

**CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 11-24-34**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA, IN
SUPPORT OF ALASKA'S SALMON HATCHERY PROGRAM AND IN OPPOSITION
TO PROPOSAL 78 WHICH WILL BE BEFORE THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
AT THE DECEMBER 10-16, 2024, MEETING**

WHEREAS, the City of Cordova benefits greatly from Alaska's Private Nonprofit Salmon Hatchery Program; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program has successfully operated for 50 years, supplementing wild salmon harvests, and supporting fisheries throughout the state, especially in salmon-dependent communities like Cordova; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 78 would reduce hatchery production by 25%, impacting hatcheries in the Prince William Sound region at a time when coastal communities like Cordova need salmon production stability and support for wild stocks most; and

WHEREAS, reducing pink and chum salmon production by 25% would cause significant harm to Cordova's economy, diminishing fisheries tax revenues and disrupting the economic flow that hatchery salmon provides to Cordova's local businesses and families; and

WHEREAS, hatchery programs play a well-documented role in supplementing wild salmon returns, stabilizing coastal economies, and reducing harvest pressure on wild stocks, particularly during years of lower abundance; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 78 would introduce uncertainty into the production of Alaska hatchery salmon, complicating planning and loan obligations for hatchery associations and ultimately risking the sustainability of Alaska's hatchery program, which has long been a partnership model between private nonprofits and the State; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's salmon hatchery program supports an estimated 4,200 jobs, \$219 million in labor income, and \$576 million in total economic output annually, with over 14,000 Alaskans earning a portion of their income from hatchery salmon; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) headquartered in Cordova and the Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) contribute significantly to the economies of Prince William Sound communities by providing jobs and generating an estimated \$200 million in combined economic output annually; and

WHEREAS, Cordova, as a rural, off-road community, relies on economic stability to sustain its families, support local businesses, and create a place where young families, lifelong residents, and local enterprises can thrive; and

WHEREAS, the processing of pink and chum salmon in Cordova has been a critical factor in stabilizing electric rates over the past 20 years, as revenue from the growing salmon industry has allowed Cordova’s local electric cooperative to spread operating costs and fund innovative grid advancements, increasing resilience and affordability year-round for the community; and

WHEREAS, the data surrounding hatchery impact on wild salmon populations is inconclusive and does not justify the drastic production reductions proposed by Proposal 78; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s salmon hatchery program operates as a nonprofit model, is self-funded through cost recovery and enhancement taxes, and follows a rigorous public permitting process employing sound scientific methods to sustainably protect wild salmon populations while benefiting all user groups, including subsistence, personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 78 threatens to disrupt the sustainability of Alaska’s hatchery programs by imposing a new oversight process that conflicts with existing regulatory structures, which have successfully overseen the balance between hatchery and wild stocks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA, that:

Section 1. The City of Cordova firmly opposes Proposal 78, which will be considered at the December 10-16, 2024, Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting in Cordova, and urges the Board to reject this proposal to prevent economic harm and unnecessary disruption to Alaska’s hatchery programs.

Section 2. The City of Cordova reaffirms its support for Alaska’s Salmon Hatchery Programs, including PWSAC and VFDA, recognizing their role in supporting Cordova’s community, economy, and sustainable fisheries practices.

Section 3. The City of Cordova calls on the Alaska Board of Fisheries to support science-based, unbiased, assessment methods for hatchery management in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, industry leaders, and the hatchery community to better understand the benefits Alaska’s salmon hatcheries provide to all Alaskans.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 6th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.





David Allison, Mayor

ATTEST:


Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk