

# 2020 ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

## SOLOMON GULCH HATCHERY

Valdez Fisheries Development Association, Inc.

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This Annual Management Plan (AMP) plan is prepared to fulfill the requirements of 5 AAC 40.840. This plan must organize and guide the hatchery's operations, for each calendar year, regarding production goals, broodstock development, and harvest management of hatchery returns. Egg take through release details are included in planning for succeeding calendar years. Inseason assessments and project alterations by Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) or Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) may result in changes to this AMP in order to reach or maintain program objectives. VFDA will notify the ADF&G private nonprofit (PNP) hatchery program coordinator in a timely manner of any departure from the AMP. The ADF&G PNP coordinator will advise as to whether an amendment, exception report, or other action is warranted. No variation or deviation will be implemented until an AMP amendment has been approved or waived by both the department and VFDA. This policy applies to all hatchery operations covered under the AMP.

### I. OPERATIONAL PLAN

#### 1.1 Egg-take Limits

**Pink Salmon:** The target number of pink salmon eggs is 270.0 million. Broodstock requirement is 408,702 fish, assuming:

- a. 1,700 eggs/female
- b. 50/50 female to male sex ratio
- c. 10% holding mortality
- d. 5% overripe/green fish
- e. 35,000 creek spawners (above and below weir)
- f. Adequate brood fish return to the brood exclusion zone (BEZ) and volitionally enter the hatchery. The escapement to the hatchery should be adequate to satisfy all broodstock needs and donors from other sources will not be required.

**Coho Salmon:** The target number of coho salmon eggs is 2.0 million. Broodstock minimum requirement is 1,000 fish, assuming:

- a. 4,700 eggs/female
- b. 50/50 female to male sex ratio
- c. 10% holding mortality
- d. 5% overripe/green fish

All eggs will be taken at SGH.

## 1.2 Broodstock Acquisition Schedule

### Pink salmon

A minimum of 408,702 pink salmon are needed for entry into the fish ladder. VFDA will be guided in its broodstock collection as follows:

- 1) To ensure that the run timing is proportionally represented in broodstock, a collection schedule will be implemented based on the run-timing percentages by date, to establish a broodstock collection goal by week. The collection schedule is based on historical run-entry data (Table 1).
- 2) Broodstock collection will be prioritized above cost recovery.
- 3) A BEZ will be established between SGH and Allison Point. This zone will be used to regulate the cost-recovery fleet to ensure broodstock and quality of sales fish. The BEZ is the area adjacent to the hatchery and inside Allison Point where brood fish traditionally stage.

### Coho salmon

Broodstock collection will begin as fish return to the hatchery facility in late August through the end of September (Table 3). A formalin fungal treatment may be administered to these brood fish according to Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) regulations to reduce broodstock losses while being held.

In the event that coho salmon broodstock needs cannot be met due to inadequate adult returns to SGH, coho salmon eggs may be collected from Corbin Creek for use at SGH in order to satisfy egg-take goals. The following conditions apply:

- 1) Regional ADF&G Division of Sport Fish staff (Prince William Sound (PWS) area management biologist (AMB) and Division of Commercial Fisheries staff (PWS purse seine AMB) shall be notified far enough in advance to schedule a survey of Corbin Creek prior to any egg takes;
- 2) No egg takes will be allowed without escapement surveys conducted by representatives of VFDA; and
- 3) The following removal schedule will be adhered to:  
 Stream Name: Corbin Creek  
 AWC Code: 221-60-1138-2095  
 Minimum Escapement Goal: 1,600 coho salmon  
 Desired Escapement Goal (DEG): 2,500 coho salmon

If total escapement enumeration is:	Left in stream:	Removed for hatchery <sup>1</sup>
Less than 1,600 fish	1,600 + (60% over 1,600)	None
More than 1,600 fish	1,735 + (50% over 1,825)	90 + (50% over 1,825)
More than 1,825 fish	1,848 + (40% over 2,050)	203 + (60% over 2,050)
More than 2,275 fish	1,938 + (30% over 2,275)	338 + (70% over 2,275)
More than 4,149 fish	2,500	1,649

<sup>1</sup>No more than half may be female and total take shall not exceed the specified egg-take goal. All

pre egg-take mortalities count as part of the hatchery's allocation. Such mortalities can only be replaced after the stream's DEG is obtained and shall not exceed 25% of the hatchery's adult take goal.

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### **1.3 Egg take Schedule**

The pink salmon egg-take schedule for 2020 is detailed in (Table 2) and is based on recent trends.

The coho salmon egg-take schedule is detailed in (Table 3) and will occur as fish ripen at the hatchery facility, from mid-September through the end of October. It is the intent of VFDA to keep the early coho salmon run on its historical schedule to optimize the sport fishery and processing markets.

### **1.4 Egg Transport and Broodstock Carcass Disposal Plans**

Fertilized eggs or gametes intended for incubation will not be transported off-station. The carcass of a salmon from which the milt or eggs are extracted for lawful use as broodstock and not used for fertilization may be disposed if egg-take and carcass disposal information is recorded on ADF&G Salmon Hatchery Carcass Disposal Log (5 AAC 93.350(d)). If carcasses are disposed of, eggs not used for fertilization will not be removed from more than 10% of the female broodstock. If the carcasses disposed of, in which eggs are removed and sold, exceeds 10% of the female broodstock, the department will be notified immediately and proceeds from the sale of the eggs will be surrendered to the state. Broodstock carcasses will be processed in accordance with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requirements and discarded into deep water as stated below. However, VFDA may sell broodstock carcasses if a market is available. Roe in excess of 10% of broodstock requirements may be removed, if a lawful use of those carcasses is available, and revenue from the roe is considered part of cost recovery.

**Pink Salmon:** Eggs taken at SGH will be fertilized and delivered (approximately 50 yards) to the incubation building for seeding and water hardening in deep matrix incubators. In 2020, VFDA will continue to establish nonhuman consumption markets for hatchery broodstock carcasses. Those broodstock carcasses that cannot be sold will be given away or ground and transported to deep water in Port Valdez. VFDA has received general hatchery permit AKG130029 permit to discharge ground fish waste into a ZOD as defined under the NOI. Grinding equipment was installed in 1995 to allow for efficient carcass disposal in the event there is no market for salmon broodstock carcasses. Nontraditional markets for utilization of this byproduct may also be sought. A complete utilization of pink salmon carcasses associated with the egg take and roe recovery was realized in 2010. Final sales and distribution agreements and procedures for 2020 have not been prepared at this time.

**Coho Salmon:** Eggs taken at SGH will be treated the same as the pink salmon eggs, with the exception that an iodophore egg disinfection treatment will also be given immediately after all eggs are loaded into the incubators. Coho salmon broodstock carcasses will be offered to the public for dog food, other nonhuman consumption uses or disposed of as needed by grinding and pumping into deep water in accordance with AKG130029 permit if no other markets can be found.

## 1.5 Incubation Plans

Standard incubation plans for eggs spawned at SGH are summarized below:

Species	Incubator Type	Number of Units	Eyed Egg Loading (per unit)	Total Eyed Eggs	Total Green Eggs Required	Estimated Fry to Release
Pink salmon	NOPAD	672	283,196	190,307,712	270,000,000	254,000,000
	S48	56	1,423,077	79,692,312		
Coho salmon	NOPAD	16	125,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,780,000

The above table was generated with the following assumptions:

1. 94% survival from green egg to fry release for pink salmon.
2. 89% survival from green egg to smolt release for coho salmon.

All eggs will be incubated at the SGH during 2020.

## 1.6 Rearing and Release Plans

**Pink Salmon:** All pink salmon fry surviving from the 270 million eggs taken in 2019 will be reared and released at the SGH site in the spring of 2020. Fry will be pumped via a six-inch plastic pipe to the net pens. Outmigration from the incubators is non-volitional with enumeration by book inventory. Fish will be fed either by hand or with mechanical feeders using commercial rations. Pink salmon will be released by lowering a portion of the net pen's side. Staggered releases will occur based on previous growth and the measured plankton population growth curve. It has been the experience at SGH, through extensive research, that the best runs occur from an early release on the zooplankton bloom rise and a very late release of large 0.75 to 1.0 gram fry. Approximately 65% of the fingerlings will be released at the plankton bloom and approximately 35% of the fingerlings held for late release. This schedule avoids the possible interference and hazards occurring near shore to the whole year class. Release timing may vary due to environmental conditions, work schedules, and abundance of predators.

**Coho Salmon:** Rearing will occur in aluminum raceways until May 2020 when they will be transferred to saltwater net pens for grow-out to 18 to 20 grams. Feeding is done by a mechanical feeder using commercial rations. They will be held in net pens for approximately 2-6 weeks for imprinting and growth while being fed commercial rations and released in mid-June. In October 2019, approximately 2.0 million coho salmon eggs were taken at SGH. They will be held in NOPAD incubators until swim-up in May 2020. The resultant fry will be reared in freshwater raceways until May 2021, when they will be transferred to saltwater net pens for grow-out to 18 to 20 grams. They will be released as yearling smolts in mid-June of 2021.

**King salmon:** ADF&G Division of Sport Fish has discontinued its stocking program of king salmon in the Valdez area. ADF&G continues to work with VFDA and the City of Valdez to locate a suitable king salmon terminal harvest release site. VFDA will be available to consult and assist with the program where necessary.

## 1.7 Fry Transport Methods

Twenty-thousand coho salmon smolts may be transported in tanks, by boat, to a saltwater net pen near Tatitlek. The transport will be done in fresh water, with salt added for stress reduction. Standard fish transport equipment, using recirculation and bottled oxygen, will be used and carried on board a transport vessel provided by the Village of Tatitlek.

## 1.8 Planned releases this calendar year

Program Name	Brood Year	Estimated Release Date	Estimated Number	Release Life Stage	Type & % Mark	Hatch Code
Early Release Pink Salmon	2019	4/25-5/14/20	166,107,000	Fry	TM, 100%	6H
Late Release Pink Salmon	2019	4/29-5/23/20	91,851,000	Fry	TM, 100%	6H
SGH Coho Salmon	2018	6/7-6/20/20	1,880,000	Smolt	TM, 100%	6H
Boulder Bay Coho Salmon	2018	5/25-6/5/20	19,700	Smolt	TM, 100%	6H

## 1.9 Previous brood years remaining in culture during entire calendar year

Program Name	Brood Year	Estimated Number (Jan. 1)	Estimated Release Number <sup>1</sup>	Estimated Release Date	Life Stage
SGH Coho Salmon	2019	1,783,000	1,760,000	6/1-6/20/21	Alevin
Boulder Bay Coho Salmon	2019	n/a <sup>2</sup>	19,700	5/15-6/5/21	Alevin

<sup>1</sup>Estimated release numbers based on last 10 year release average.

<sup>2</sup>A portion of planned SGH released coho transferred to Boulder Bay.

## 2.0 Permitted Capacity

In 1981, VFDA was issued Private Nonprofit (PNP) hatchery permit #15. SGH is presently permitted for 270.0 million green pink salmon eggs, 2.0 million green coho salmon eggs, and 300,000 green king salmon eggs. All permitted releases are from the SGH, except for a 20,000 coho salmon smolt release at Tatitlek. In 2012, SGH experienced a poor run of coho salmon and as a result of minimal brood fish escapement to the hatchery, received FTP 12A-0123. If the coho salmon run to SGH is inadequate to meet egg-take goals, broodstock may be taken from the original donor stock of Corbin Creek as conditioned by the local AMB. The following table summarizes the current fish transport permits (FTPs) issued to VFDA.

Fish Transport Permit Number (FTP)	Expiration Date	Species	Stock	Purpose
16A-0018	12/31/2023	pink salmon	Vlassof/Gregorieff	Allows the egg take, incubation, and release of resultant release of progeny from 270.0 million Vlassof/Gregorieff perpetual stock pink salmon eggs at SGH.

16A-0017	12/31/2023	pink salmon	Siwash	Allows the egg take, incubation, and release of resultant release of progeny from 270.0 million Siwash stock pink salmon eggs at SGH.
86A-1007	12/31/2020	coho salmon	Corbin Cr	Allows the take of 2.0 million eggs, incubation, and release of resultant progeny from coho salmon at SGH.
15A-0072	6/30/2020	coho salmon	Corbin Cr	Allows transport of 20,000 coho salmon smolt from SGH to Boulder Bay for release at Tatitlek.
12A-0123	12/31/2022	coho salmon	Corbin Cr	Allows for the backup egg take of 2.0 million eggs from Corbin Creek to supplement egg-take goals if inadequate returns and transfer to SGH.

## II. DONOR STOCK MANAGEMENT

Hatchery runs of pink and coho salmon are anticipated to be sufficient to meet broodstock goals in 2020 and no other donor stock management is anticipated.

## III. HATCHERY RETURN MANAGEMENT

### 3.1 Probable Hatchery Fish Migration Routes and Timing

Data from tagging and commercial harvest indicates that returning hatchery fish normally follow the east and west shoreline of Valdez Arm and Narrows when entering Port Valdez. Hatchery fish often school inside Jack Bay on the north shore, and along both the northern and southern shores of Port Valdez.

Pink salmon broodstock selection for SGH has emphasized the earliest feasible timing to minimize intermixing of hatchery and wild stocks. Most of the hatchery pink salmon run should be present in the approach and terminal areas of Port Valdez between mid-June and mid-July. The run should be complete by the end of July.

### 3.2 Special Harvest Area

A 1,000 yard special harvest area (SHA) adjacent to the hatchery is described in the *SGH Management Plan* (5 AAC 24.366). This area is designated for the cost-recovery harvest of pink salmon in excess of broodstock needs. The SHA boundary prior to July 5 has been extended westward to include the terminal harvest area (THA), as shown in Figure 1. The hatchery operator will be permitted to harvest sales fish inside the THA until July 5. Beginning July 5, the SHA is redefined as all waters within a 1,000 yard radius of the terminus of Solomon Gulch Creek. In consultation with ADF&G, boundaries may be adjusted by emergency order (EO) in season for

various run timing and run-size criteria.

Coho salmon taken for cost-recovery will be removed from the hatchery raceways. After September 7, 2020 (Labor Day), common property openings may occur in the THA and/or SHA to harvest surplus coho salmon. Based upon in-season assessment of wild stock escapement and other in-season considerations, the THA and SHA boundaries may be changed by EO to include portions, or all, of the Valdez Narrows subdistrict.

In the event the SHA is opened to the common property fisheries (CPF), the boundaries will be designated by a combination of shore markers and anchored buoys, or GPS lines. Shore markers may also be installed to designate boundaries of the THA. It will be the responsibility of VFDA to ensure the SHA markers and buoys are in place and meet the requirements of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT). It is the responsibility of AWT to enforce the boundaries.

### **3.3 Hatchery Run to the Special Harvest Area (SHA)**

**Pink Salmon:** VFDA's 2020 anticipated pink salmon run to SGH is 14,622,595 million fish, assuming a 5.69% marine survival from the 2019 fry release of 256,977,826 million fish. A total of 408,702 salmon will be needed to meet egg-take objectives at the hatchery. The 2020 harvest revenue goal is approximately \$4,580,167. The 2020 VFDA pink salmon run will be managed on meeting the revenue goal.

The number of pink salmon available to the CPF will depend on a combination of marine survival, average adult fish weight, and the price per pound received by VFDA for cost-recovery fish. Average adult weight and price per pound assumptions are the same for each case. The even-year brood marine survival rate varies from 1.69% at the low range to 11.64% at the high range.

VFDA's standard business plan is based on the average run of 6.23% over its 37-year history. VFDA's projected run for 2020 is 5.69%, based on the average of the last ten, even-year runs. The ranges are based on the average of SGH's last ten even-year runs, with a 50% reduction for the low and a 50% increase for the high. These projections are based on calculations from historical high and low mean data. The forecast range assumptions are generic predictions showing possible revenue scenarios for VFDA and CPF harvests. At the midrange, VFDA would achieve the revenue goal and the CPF harvest will approach 76.3% of the run. At the high range, VFDA would achieve the revenue goal and the common property harvest will approach 84.2% of the run. At the low range, VFDA will achieve its revenue goal and the CPF harvest will approach 52.6% of the run. If run strength falls below the low-range projection, VFDA may suffer a revenue shortfall. If there is a run failure, and revenue shortfall, VFDA would reduce the operating budget to an existence basis, pursue emergency loan relief, and use a portion of its run failure fund. The CPF would be reduced as much as possible.

VFDA will place all revenue from pink salmon roe sales into the operating budget to reduce any deficits from pink salmon fish sales. Any revenue generated from pink salmon roe or flesh sales in excess of the operating budget will be applied to debt retirement, CIPs, emergency funds, or carried to next year's revenue.

**VFDA Pink Salmon Return Assumptions for 2020**

	Return Range		
	Low	Mid	High
<b>% Survival</b>	2.845%	5.690%	8.535%
<b>Adult Return Estimate</b>	7,311,019	14,622,038	21,933,057
<b>Adult Average Weight</b>	3.33	3.33	3.33
<b>Price/lb</b>	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.45
<b>Revenue Goal</b>	\$4,580,167	\$4,580,167	\$4,580,167
<b>Brood stock</b>	408,702	408,702	408,702
<b>Sales Fish Needed (Cost Recovery)</b>	3,056,501	3,056,501	3,056,501
<b>Total Fish Required by VFDA</b>	3,465,203	3,465,203	3,465,203
<b>Fish Surplus to Hatchery Needs (CPF Harvest)</b>	3,845,816	11,156,835	18,467,854
<b>% Contribution to CPF</b>	52.6%	76.3%	84.2%

**NOTE:** Price/lb, fish required by VFDA, and adult average weights are only estimates at this time.

**Coho Salmon:** The 2020 adult run of coho salmon to the hatchery is anticipated to be 82,269 fish, assuming a 4.60% (last 10-year avg.) marine survival for brood year 2017 smolt release of 1,808,253. A total of 1,000 coho salmon will be needed to meet egg-take objectives. The harvest of coho salmon includes carcasses for human and animal consumption, and the harvest of roe for human consumption. The sales harvest goal of \$30,000 is based on an average weight of one pound of roe per coho salmon and an average price of \$3.00 per pound, 50% female. Due to unpredictable interception rates, surplus into the hatchery (cost-recovery sales), is highly variable and unpredictable, so VFDA will place all revenue from coho salmon sales into the operating budget to reduce any deficits from pink salmon sales. Any revenue generated from coho salmon roe or flesh sales, in excess of the operating budget, will either be used for debt retirement, CIPs, emergency funds, or the balance carried to next year's revenue.

VFDA's Coho Salmon Return Assumptions:

The 2020 VFDA coho salmon forecast is 82,269 fish, based on the last ten year average. Estimated harvest by hatchery and CPF groups vary greatly due to abundance, effort, and management goals.

Broodstock	1,000	Sales harvest goal = \$30,000
Surplus in hatchery	<u>19,580</u>	
Total hatchery use (25.0%)	20,580	
Commercial harvest (29.9%)	24,618	
Sport (45.1%)	<u>37,071</u>	
Total return	82,269	

**NOTE:**

- 1) VFDA average broodstock/surplus over previous 10-year period from BY2007-2016.
- 2) Commercial harvest (calculated from removing known hatchery/broodstock and sportfish components).
- 3) Sport harvest 10-year average taken from ADF&G data from 2007-2016, report FMR17-44.



### **3.4 Other Cost-recovery Harvests and Carcass Disposal**

VFDA has pursued the option of selling surplus salmon roe for corporate revenue. A surplus results from fish rejected at the rack due to ripeness or eggs in excess of incubation needs. Since 2003, VFDA has processed surplus eggs into caviar with positive results. The results are intended to reduce round fish sales for cost recovery in the future.

Carcasses from broodstock with eggs rejected at the egg-take rack will be utilized and disposed in a manner consistent with appropriate salmon regulations and permitting requirements (5 AAC 93.350). Carcasses resulting from on-water egg recovery may be frozen and shipped to human and nonhuman consumption markets depending on quality.

### **3.5 Separation of Brood and Sales Fish**

In 1993, VFDA designated a BEZ within and adjacent to the SHA (Figure 1). The purpose for minimizing commercial harvesting in this exclusion zone is to protect broodstock fish that have staged along the tide flats inside of Allison Point and adjacent to SGH. This method of protection has proven to be very effective at giving sanctuary to broodstock fish, while still allowing cost-recovery harvesting to proceed elsewhere in the SHA. Both cost-recovery and common property harvesting may occur within the BEZ should circumstances favor a commercial opening.

Broodstock will be collected by volitional entry through the fish ladder leading into the concrete raceways located just above tidal influence at the hatchery.

### **3.6 Probable CPF Exploitation Rates of Hatchery Fish**

It is the intent of ADF&G to provide an escapement for the stated corporate revenue goal. Effective management of mixed stock fisheries is difficult. Achievement of this goal depends upon precise in-season assessment of both wild stock and hatchery run strengths. Depending upon the precision of in-season run assessment, the actual percentage provided for corporate escapement may fall above or below the stated goal.

**Pink Salmon:** The exploitation rate of hatchery fish (the percent contribution to the CPF) ultimately depends on the strength of the hatchery run, the average weight, fish price and management actions taken by the ADF&G in the Valdez Arm area to assist the hatchery in meeting its economic escapement goals. VFDA's goal is to provide as much of its hatchery production as possible to the CPF.

**Coho Salmon:** If the anticipated hatchery run of 82,269 is realized, a CPF exploitation rate of 75.0% would allow sufficient fish into the hatchery to meet sales and broodstock objectives. It is possible that the combined exploitation rates of the commercial and sport fleets will be substantially below this level, thereby allowing significant numbers of surplus fish to move into the hatchery. In this case, these fish will be harvested and sold by the hatchery operator.

### **3.7 Management Strategies**

This will be the 37<sup>th</sup> year of pink salmon returns to SGH. Management of the SGH pink salmon run

is governed by a regulatory management plan adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in December 1986 (5 AAC 24.366). This plan directs ADF&G to manage the Valdez Narrows subdistrict and waters of Valdez Arm north of the latitude of Rocky Point to assist in achievement of SGH pink salmon cost-recovery and broodstock escapement goals.

**Pink Salmon Returns:** The SGH THA will be opened by EO for the hatchery operator to harvest fish for sale beginning in middle to late June. VFDA hatchery staff will conduct a daily sampling program that will provide sex ratio and daily cost-recovery harvest data for the hatchery run. Hatchery staff will provide this information to ADF&G Cordova Division of Commercial Fisheries area management biologists on a daily basis to facilitate a regulated harvest of surplus fish. Daily data collection will be evaluated against the anticipated run entry and revenue table built from historical timing data of the Solomon Gulch stock (Table 1). As the run progresses, cost-recovery information and run strength estimates will be updated each day.

The season opening in the Eastern and Northern districts is based on the strength of the early natural pink and chum salmon stocks returning to these districts. Because these districts have the earliest wild stock systems in the Sound, the Eastern and Northern districts are generally the first seine districts to open. Openers are not likely to occur until wild stock escapements can be evaluated.

The cost-recovery fleet will fish aggressively to keep the cumulative cost-recovery revenue on or ahead of the cost-recovery goal (Table 1). ADF&G will manage the commercial CPF in the Valdez Narrows subdistrict according to the cost-recovery revenue goal. If sex ratio trends and harvest rates indicate that the broodstock and sales goals cannot be met, then more extensive closures expanding into Valdez Arm may be implemented on subsequent Eastern District openings.

Closed waters at the head of Port Valdez described in 5 AAC 24.350(3)(O) create a boundary near the hatchery that is difficult for seiners to legally fish during openings inside Port Valdez. This important boundary protects hatchery broodstock and sales fish during Port Valdez openings, and as a result, often commands attention by enforcement personnel. After wild stock and corporate escapement needs have been adequately addressed, VFDA recommends that ADF&G adjust the closed water boundaries, as necessary inside Port Valdez, to efficiently harvest available surpluses near the hatchery. Should boundaries near the hatchery be adjusted for openings inside Port Valdez, VFDA will ensure that closed waters protecting its corporate escapement are clearly marked by buoys prior to a fishery. Changes to boundaries will be described in ADF&G fishery announcements.

When in-season timing data indicates that broodstock and sales goals will likely be achieved, the Valdez Narrows subdistrict may be opened for a common property seine harvest. The preferred strategy for openings inside Port Valdez will be to provide a minimum of a 200-yard closure to seining off Allison Point. This closure will protect broodstock in the BEZ, provide fish for cost-recovery harvesting and reduce conflict between sport and commercial fisheries.

Aggressive cost-recovery harvesting and timely commercial openings will be used to prevent a large buildup of pink salmon inside Port Valdez. VFDA will provide daily estimates to ADF&G of the quantity and quality of fish being harvested near the hatchery. If surplus fish build up in front of the hatchery, a common property opening may occur in waters of the THA, SHA, and/or BEZ to harvest fish surplus to hatchery needs.

If early wild stock returns of pink and chum salmon to the Eastern District are too weak to warrant regular openings in early July, surplus SGH pink salmon will be harvested in the Valdez Narrows subdistrict and the Solomon Gulch THA. The duration and frequency of openings of the Valdez Narrows subdistrict will depend upon the magnitude of the run. Recognizing the limitations of the hatchery run assessment in Port Valdez, efforts will be taken to harvest the surplus hatchery production expeditiously to preserve the highest possible quality.

Due to the early run timing of the SGH stock, broodstock and cost-recovery goals must be met by late July. After this time, the Valdez Narrows and Arm will be managed for wild stocks.

### **3.7.1 Wild Stock vs. Hatchery Stock**

Some interception of naturally occurring wild pink salmon occurs, both in the CPF targeting SGH fish and in the hatchery cost-recovery harvest.

The waters at the head of Port Valdez east of 146° 30'37" W. longitude (THA) normally remain closed during August and September for protection of wild stock pink and chum salmon. This closure should allow sufficient protection for returning hatchery coho salmon and no further management action is anticipated. However, if a harvestable surplus of wild pink salmon exists, commercial CPF openings may occur.

### **3.7.2 Coho Salmon Hatchery Stock**

VFDA requests that ADF&G manage the coho salmon run to ensure adequate broodstock at the hatchery (Table 3). Hatchery runs of coho salmon should be sufficient to meet desired egg-take goals.

## **3.8 Sport Fish Harvest**

The Port of Valdez and Valdez Arm supports the largest component of the sport fishery in PWS. The pink salmon sport fishery is the largest in the state. Other species harvested include king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon. The stocking of large numbers of pink and coho salmon was initiated by VFDA in the early 1980s. The contribution of these runs became noticeable in the sport fishery in 1985, with sharp increases in angler effort and pink salmon harvests. Coho salmon harvests also began increasing, but at a slower rate. The Port of Valdez and Valdez Arm freshwater and saltwater fisheries averaged 38,291 angler days of sport fishing for the last ten years, 2007-2018. This recreational activity provides a valuable economic resource for the community of Valdez.

The pink salmon sport fishery is primarily a shore-based fishery with an average of 73% of the harvest taken by shoreline anglers. The 2018 harvest of pink salmon by both shoreline and boat anglers was 11,114 fish. Important access locations for shoreline anglers include Allison Point, Dayville Road, and the city dock. This sport fishery is generally more active during weekends and usually peaks during the first week of July. Peak angler and commercial fishing activity typically coincides with the peak of the pink salmon run. Potential for conflict between the two user groups exists, especially at Allison Point.

The coho salmon sport fishery of Valdez area (Arm and Port) begins in late July and continues

through Labor Day weekend. Based on a 10-year average (2007–2016) sport harvest of coho salmon in the area averaged 37,071 fish according to data from ADF&G report FMR17-44. ADF&G manages the Port of Valdez to reduce conflicts between the commercial and sport user groups by excluding commercial fishing within the Port of Valdez and the Valdez Narrows from August 15 through Labor Day. However, the department may designate open areas for commercial harvest within Port Valdez if a buildup of surplus salmon occurs during the August 15 to Labor Day closure. In 2020, the commercial fishery in Port Valdez will reopen on September 8 to target SGH produced coho salmon.

### **3.9 Personal Use and Subsistence Harvests**

SGH contributes some fish to the sport and subsistence salmon harvest by Tatitlek residents. An agreement has been completed between VFDA and the Tatitlek Corporation to resume stocking 20,000 coho salmon in June 2011. This remote stocking program had been temporarily on hold from 2004 through 2010 due to transfer and rearing problems.

### **3.10 Avoidance of Nontarget Species**

The potential for interception of non-target fish in the SHA is not fully known; however, no significant harvest has been recorded. All non-target species found will be released when practical. Deliveries will be monitored for species composition and harvest by species will be recorded on fish tickets.

## **IV. EVALUATION STUDIES**

### **4.1 Otolith Thermal Marking/Coded-Wire-Tagging**

In 1997, otolith thermal marking replaced coded-wire-tagging as the preferred method for stock identification. Since 1997, all brood years of pink salmon fry have been otolith thermal marked at SGH. Thermal marking the otolith provides the ADF&G divisions of Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish AMBs with more timely and accurate run information. ADF&G's Mark, Tag, and Age Laboratory in Juneau has issued SGH a 6H otolith thermal mark. BY19 pink salmon fry will be otolith thermal marked.

Coho salmon otolith thermal marking began with BY 2000. BY 2019 SGH Coho salmon will receive an otolith mark of 7H. This change was to avoid mark duplication by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) Working Group on Salmon Marking. Few wild coho salmon stocks exist near the hatchery, where most of the sport and commercial fishery takes place.

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**V. APPROVAL**

**Recommendation for Approval: Solomon Gulch Hatchery Annual Management Plan, 2020**

Thane Miller, Board President, Valdez Fisheries Development Assoc. 6/9/2020

Jay Baumer, Area Management Biologist, Div. of Sport Fish 6/30/2020

Charles Russell, Area Management Biologist, Div. of Commercial Fisheries 6/26/2020

Tom Vania, Regional Supervisor, Div. of Sport Fish 6/16/2020

Bert Lewis, Regional Supervisor, Div. of Commercial Fisheries 6/18/2020

Ethan Ford, Regional Resource Development Biologist, Div. of Commercial Fisheries 6/26/2020

Lorraine Vercessi, PNP Hatchery Program Coordinator, Div. of Commercial Fisheries 6/29/2020

**Approval: The 2020 Solomon Gulch Hatchery Annual Management Plan is hereby approved.**

Tom Taube, Deputy Director, Div. of Sport Fish 6/30/2020

Peter Bangs, Assistant Director, Div. of Commercial Fisheries 6/30/2020

**Table 1: Pink salmon run entry for Solomon Gulch Hatchery, 2020**

:First day brood collection based on anticipated % female at approximately 15%.															
:Marine Survival % and Expected Weight is based on last 10 even year return average.															
: Run entry % based on the historic odd and even returns using cost recovery and CPF harvests.															
: Price per pound may not be current with actual in season sales.															
<b>Marine Survival</b>	5.690%	<b>Green Egg Requirements</b>	270,000,000												
<b>CPF Contribution</b>	76.3%	<b>Minimum Brood Req.</b>	408,702												
<b>Fry Released</b>	256,977,826	<b>Fish Sales Required (\$)</b>	\$4,580,167												
<b>Expected Return</b>	14,622,038	<b>Fish Sales Required (#)</b>	3,056,501												
<b>Expected Catch CPF</b>	11,156,835	<b>Expected Weight (lbs)</b>	3.33												
<b>Expected Return SHA</b>	3,465,203	<b>Expected Average Price</b>	\$0.450												
<b>Revised:</b>	14-Feb-20														
Date	Total Run Entry				C. P. F. Catch		Cost Recovery Fish Sales				Brood Collection*	Brood Cum.	Antici-pated % Female	Date	
	% Entry	Cum % Entry	Fish/ Day	Cum. Fish	Fish/ Day	Cum. Fish	Fish/ Day	Cum. Fish	Revenue	Cum \$					
11-Jun															11-Jun
12-Jun															12-Jun
13-Jun															13-Jun
14-Jun															14-Jun
15-Jun															15-Jun
16-Jun															16-Jun
17-Jun	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	\$0					17-Jun
18-Jun	0.0%	0.0%	146	146	116	116	31	31	\$46	\$46					18-Jun
19-Jun	0.0%	0.0%	146	292	116	231	31	61	\$46	\$92					19-Jun
20-Jun	0.1%	0.1%	7750	8042	6130	6361	1620	1681	\$2,427	\$2,519				12.2	20-Jun
21-Jun	0.1%	0.1%	8188	16230	6477	12838	1712	3393	\$2,565	\$5,084				14.2	21-Jun
22-Jun	0.1%	0.2%	11405	27636	9021	21859	2384	5777	\$3,573	\$8,657				9.9	22-Jun
23-Jun	0.2%	0.4%	26466	54102	20934	42792	5532	11309	\$8,290	\$16,947				10.6	23-Jun
24-Jun	0.2%	0.6%	34508	88610	22295	65087	7213	18522	\$10,809	\$27,756	5000	5000	16.3		24-Jun
25-Jun	0.8%	1.4%	119608	208218	84606	149693	25002	43525	\$37,466	\$65,222	10000	15000	13.8		25-Jun
26-Jun	0.8%	2.2%	117415	325633	77871	227565	24544	68068	\$36,779	\$102,000	15000	30000	16.3		26-Jun
27-Jun	1.2%	3.4%	171517	497149	120664	348228	35853	103921	\$53,725	\$155,726	15000	45000	14.4		27-Jun
28-Jun	2.4%	5.8%	349467	846616	261416	609645	73050	176971	\$109,466	\$265,192	15000	60000	17.1		28-Jun
29-Jun	2.0%	7.7%	285568	1132184	210875	820520	59693	236665	\$89,451	\$354,642	15000	75000	17.9		29-Jun
30-Jun	2.2%	10.0%	326364	1458548	238143	1058662	68221	304886	\$102,229	\$456,872	20000	95000	15.2		30-Jun
1-Jul	2.4%	12.3%	346835	1805383	254335	1312997	72500	377386	\$108,642	\$565,513	20000	115000	19.5		1-Jul
2-Jul	6.0%	18.4%	882440	2687823	677980	1990977	184460	561846	\$276,413	\$841,926	20000	135000	19.6		2-Jul
3-Jul	3.3%	21.6%	476678	3164502	357037	2348014	99642	661488	\$149,313	\$991,240	20000	155000	23.8		3-Jul
4-Jul	4.7%	26.3%	681095	3845596	518723	2866736	142372	803860	\$213,344	\$1,204,584	20000	175000	27.0		4-Jul
5-Jul	6.7%	33.0%	983478	4829074	757898	3624634	205580	1009440	\$308,062	\$1,512,646	20000	195000	30.9		5-Jul

Continued on next page.

Table 1 (page 2 of 2).

Date	Total Run Entry				C. P. F. Catch		Cost Recovery Fish Sales				Brood Collection*	Brood Cum. Brood	Anticipated % Female	Date
	% Entry	Cum % Entry	Fish/Day	Cum. Fish	Fish/Day	Cum. Fish	Fish/Day	Cum. Fish	Revenue	Cum \$				
6-Jul	6.5%	39.6%	956720	5785794	736733	4361367	199987	1209427	\$299,680	\$1,812,328	20000	215000	26.8	6-Jul
7-Jul	2.8%	42.4%	414827	6200822	308114	4669482	86713	1296140	\$129,939	\$1,942,268	20000	235000	32.4	7-Jul
8-Jul	6.2%	48.6%	901595	7102216	688131	5357813	188464	1484604	\$282,413	\$2,224,679	25000	260000	33.4	8-Jul
9-Jul	5.3%	53.9%	777454	7879670	589940	5947552	162514	1647118	\$243,527	\$2,468,208	25000	285000	37.4	9-Jul
10-Jul	5.7%	59.5%	827607	8707278	629609	6577162	172998	1820116	\$259,237	\$2,727,444	25000	310000	30.7	10-Jul
11-Jul	3.9%	63.5%	576693	9283971	431145	7008306	120548	1940664	\$180,642	\$2,908,085	25000	335000	42.0	11-Jul
12-Jul	4.1%	67.6%	597310	9881281	447452	7455759	124858	2065522	\$187,100	\$3,095,185	25000	360000	44.1	12-Jul
13-Jul	3.5%	71.1%	516597	10397878	383610	7839369	107998	2173509	\$161,817	\$3,257,003	25000	385000	48.8	13-Jul
14-Jul	3.4%	74.5%	496418	10894296	367650	8207019	103768	2277277	\$155,497	\$3,412,499	25000	410000	47.0	14-Jul
15-Jul	2.4%	76.9%	352245	11246541	253614	8460633	73631	2350908	\$110,336	\$3,522,835	25000	435000	53.6	15-Jul
16-Jul	4.4%	81.3%	645124	11891665	485271	8945904	134853	2485781	\$202,077	\$3,724,912	25000	460000	48.5	16-Jul
17-Jul	6.4%	87.7%	934494	12826160	719153	9665058	195341	2681102	\$292,718	\$4,017,631	20000	480000	54.9	17-Jul
18-Jul	0.7%	88.5%	108788	12934948	71048	9736105	22740	2703842	\$34,076	\$4,051,707	15000	495000		18-Jul
19-Jul	2.5%	91.0%	369938	13304885	277608	10013714	77329	2781172	\$115,878	\$4,167,588	15000	510000	63.2	19-Jul
20-Jul	2.9%	93.9%	421992	13726877	323781	10337495	88211	2869382	\$132,184	\$4,299,769	10000	520000		20-Jul
21-Jul	0.7%	94.6%	108496	13835373	75816	10413311	22679	2892061	\$33,985	\$4,333,754	10000	530000	58.0	21-Jul
22-Jul	1.4%	96.0%	207779	14043152	159346	10572658	43433	2935494	\$65,084	\$4,398,838	5000	535000	36.0	22-Jul
23-Jul	1.1%	97.1%	156310	14199461	123636	10696293	32674	2968168	\$48,962	\$4,447,800		535000	50.5	23-Jul
24-Jul	0.8%	97.9%	118146	14317607	93450	10789743	24697	2992865	\$37,008	\$4,484,808		535000	58.5	24-Jul
25-Jul	0.6%	98.5%	81737	14399345	64651	10854394	17086	3009951	\$25,603	\$4,510,411		535000	49.0	25-Jul
26-Jul	0.2%	98.6%	21933	14421278	17348	10871742	4585	3014535	\$6,870	\$4,517,281		535000	45.0	26-Jul
27-Jul	0.9%	99.5%	131308	14552584	103859	10975601	27447	3041983	\$41,130	\$4,558,411		535000	49.0	27-Jul
28-Jul	0.0%	99.5%	0	14552584	0	10975601	0	3041983	\$0	\$4,558,411			55.5	28-Jul
29-Jul	0.3%	99.8%	40211	14592794	31805	11007406	8405	3050388	\$12,595	\$4,571,007			54.0	29-Jul
30-Jul	0.0%	99.8%	0	14592794	0	11007406	0	3050388	\$0	\$4,571,007			57.0	30-Jul
31-Jul	0.2%	100.0%	22518	14615312	17811	11025217	4707	3055095	\$7,053	\$4,578,060			61.0	31-Jul
1-Aug	0.0%	100.0%	0	14615312	0	11025217	0	3055095	\$0	\$4,578,060			53.0	1-Aug
2-Aug	0.0%	100.0%	6726	14622038	5320	11030537	1406	3056501	\$2,107	\$4,580,167			59.5	2-Aug
3-Aug	0.0%	100.0%	0	14622038	0	11030537	0	3056501	\$0	\$4,580,167			61.5	3-Aug

\*Total brood collection includes volitional entrants



<b>Table 2</b>			
<b>VFDA 2020 Pink Salmon Egg Take projection schedule</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Daily %</b>	<b>Daily # Eggs</b>	<b>Cummulative # Eggs</b>
7/24/20	3.57%	9,642,858	9,642,858
7/25/20	0.00%	-	9,642,858
7/26/20	0.00%	-	9,642,858
7/27/20	5.36%	14,464,287	24,107,145
7/28/20	3.57%	9,642,858	33,750,003
7/29/20	5.36%	14,464,287	48,214,290
7/30/20	3.57%	9,642,858	57,857,148
7/31/20	5.36%	14,464,287	72,321,435
8/1/20	0.00%	-	72,321,435
8/2/20	0.00%	-	72,321,435
8/3/20	7.14%	19,285,716	91,607,151
8/4/20	5.36%	14,464,287	106,071,438
8/5/20	3.57%	9,642,858	115,714,296
8/6/20	5.36%	14,464,287	130,178,583
8/7/20	3.57%	9,642,858	139,821,441
8/8/20	0.00%	-	139,821,441
8/9/20	0.00%	-	139,821,441
8/10/20	7.14%	19,285,716	159,107,157
8/11/20	5.36%	14,464,287	173,571,444
8/12/20	3.57%	9,642,858	183,214,302
8/13/20	5.36%	14,464,287	197,678,589
8/14/20	5.36%	14,464,287	212,142,876
8/15/20	0.00%	-	212,142,876
8/16/20	0.00%	-	212,142,876
8/17/20	7.14%	19,285,716	231,428,592
8/18/20	5.36%	14,464,287	245,892,879
8/19/20	3.57%	9,642,858	255,535,737
8/20/20	3.57%	9,642,858	265,178,595
8/21/20	1.79%	4,821,405	270,000,000
8/22/20	0.00%	-	270,000,000
8/23/20	0.00%	-	270,000,000
	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>270,000,000</b>	

<b>Table 3</b>					
<b>2020 Adult Coho Salmon Return Projection for VFDA</b>					
<b>DATE</b>	<b>% ENTRY</b>	<b># Daily</b>	<b># Cum.</b>	<b>BROOD</b>	
				<b>DAILY</b>	<b>CUM.</b>
8/18/20	1.05%	860	860		
8/19/20	1.26%	1,034	1,895		
8/20/20	1.25%	1,032	2,927		
8/21/20	1.26%	1,034	3,961		
8/22/20	1.90%	1,560	5,521		
8/23/20	0.64%	531	6,052		
8/24/20	2.09%	1,721	7,773		
8/25/20	2.09%	1,721	9,494		
8/26/20	2.98%	2,448	11,941		
8/27/20	2.34%	1,921	13,863		
8/28/20	2.34%	1,921	15,784		
8/29/20	2.22%	1,823	17,608		
8/30/20	3.63%	2,985	20,592		
8/31/20	4.92%	4,044	24,636		
9/1/20	6.03%	4,962	29,598	50	50
9/2/20	6.64%	5,461	35,059	50	100
9/3/20	5.76%	4,741	39,800	50	150
9/4/20	4.35%	3,582	43,383	100	250
9/5/20	2.18%	1,797	45,179	100	350
9/6/20	3.84%	3,161	48,340	100	450
9/7/20	3.73%	3,072	51,412	100	550
9/8/20	3.87%	3,183	54,595	250	800
9/9/20	4.30%	3,540	58,135	200	1,000
9/10/20	4.75%	3,905	62,040		
9/11/20	1.98%	1,625	63,665		
9/12/20	2.93%	2,410	66,075		
9/13/20	2.11%	1,739	67,813		
9/14/20	1.86%	1,534	69,347		
9/15/20	1.60%	1,320	70,667		
9/16/20	1.69%	1,386	72,053		
9/17/20	0.73%	600	72,653		
9/18/20	0.46%	381	73,034		
9/19/20	0.45%	368	73,402		
9/20/20	0.26%	214	73,616		
9/21/20	0.25%	205	73,821		
9/22/20	0.28%	232	74,053		
9/23/20	0.27%	223	74,275		
9/24/20	0.11%	89	74,365		
9/25/20	0.11%	89	74,454		
9/26/20	0.21%	176	74,630		
9/27/20	0.18%	149	74,779		
9/28/20	0.18%	149	74,929		
9/29/20	0.18%	152	75,080		
9/30/20	0.18%	152	75,232		
10/1/20	0.01%	9	75,241		
10/2/20	0.01%	9	75,250		
10/3/20	0.54%	441	75,691		
10/4/20	0.54%	448	76,139		
10/5/20	0.55%	450	76,589		
10/6/20	0.91%	749	77,338		
10/7/20	0.91%	747	78,085		
10/8/20	0.91%	749	78,834		
10/9/20	0.91%	747	79,581		
10/10/20	0.39%	319	79,899		
10/11/20	0.38%	310	80,209		
10/12/20	0.48%	392	80,602		
10/13/20	0.12%	98	80,700		
10/14/20	0.12%	96	80,796		
10/15/20	0.42%	348	81,143		
10/16/20	0.42%	348	81,491		
10/17/20	0.32%	261	81,752		
10/18/20	0.32%	261	82,013		
10/19/20	0.31%	256	82,269		
		<b>82,269</b>			

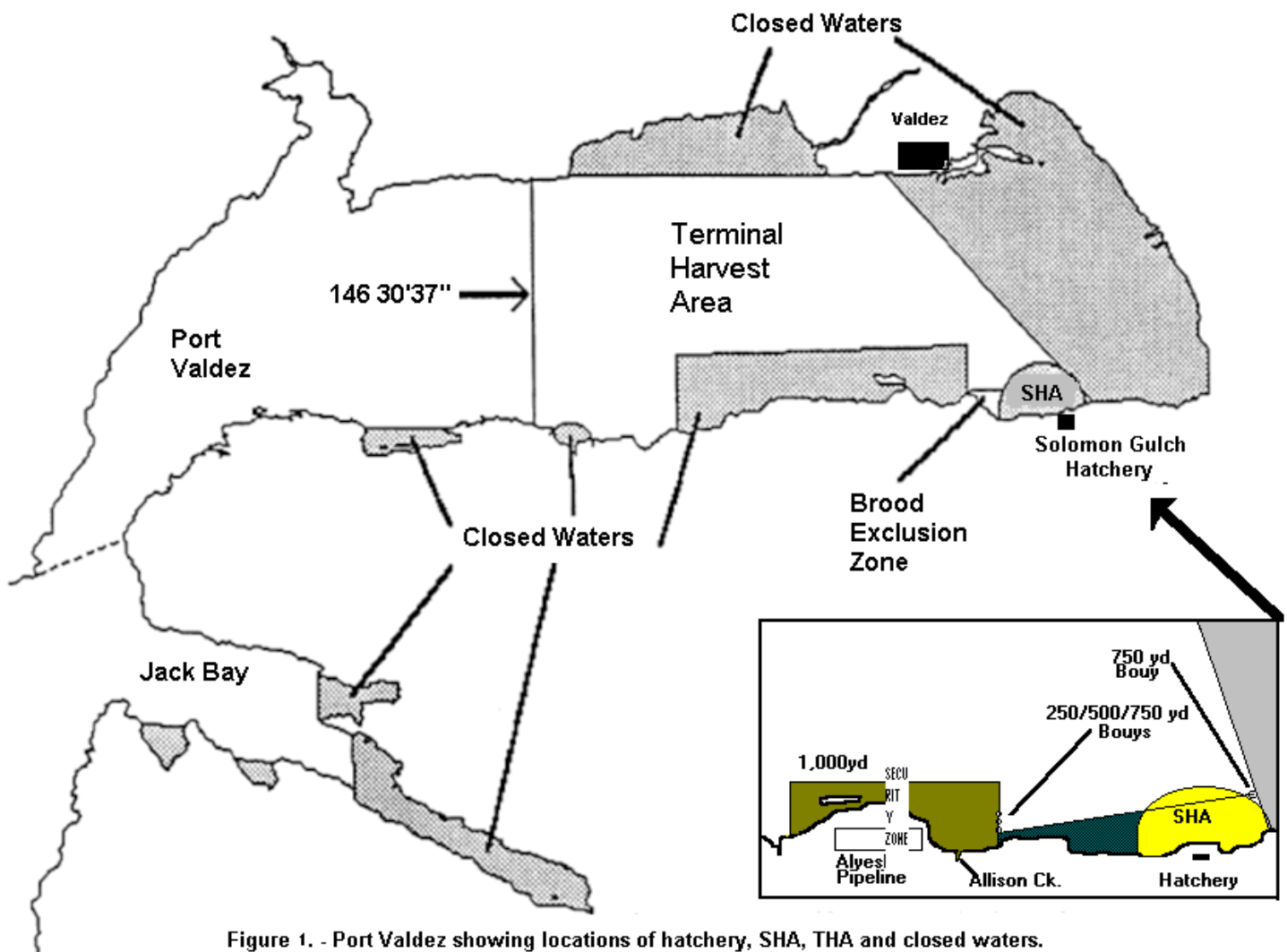


Figure 1. - Port Valdez showing locations of hatchery, SHA, THA and closed waters.