem getting growth on the fish during the growing season and certainly won't with brood year 2014.



# Enhanced coho returns reach record number in 2014

An estimated 1.6 million hatchery-produced coho salmon returned to Southeast Alaska in 2014. This record number of returning hatchery-produced coho accounted for approximately 27 percent of the region's coho harvest. Additionally, hatchery-produced fish accounted for 85 percent of chum harvests and 13 percent of Chinook harvests. Compared to 2013 prices, the preliminary 2014 prices by species are higher for coho and chum, and lower for pink, Chinook and sockeye.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game presented catch statistics at the Southern, Northern and Joint Regional Planning Team meeting in Ketchikan on April 8. The preliminary 2014 and final 2013 enhanced salmon allocations and the updated five-year rolling allocation averages were also announced.

**Preliminary enhanced salmon allocation estimates for 2014 are:**

- Seine, 33 percent;
- Gillnet, 46 percent;
- Troll, 21 percent.

Compared to the final 2013 allocations, seine catches decreased by 17.5 percent, gillnet catches increased by 27.8 percent and troll catches decreased by 12.5 percent.

**Preliminary five-year rolling allocation averages (2010-2014) by gear group:**

- Gillnet, 40 percent (target allocation range 24-29 percent);
- Seine, 42 percent (target allocation range 44-49 percent);
- Troll, 18 percent (target allocation range 27-32 percent).

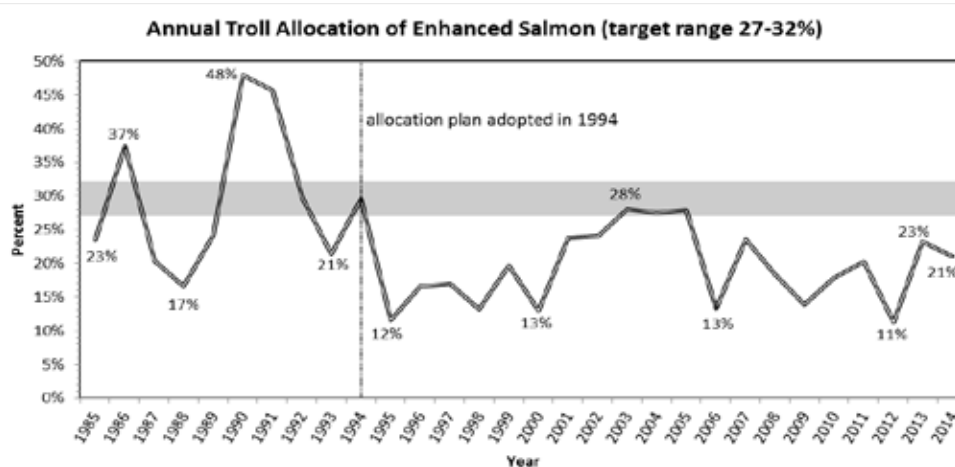
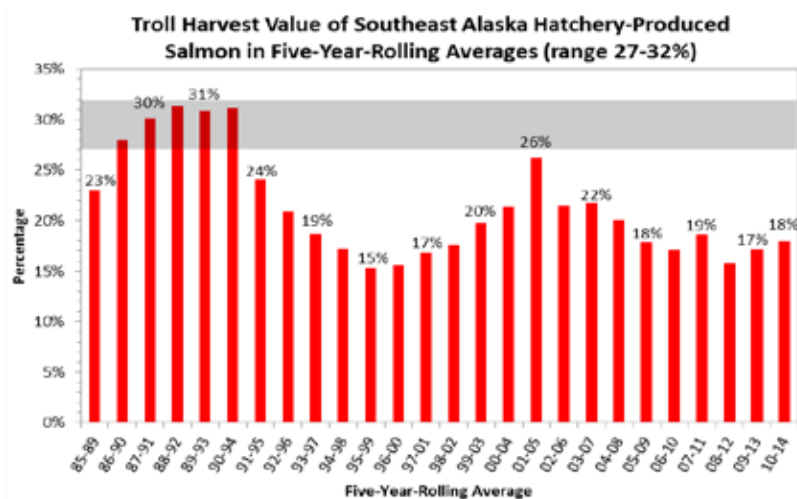
**Final 2009-2013 rolling allocation averages by gear group:**

- Gillnet, 39 percent;
- Seine, 43 percent;
- Troll, 17 percent.

Preliminary 2014 total ex-vessel value for all enhanced salmon was an estimated \$38 million. Enhanced coho salmon harvest was calculated at almost \$8 million, chum harvest at \$25.9 million, and chinook estimated at \$2.8 million. In 2014, the preliminary ex-vessel value of enhanced salmon harvested by gear group was: troll \$7.9 million, seine, \$12.5 million, and gillnet \$17 million.

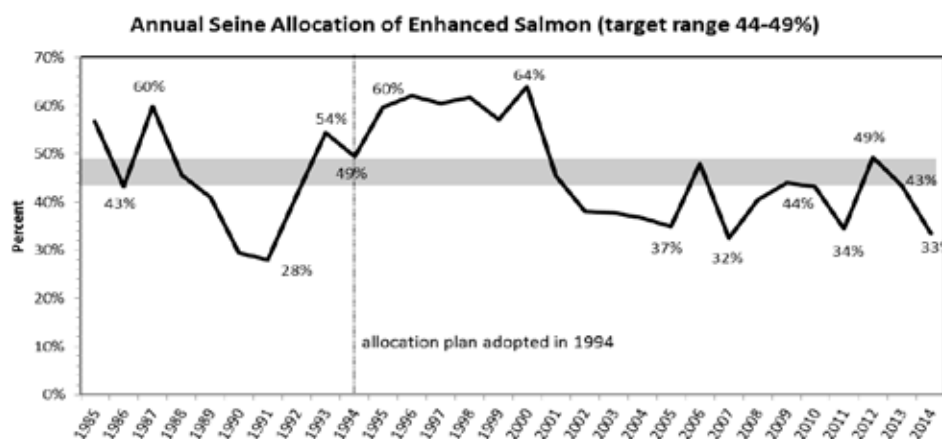
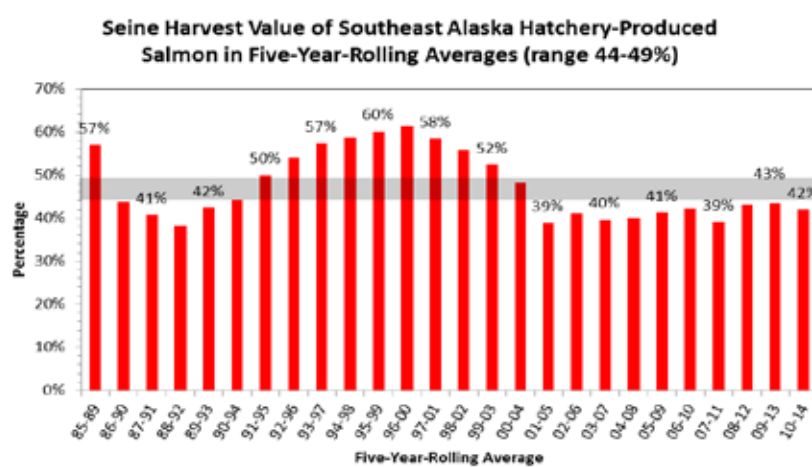
The 2014 preliminary returns to all Southeast Alaska enhancement projects are: 6,649,739 chum; 1,572,802 coho; 743,716 pink; 290,834 sockeye; and 85,221 Chinook, for a total of 9.3 million fish. A complete summary of the 2014 Alaska salmon enhancement program is available on the ADFG web site: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingHatcheriesOtherinfo.reports](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingHatcheriesOtherinfo.reports).

## TROLL



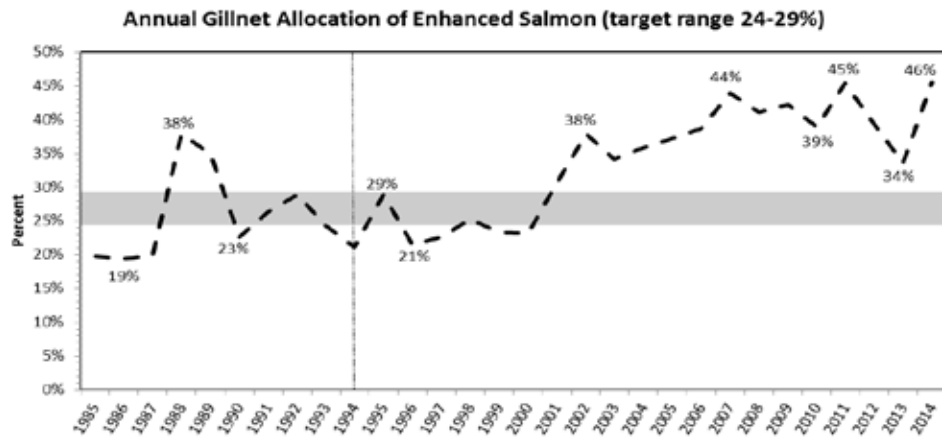
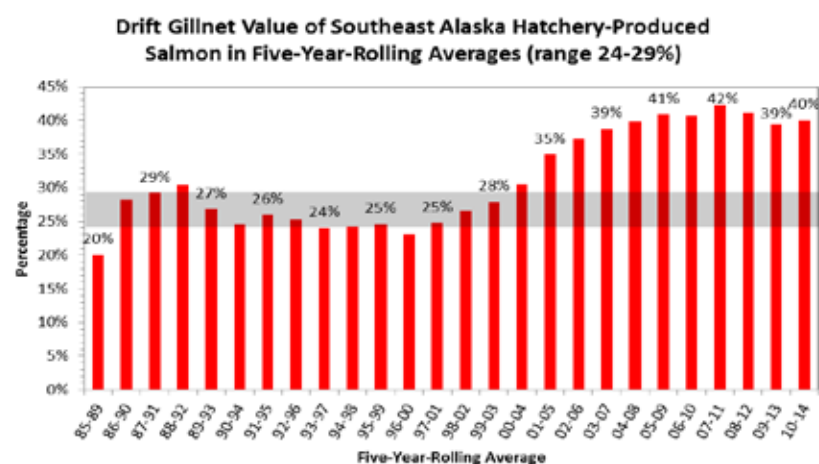
Source: ADF&G

## SEINE



Source: ADF&G

## GILLNET



Source: ADF&G

# SSRAA returns CONTRIBUTIONS TO FISHERIES 2014

COHO	Common Property				Special Harvest Area			SSRAA	Cost		Total	
	Release Site	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Sport	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Brood	Recovery		Other
BURNETT INLET	7,405	1,315	3,060	2,130					3,260	14,100	2,500	33,770
NECK LAKE	46,495	3,605	11,220	30,420						69,000		160,740
ANITA BAY	5,860	170	7,935	235	7,500	335	5					22,040
CRYSTAL LAKE	345	60	985						1,585			2,975
HERRING COVE	4,975	2,140	12,025	2,607					5,500	4,480		31,727
NAKAT	7,745	1,115	10,710	215	15,025		65					34,875
NEETS BAY	79,880	16,575	185,175	14,960	10,075	36,180	12,300	5,540	36,800	18,000		415,485
% By Group	22%	4%	33%	7%	5%	5%	2%	2%	18%	3%		100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,705</b>	<b>24,980</b>	<b>231,110</b>	<b>50,567</b>	<b>32,600</b>	<b>36,515</b>	<b>12,370</b>	<b>15,885</b>	<b>124,380</b>	<b>20,500</b>		<b>701,612</b>

CHINOOK	Common Property				Special Harvest Area			SSRAA	Cost		Total	
	Release Site	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Sport	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Brood	Recovery		Other
ANITA BAY	6,130	290	2,255	100	7,020	2,680	165					18,640
CRYSTAL LAKE	495		1,113	120				2,010				3,738
HERRING COVE	250	55	2,975	1,240				2,185	2,520			9,225
NEETS BAY	550	830	4,920	290	3,145	6,290	775		5,625	600		23,025
% By Group	14%	2%	21%	3%	19%	16%	2%	8%	15%	1%		100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,425</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>11,263</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>10,165</b>	<b>8,970</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>4,195</b>	<b>8,145</b>	<b>600</b>		<b>54,628</b>

S. CHUM	Common Property				Special Harvest Area			SSRAA	Cost		Total	
	Release Site	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Sport	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Brood	Recovery		Other
ANITA BAY	84,185	106,650	2,115			43,485	30,570					267,005
NAKAT	92,540	13,070				70,730						176,340
NEETS BAY	59,760	191,520	52,545		2,360	29,025	65,005	177,900	558,595			1,136,710
KENDRICK	15,240	332,370	810				106,035					454,455
% By Group	12%	32%	3%	0%	6%	8%	3%	9%	27%	0%		100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>251,725</b>	<b>643,610</b>	<b>55,470</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>116,575</b>	<b>165,630</b>	<b>65,005</b>	<b>177,900</b>	<b>558,595</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>2,034,510</b>

F. CHUM	Common Property				Special Harvest Area			SSRAA	Cost		Total	
	Release Site	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Sport	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Brood	Recovery		Other
NEETS BAY	17,150	6,905	12,825			5,980	16,935	15,865	48,600	18,955		143,215
NAKAT	13,020	750				10,845						24,615
% By Group	18%	5%	8%	0%	10%	10%	9%	29%	11%	0%		100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,170</b>	<b>7,655</b>	<b>12,825</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,825</b>	<b>16,935</b>	<b>15,865</b>	<b>48,600</b>	<b>18,955</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>167,830</b>

SOCKEYE	Common Property				Special Harvest Area			SSRAA	Cost		Total	
	Release Site	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Sport	Gillnet	Seine	Troll	Brood	Recovery		Other
BURNETT	10											10
McDonald	165											165
% By Group	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>175</b>

## President's message *continued from 3*

portion of the return is to be used for operations. The amount of risk to SSRAA goes up faster and in greater proportion related to the amount of additional common-property fishing opportunity allowed in Neets Bay.

I personally believe that we need to be conservative in adding harvest opportunities and instead expand cost recovery to other SSRAA release sites until we have adequate reserves to weather a cycle of poor chum survivals.

NEETS BAY SHOULD NOT have to bear the whole burden of cost recovery. The allocation inequalities can be achieved—and in the future probably will have to be achieved—by taking specific cost-recovery revenue from specific sites. We need to be more open to this type of methodology; we are rapidly approaching a period in time when new production cannot be easily used to affect allocation imbalances among gear groups. I am more inclined to leave a legacy for future generations of fishers than to burden them with an unreasonable debt service because we felt that today we needed every last fish put into our holds.

Good fishing!

Charlie

## Research & evaluation *continued from 3*

Doherty's retirement from the research and evaluation position opened up a job suited to a numbers guy. "I had no fisheries background until a month and a half ago," Holt said. "But I have a lot of experience taking very large data sets and reducing them to just a few variables that explain one condition."

Holt attended meetings this spring in Victoria, B.C., where "people on the methods side of this industry" discussed ocean ecology as it relates to salmon: water temperatures; changes in chemistry; predation; and other factors. Salmon experts from universities, NOAA and other entities attended, but he was the only aquaculture representative on the scene.

He said he made important contacts and observed that the field of salmon ecology is becoming more cohesive, as happened in neuroimaging in the 1990s—when people in the field using disparate methods of data capture and analysis got on the same track, and neuroscience made sudden headway.

As Holt takes over research and evaluation for SSRAA, he chalks up his landing in Ketchikan to serendipity, or chance. But the data might point in another direction.

His mother was here in the 1980s for the fishing. He visited here at first to see his mother. If his mother was catching SSRAA salmon, chance might be less of a factor than he thinks.