



Prince William Sound
Aquaculture Corporation
DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES
FOR ALASKA AND THE WORLD

2023 Pre-Season Hatchery Report

Reviewing and updating brood numbers has been a part of PWSAC’s success in achieving egg-take goals for Sound pink and chum hatcheries the last two years. Brood requirements are evaluated based on female percentages and fecundity along with sea lion predation at Armin F. Koernig Hatchery (AFK), Cannery Creek Hatchery (CCH), and Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH).

			Brood Goal
(5 year odd for pink, 10 year chum, odd 5 year MBI)			
Site	Species	Previous	Current
CCH	Pinks	604,000	584,000
AFK	Pinks	398,000	398,000
WNH	Pinks	419,000	457,000
WNH	Chum	226,000	228,000
MBH	Sockeye	9,200	8,940

2023 Outmigration

The Brood Year 2022 (BY22) incubation season was excellent; projected egg survivals were higher at all hatcheries. This led to a busy outmigration (OM) this Spring. WNH chums were the first fry out to saltwater (SW) on March 1st. Port Chalmers (PC) chums began the first of six transfers on March 8th. Also on March 8th, Main Bay Hatchery (MBH) moved their SW reared sockeye to the net pens. The first pinks went out to SW at WNH on March 20th. AFK out-migrated their first chums on March 27th and their pinks on April 1st. CCH began volitional pink OM on March 29th. Gulkana Hatchery (GH) began ponding their first GII sockeye on March 23rd and moved four pens of GII sockeye to the GII rearing location. OM continues at CCH and GH and is now complete at WNH, MBH, and AFK.

2023 Pink releases will begin in early May and chum, sockeye, and coho release will start in late May and early June. GH will release their last sockeye in July. PWSAC staff will monitor whales at all sites again and may use a trickle release strategy at any site with regular whale presence. Final release numbers will be available at the end of June.

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All MBH Sockeye (BY22) are in the freshwater start-up phase and WNH Coho (BY22) continue to emerge from their incubators.

Phytoplankton has started to rise at varying levels across the Sound and Zooplankton is increasing at WNH.

2023 Return Forecast

PWSAC is forecasting a mid-point return of 24.2 million pink salmon, 3.05 million chum, 934,000 MBH sockeye, 55,300 Gulkana sockeye, and 135,400 coho. The pre-season pink salmon revenue goal is \$9,290,767 (16% of forecast total return for PWSAC, 3.4lb avg) with \$5,381,694 for chum (44% of forecast return, 6.6lb avg) and \$1,500,000 (23% of forecast return, 4lb avg) for MBH sockeye. Cost recovery for chum is anticipated to begin around June 1st and pink salmon management starting after July 20th. PWSAC will provide regular in-season announcements to the fleet detailing revenue goals and cost recovery efforts at www.pwsac.com and the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Facebook page.

PWSAC is currently having sea lion deterrent cones fabricated for the SERVS buoys at Lake Bay. They will be installed by June 1st at WNH.

Species	Site	Broodstock	Point Estimate	Marine Survival
Pink	AFK	398,000	6,800,000	3.97%
Pink	CCH	584,000	11,300,000	7.01%
Pink	WNH	457,000	6,100,000	4.60%
Chum	AFK	-	190,000	1.06%
Chum	Port Chalmers	-	650,000	2.50%
Chum	WNH	228,000	2,210,000	3.01%
Sockeye	MBH	9,200	934,000	9.09%
Sockeye	Gulkana	20,000	55,300	0.52%
Coho	WNH	2,700	122,000	4.54%
Coho	Cordova	-	5,900	5.90%
Coho	Whittier	-	4,600	4.54%
Coho	Chenega	-	2,900	5.90%
Chinook	Chenega	-	230	0.48%

Capital Projects

PWAC continues to make substantial progress on capital projects and has brought on a full-time capital projects manager with an extensive background in capital project management. This role will bring additional focus and efficiency to each PWSAC capital project.

Pending and current projects: CCH fishway approach improvements, replacement of the CCH potable water system, replacement of CCH bunkhouse plumbing, installation of the MBH dock, hydro turbine overhauls and/or repairs at both WNH and MBH, AFK egg-take conveyor repairs, concrete raceway coatings at WNH, residential refurbishment(all locations), rolling stock replacement, and continued electrical upgrades and efficiencies. The Cannery Creek dam restructure is being engineered with an aggressive field commencement time in 2024.

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Production Changes

There are no production changes for 2022.

Please drop by the PWSAC website www.pwsac.com and Prince William Sound Aquaculture Facebook page for in season harvest and run entry information. Additionally, you can call the PWSAC HOTLINE at (907) 424-4035

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