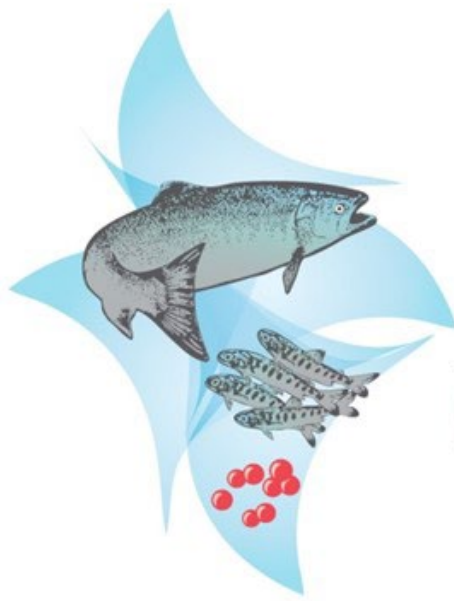




Prince William Sound
Aquaculture Corporation

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES
FOR ALASKA AND THE WORLD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FALL MEETING

Monday, October 14 – Tuesday, October 15, 2024
9:00 am

Room A & B, Cordova Community Center
601 1st St, Cordova, AK 99574

[Zoom Online \(Both Days\)](#)
[Meeting ID: 846 2778 5017 | Passcode: 814128](#)

By Telephone
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Mission statement:
“To ethically and professionally optimize salmon production in
Area “E” for the long term well-being of all user groups.



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Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

Board of Directors – Regular Fall Meeting

October 14 & 15, 2024 – 9:00 AM

Cordova Community Center Room A & B & Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order:** by Chairman Eli Johnson
- 2. Roll Call:** Establish a quorum, requires 20 present.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** October 14 & 15, 2024 **(ACTION)**
Move to approve the October 14 & 15, General Board meeting agenda.
- 4. Introduction of Staff:** by General Manager Geoff Clark
- 5. Introduction of Guests:** by Chairman Eli Johnson
 - David Porter of Porter & Allison Inc
 - Matt Findley of Ashburn & Mason
- 6. Appointment of Representative Directors: (ACTION)**
Move to approve the appointment of ...
 - Processor Trident Seafoods – Rick Isaacson
 - Processor Copper River Seafoods – Brandon Blake
 - Sport Seat – Jaroslav Hanak
 - Native Seat A – P. Timmy Selanoff
 - Native Seat C – John Whissel
 - City of Cordova – Tommy Sheridan
 - City of Valdez – Amanda Bauer
 - City of Whittier – Don Stevens
- 7. Welcome New/Re-elected Board Members:**

• Gillnet Seat D – Hayley Hoover	• Seine Seat E – Bob Linville
• Gillnet Seat E – Wade Buscher	• Seine Seat F – Nicholas Crump
• Gillnet Seat F – Darin Gilman	• Dual Seat C – Mike Mickelson
• Gillnet Seat G – John Platt	• Dual Seat D – Jon Nichols
• Seine Seat D – Tom Nelson	• Set Gillnet Seat A – Forest Jenkins
- 8. Review Conflict of Interest Statement & Disclose Conflicts of Interest:**
- 9. PWSAC Director’s Oath:**
- 10. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** March 07 & 08, 2024 **(ACTION)**
Move to approve the March 7 and 8, General Board meeting minutes.

11. Public Comment:

12. Correspondence:

13. Guest Presentation: Porter & Allison

14. Executive Session: (ACTION)

Move to go into Executive Session for matters the immediate knowledge of which would have an adverse effect on the finances of the corporation.

15. Chairman's Report: by Chairman Eli Johnson

16. Representative's Report:

A. RCAC: by Nicholas Crump

17. Management Reports:

A. General Managers Report – Geoff Clark

B. Production Report – Steve Hilton/Neil Wright

C. Finance Report – Margie Udani-Calaustro

D. Human Resources Report – Kerin Kramer

18. Unfinished Business:

19. New Business:

A. PWSAC Board of Fish Proposal

B. FY 25 PWSAC Budget Discussion

20. Election of Officers and Executive Committee: Nomination and Vote

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Executive Committee

21. Next Committee Meeting Date:

22. Next Full Board Meeting Date:

23. Board Comments:

24. Adjournment: (ACTION)

Move to adjourn.

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

Board of Directors Incoming & Outgoing Directors

Outgoing Directors:

Drift Gillnet

Spencer Allen

Tracey Nuzzi

Purse Seine

Ron Blake

Ben Johnson

Processor

OBI Seafoods – Robert Nathanson

Appointed Seats

Gordon Reeves

In-coming, Re-elected, and Re-appointed Directors:

Drift Gillnet

Hayley Hoover

Wade Buscher

Darin Gilman

John Platt

Purse Seine

Tom Nelson

Bob Linville

Nicholas Crump

Dual Permit

Mike Mickelson

Jon Nichols

Appointed Seats

Trident Seafoods – Rick Isaacson

Copper River Seafoods – Brandon Blake

Jaroslav Hanak

P. Timmy Selanoff

John Whissel

Tommy Sheridan

Amanda Bauer

Don Stevens

Open Seats:

Seine Seat B

Seine Seat G

Dual Seat E

Subsistence A

Personal Use A

General Seat B

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

Board of Directors 10/01/2024 Draft Seat and Term Designations

Drift Gillnet				Purse Seine			
	Seat	Name	Term Ends		Seat	Name	Term Ends
1	A	Regan Mann	Oct-2026	1	A	Morgan Williams	Oct-2026
2	B	Bret Bradford	Oct-2026	2	B		Oct-2026
3	C	Nathan Cook	Oct-2026	3	C	Justin Ryan	Oct-2026
4	D	Hayley Hoover	Oct-2027	4	D	Tom Nelson	Oct-2027
5	E	Wade Buscher	Oct-2027	5	E	Bob Linville *	Oct-2027
6	F	Darin Gilman	Oct-2027	6	F	Nicholas Crump	Oct-2027
7	G	John Platt	Oct-2027	7	G		Oct-2025
8	H	Bill Craig	Oct-2025	8	H	Ezekiel Brown	Oct-2025
9	I	Pete Jenkins	Oct-2025	9	I	Eli Johnson	Oct-2025
10	J	Toni Godes	Oct-2025	10	J	Ryan Rogers	Oct-2025

Dual Permit				Set Gillnet			
	Seat	Name	Term Ends		Seat	Name	Term Ends
1	A	Tyee Lohse	Oct-2026	1	A	Forest Jenkins	Oct-2027
2	B	Makena O'Toole	Oct-2026				
3	C	Mike Mickelson	Oct-2027				
4	D	Jon Nichols	Oct-2027				
5	E		Oct-2025				
6	F	Mike Babic	Oct-2025				

Board Appointed				Ex-Officio	
		Seat	Name	Term Ends	
1	Processor	A	Silver Bay Seafoods – Chris Gordon	Oct-2026	
2	Processor	B	Whittier Seafoods – Deana Irish	Oct-2026	
3	Processor	C	Trident Seafoods – Rick Isaacson	Oct-2027	
4	Processor	D	Copper River Seafoods – Brandon Blake	Oct-2027	
5	Sport	A	Jaroslav Hanak	Oct-2027	
6	Subsistence	A			
7	Personal Use	A			
8	Native	A	P. Timmy Selanoff	Oct-2027	
9	Native	B	Ashley Christensen	Oct-2025	
10	Native	C	John Whissel	Oct-2027	
11	Native	D	Angela Totemoff	Oct-2025	
12	General	A	Ken Roberson	Oct-2025	
13	General	B			
14	General	C	Shawna Williams	Oct-2026	
15	General	D	Chelsea Haisman	Oct-2025	
16	City	CDV	Tommy Sheridan	Oct-2027	
17	City	VDZ	Amanda Bauer	Oct-2027	
18	City	WHT	Don Stevens	Oct-2027	

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

Board of Directors – Spring Meeting

March 07 & 08, 2024 – 9:00 AM

Aft Deck, The Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage & Zoom

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order

Chairman Eli Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM

Roll Call

Amanda Bauer	Hayley Hoover	Jon Nichols
Ron Blake	Deana Irish	Tracey Nuzzi
Bret Bradford	Rick Isaacson	Makena O'Toole
Ezekiel Brown	Forest Jenkins	Ken Roberson
Wade Buscher	Eli Johnson	Ryan Rogers
Ashley Christensen	Tyee Lohse	Justin Ryan
Nick Crump	Regan Mann	Don Stevens
Toni Godes	Mike Mickelson	John Whissel
Chelsea Haisman	Robert Nathanson	Shawna Williams
Jaroslav Hanak	Tom Nelson	

Quorum Reached

Late: Nathan Cook, Morgan Williams, Mike Babic

Ex-Officio present: Jeremy Botz

Absent: Spencer Allen, Tom Bailer, Bill Craig, Pete Jenkins, Ben Johnson, Bob Linville, P. Timmy Selanoff, Angela Totemoff

Introduction of Guests/Staff/Public

Guests: None

Staff: Geoff Clark, Steve Hilton, Margie Udani-Calaustro, Neil Wright, Mike Anderson, Kerin Kramer, Kat Johnson (minutes)

Public: Lorraine Vercessi, Heather Scannell, Hunter Hammer, Matt Nemeth, Ian McCallum, Mike Wells, Darin Gilman

Approval of Agenda

M/T. Lohse S/J. Whissel move to approve the March 07 & March 08

Amendments: moved Executive Session to after lunch and added a couple of items.

Motion passed with unanimous consent as amended.

Review of Conflict-of-Interest Statement & Disclose Conflict of Interest

Chairman Johnson read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement from the PWSAC bylaws for the Board. He invited the Directors to review the directors' oath.

Approval of Minutes

M/S. Williams S/M. Mickelson move to approve the October 12 & 13, 2024 meeting minutes.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Approval of Processors for Next Term

M/J. Whissel S/S. Williams move to approve Copper River Seafoods and Trident Seafoods as Processor seats for the 2024-2027 term.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Chairman Johnson also shared that Jeremy Botz is stepping down as the ADF&G Ex-Officio representative on the PWSAC Board. ASF&G requested that Heather Scannell take his place.

M/J. Whissel S/M. Mickelson moved to approve Heather Scannell as the ADF&G Ex-Officio.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Public Comment

Chairman Johnson invited all guests in attendance to chime in to any discussion as long as they remain orderly and respectful.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Johnson shared a short review of the winter committee meetings.

Management Reports

General Manager: G. Clark shared the following with the board.

- PWSAC missions
- Staffing Efforts
- Production Team and Administrative Management
- Turn over
- In-Season updates: WNH back up Generator and Wastewater treatment system
- Employee benefit changes: 403(b) tier matching and Health Insurance Deductible
- Board of Fish Upper Cook Inlet Proposal 43: failed to pass (1 to 6)

Morgan Williams joined at 10:40 AM.

Discussion: The Board and staff discussed turn over percentages. A common reason for turn over is the remote work. The Board also discussed the pH drop in the septic system at each hatchery in PWS and PWSAC's attempts to fix the issue.

Production: Steve Hilton presented on the following and answered the Board's questions.

- Production update
- Main Bay Production loss
- Wavemaster complexes

Break at 10:55 AM

Back at 11:17 AM

Production Continued: N. Wright presented PWSAC's 2024 Return Forecast. S. Hilton reviewed PWSAC training and Capital projects, highlighting the planned purchases for the capital general funds.

Discussion: The group discussed whale predation and release strategies at Port Chalmers and AFK.

Mike Babic joined at 11:22 AM

Representative Reports

UFA Report: Mike Mickelson and Geoff Clark attended the recent UFA meetings in Juneau. M. Mickelson summarized the meeting for the Board.

PWSRCAC: Nick Crump summarized the recent RCAC meeting.

Break for lunch at 12:01 PM.

Back at 1:14 PM

Executive Session

M/J. Whissel S/M. Mickelson move to go into executive session to discuss matters the immediate knowledge of which would have an adverse effect on the finances of the Corporation.

Motion passed.

Break for Executive Session at 1:15 PM

Back at 2:59 PM

No business took place while in executive session.

Tom Nelson did not return after executive session.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report: Chairman Johnson summarized the Executive Committee meetings since the Fall Board of Directors meeting.

Finance Committee Report: T. Nuzzi summarized the Finance Committee Meetings in January and February 2024.

Discussion: PWSAC will explore a third-party auditor for reviewing their fiduciary.

M/J. Ryan S/J. Nichols move to remove compensation for Board Officers.

Discussion: This would be an administrative policy change.

B. Bradford called the motion to question.

Motion failed unanimously by voice vote. Chairman Johnson, Tracey Nuzzi, and Shawna Williams abstained.

New Business

Finance Report:

FY 24 Year-End Projection: Margie Udani-Calaustro presented PWSAC’s FY 24 Year-End budget projection.

Discussion: PWSAC staff felt the DOJER fuel delivery was working well.

FY 25 Operating and Capital Budget Recommendation: T. Nuzzi and Chairman Johnson presented the proposed FY 25 Operating and Capital Budget and allocation plan.

Discussion: E. Brown suggested lowering the board travel fund given that most of the board participates in meetings over Zoom. The board discussed reducing the size of the board: this topic will be discussed at the Winter Board Development meetings.

Committee Reports (Revisited)

Board Development Report: Chairman Johnson summarized the Board Development Committee winter meetings. He presented a bylaw change that would update the PWSAC bylaws to reflect actual practice in establishing a quorum.

M/S. Williams S/J. Nichols move to amend bylaws Article 1, Section E, on page 3 to read “A quorum shall be a majority of the seated Directors. The Board may not conduct business if less than a quorum is present. Directors must be present, either physically, telephonically, or via video conferencing, to be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum.”

Discussion: In person attendance should be encouraged.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Production Planning Committee Report: Chairman Johnson summarized the Production Planning Committee meeting for the Board.

Recessed for the day at 4:55 PM.

Reconvened at 9:01 AM, March 8, 2024.

Day Two Roll Call

Mike Babic

Amanda Bauer

Ron Blake

Bret Bradford

Ezekiel Brown

Wade Buscher

Ashley Christensen

Nicholas Crump

Toni Godes

Chris Gordon

Chelsea Haisman

Jarek Hanak

Hayley Hoover

Deana Irish

Rick Isaacson

Forest Jenkins

Eli Johnson

Tyee Lohse

Regan Mann

Mike Mickelson

Robert Nathanson

Jon Nichols

Tracey Nuzzi

Makena O’Toole

Ken Roberson
Ryan Rogers

Justin Ryan
Don Stevens

John Whissel
Shawna Williams

Late: Morgan Williams

Absent: Spencer Allen, Tom Bailer, Nathan Cook, Bill Craig, Pete Jenkins, Ben Johnson, Bob Linville, Tom Nelson, P. Timmy Selanoff, Angela Totemoff

Staff: Geoff Clark, Margie Udani-Calaustro, Steve Hilton, Neil Wright, Mike Anderson, Kerin Kramer, Kat Johnson

Public: Lynette Wright, Hunter Hammer, Darin Gilman, Lorraine Vercessi, Jeremy Botz, Heather Scannell, Matt Nemeth, Ian McCallum, Jess Rude, Mike Wells

New Business (Revisited)

Treasurer Election: Chairman Johnson announced T. Nuzzi's resignation from the Treasurer position. He opened nominations for the Treasurers position.

*J. Hanak nominated **Tyee Lohse** for Treasurer.*

Nominations for Treasurer closed.

Election Results: Tyee Lohse was elected as Treasurer for the remaining board year.

Budget Flexibility Option: Chairman Johnson opened the floor for discussion on the information presented the day before.

M/T. Nuzzi S/C. Haisman move to approve the presented flexibility triggers to the revenue plan for fiscal year 25.

Discussion: The Board discussed the language of the plan.

Amendments: T. Nuzzi amended the motion to replace the \$500,000 trigger to \$1,000,000. Chelsea Haisman agreed to the amendment.

B. Bradford called the motion to question.

Motion passed with unanimous consent as amended.

For the record, the Financial Flexibility Plan as approved by the board:

***Price Trigger** – If licensing agreement final bids are at or below the revenue goal assumptions for any species, the Executive Committee has the option to apply up to \$1 million from the capital fund for that species revenue goal with a majority vote. The Chum & Sockeye goal is managed in aggregate and only up to a total of \$1 million may be used between them.*

***Run Trigger** – If PWSAC is within \$1 million of completing a cost recovery species goal AND the GM determines an unacceptable point of diminishing returns AND the processor with the current licensing agreement for that species agrees in writing to terminate the agreement, then the Executive Committee has the option to apply up to \$1 million from the capital fund for that species revenue goal with a majority*

vote. The Chum & Sockeye goal is managed in aggregate and only up to a total of \$1 million may be used between them.

The intent of this flexibility is to use up to but no more than \$1 million of the Capital Fund on each Price and Run Trigger. It is assumed that PWSAC will do everything reasonably possible to achieve its cost recovery goals in season and not take the use of each trigger lightly as use of the capital fund may limit the flexibility in future seasons. The intent for the board to authorize the Executive Committee to use these triggers is not to bypass the revenue goal but the potential trigger use is part of achieving the revenue goal. The goal is for the expected CR & Brood % harvest to be below 60% for pink salmon, 50% for chum salmon and 30% for sockeye salmon.

FY 25 Financial Plan: Chairman Johnson presented the FY 25 Financial Plan

M/T. Lohse S/J. Nichols move to approve a fiscal year 25 expenditure budget of \$17,406,021 which includes \$14,926,993 cost of operations, \$1,399,028 debt payment, and a \$1,080,000 capital budget.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

M/T. Lohse S/J. Nichols move to approve a fiscal year 25 revenue budget of 17,406,021 which includes a cost recovery plan of \$8,523,164 from pink salmon, \$4,535,009 from chum salmon, \$1,500,000 from sockeye salmon.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

M/T. Nuzzi S/B. Bradford move to approve the draft contract extending GM Geoff Clark's contract for an additional three-year term and designate Board Chair Eli Johnson to execute the contract on behalf of PWSAC.

Discussion: The language of the contract was reviewed and discussed in executive session.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Fleet Messaging: Chairman Johnson brought up the importance of messaging to the board about the PWSAC budget: the amount and the process. He opened the floor for discussion on how to message the budget to the fleet.

Discussion: The Board suggested that board members do not engage in comments if the letter makes its way to social media, but they are encouraged to speak to people in person or on a one-on-one basis. The group discussed how to message the use of the capital fund and the reason the budget is lower this year. They advised members to avoid implying that the budget will remain this low in the future. G. Clark expressed the pressure he is under to tightly manage the brood stock and he requested that the message to the fleet include a statement highlighting the importance of getting brood. The board discussed if the General Manager's number one priority should be getting the brood stock goal. Discussion on brood collection tabled until the next Executive Committee meeting.

Morgan Williams joined the meeting at 9:49 AM.

External Relationships Committee: Chairman Johnson introduced the External Relations Committee as approved by ExCom. The members will be Eli Johnson, Mike Mickelson, Shawna Williams, Nick Crump, and any additional volunteers.

Discussion: The main intention of the External Relations Committee is to alleviate the general manager's workload. Chelsea Haisman volunteered to join the committee. Forest Jenkins volunteered to join the committee.

Break at 10:22 AM.

Back at 10:41 AM.

New Business (Continued)

Board of Fish Proposals: J Whissel presented NVE's Board of Fish proposal.

Discussion: CDFU will have a meeting to discuss proposals and will invite NVE, PWSAC, and other corporations to join them to plan out the proposals made for the area. Member of the Executive Committee should represent the corporation at this meeting.

Committee Reports Revisited

Cost Recovery Report: Chairman Johnson summarized the February Cost Recovery meeting.

Discussion: PWSAC staff will provide a cost analysis for rejuvenating MB brood at the April Executive Committee meeting.

New Business Revisited

Eshamy District Tax: Chairman Johnson shared CDFU's idea to start an enhancement tax for the Eshamy district. Chairman Johnson asked the board to weigh in on whether PWSAC should move forward with the increased Eshamy enhancement tax. Geoff Clark introduced Lorraine Vercessi, who spoke to the idea of the enhancement tax increase and the process for approval.

Discussion: The group discussed whether the tax would meet PWSAC's financial needs and what the next steps would be. L. Vercessi explained the process to establish a cost recovery fishery assessment tax. The board discussed the difference between a cost recovery fishery assessment tax and a district enhancement tax.

M/M. O'Toole S/T. Nuzzi move to direct PWSAC staff to continue investigating an enhancement tax in the Eshamy district with the department of revenue.

Roll Call vote:

Amanda Bauer – Yes

Ron Blake – Yes

Ezekiel Brown – Yes

Wade Buscher – Yes

Ashley Christensen – Yes

Nicholas Crump – Yes

Toni Godes – Yes

Chris Gordon – Yes

Chelsea Haisman – Yes

Jarek Hanak – Yes

Hayley Hoover – Yes

Deana Irish – Yes

Forest Jenkins – Yes

Eli Johnson – Yes

Tyee Lohse – Yes

Regan Mann – Yes

Mike Mickelson – Yes

Robert Nathanson – No

Jon Nichols – Yes

Tracey Nuzzi – Yes

Makena O'Toole – Yes

Ken Roberson – Yes

Don Stevens – No

Morgan Williams – Yes

Ryan Rogers – No

John Whissel – Yes

Shawna Williams – Yes

Justin Ryan – Yes

Motion passed 25-3.

Next Full Board Meeting

October 15 – 16, 2024 [Later changed to October 14 – 15, 2024]

Comments

Jon Nichols thanked Tracey Nuzzi for her work on the board and as Treasurer.

Ezekiel Brown requested the board to consider reducing their number of directors.

Adjournment

M/J. Nichols S/T. Lohse move to adjourn.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

Executive Committee Motion Summary

April – September 2024

April 16, 2024 – Regular Meeting

MOTION/B. BRADFORD; SECOND/J. NICHOLS move to approve Resolution 2024-01-EC. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

[Update signing authority for bank accounts to include Tyee Lohse]

MOTION/B. BRADFORD; SECOND/J. NICHOLS move to approve Resolution 2024-02-EC. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

[Update signing authority for bank accounts to include Tyee Lohse]

May 10, 2024 – Regular Meeting

MOTION/B. BRADFORD; SECOND/J. NICHOLS move to approve the 2024 chum salmon cost recovery fish sales related party transaction between Director Chris Gordon of Silver Bay Seafoods.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

MOTION/B. BRADFORD; SECOND/J. NICHOLS move to approve the 2024 chum raceway sales related party transaction between Director Chris Gordon of Silver Bay Seafoods.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

September 27, 2024 – Regular Meeting

No motions outside of approval of agenda and minutes and executive session.

Highlights from the September 2024 Board of Directors meeting

The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council held a meeting on September 19-20, 2024. The following is a synopsis of actions and discussions that took place at that two-day meeting. This report is not all inclusive.



Activity report from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

Andres Morales, Alyeska's Emergency Preparedness and Response Director, and Klint VanWingerden, Director of Operations for the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT), presented an update on recent activities at the VMT and Alyeska's Ship Escort Response Vessel System (SERVS) operations. Highlights include:

- Morales and VanWingerden summarized activities such as barge upgrades and maintenance including coating repairs on berths, tanks, and crude oil piping over the past few months.
- VanWingerden updated the Board on issues related to Alyeska's efforts to address concerns identified in the Council's report "Assessment of Risks and Safety Culture at Alyeska's Valdez Marine Terminal" by Billie Pirner Garde. Highlights include:
 - Alyeska has reviewed the processes that were found to be problematic from the Garde report and developed a management action plan.
 - Alyeska's management has prioritized completing the backlog of repairs and maintenance identified in the Garde report.
 - Alyeska is working to improve their employee concerns program to ensure employees can safely raise concerns.
 - Improvements to the employee training program are ongoing.
- VanWingerden updated the Board on a project to replace the fire-fighting foam system on Berth 5, that is used by the VMT's fire department. The current foam contains per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS is a group of synthetic chemicals used in many products. PFAS is suspected to cause negative health effects in humans and the environment. Alyeska has identified a replacement product and plans to release more details in the future.
- VanWingerden provided an update on a recently approved project to replace the incinerators at the power vapor facility at the VMT.

Review of regulatory oversight at the VMT by Government Accountability Office

The Board heard an update on a Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of the safety oversight of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, including the Valdez Marine Terminal. The GAO reviews federal programs on behalf of Congress and provides fact-based, nonpartisan information to lawmakers and federal agencies that can be used to improve government. This review was one of the recommendations in the Council report "Assessment of Risks and Safety Culture at Alyeska's Valdez Marine Terminal" by Billie Pirner Garde.

The GAO recently interviewed Council staff and volunteers about their concerns with the adequacy of the present regulatory oversight of VMT operations by federal and state agencies. The Council has been cooperating with the GAO and providing information as requested.

A final report from the GAO is expected in early 2025.

New oil field under development

Walt Hufford and Jim Wade of Repsol presented information to the Board about a new oil field under development on Alaska's North Slope. The field, known as the Pikka Unit, is being developed by Repsol, a Spanish company, and their partner Santos, an Australian company.

The two companies are submitting spill contingency plans to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). If the review schedule proceeds as expected, they anticipate being ready to ship oil in 2026. Details available in their presentation:

www.tinyurl.com/Repsol-PWSRCAC (PDF 1.0 MB)

Report accepted: Marine Bird Hotspots in Prince William Sound

The Council accepted a report titled "Marine Bird Hotspots in Prince William Sound" by Mary Anne Bishop, Ph.D., and Anne Schaefer of the Prince William Sound Science Center.

Bishop and Schaefer combined 14 years of data from at-sea marine bird surveys, collected during March 2007-2014 and 2018-2023, to identify areas of Prince William Sound where marine birds tend to gather. They identified 12 marine bird species groups and created a series of hot spot maps showing the high-use areas in Prince William Sound. Primary areas identified for prioritized protection were Hinchinbrook Entrance, the head of Port Valdez, the Knowles Head anchorage area, and the Southwest Passages.

This information will be useful to help identify areas that may need extra protection in case of an oil spill.

Read the final report on our website: www.tinyurl.com/PWS-Bird-Hotspots

Report accepted: Port Valdez Weather Buoy Data Analysis

The Council accepted a report by Dr. Robert Campbell on his analysis of data from two weather buoys that are sponsored by the Council. The two buoys, one near the VMT and another near the Valdez Duck Flats, have been collecting data such as sea currents, wind direction and speed, wave direction and height, and other weather-related information for the past 5 years. Dr. Campbell analyzed the data to determine weather trends throughout the year and seasonally at these two locations. This information will help support environmental monitoring, oil spill contingency and response planning, trajectory modeling, and the safe transportation of oil in Port Valdez.

Read the final report on our website: www.tinyurl.com/Port-Valdez-Buoy-Data

Report accepted: Non-Indigenous Marine Species

The Council accepted a report titled “Regional Evaluation of Non-indigenous Marine Species in Prince William Sound” by Dr. Gregory Ruiz at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. The report describes a survey conducted in 2023, looking for non-indigenous species (NIS) in the waters of Prince William Sound.

Three introduced species of concern were detected in this study. Two of the three have not been detected in Prince William Sound in previous studies. This brings the total number of benthic marine invertebrate NIS in the Sound to seven.

NIS can be introduced from ballast water or on hulls of tankers visiting the Valdez Marine Terminal. The risk is considered high. The Council has supported monitoring and detection projects for decades.

Read the final report on our website: www.tinyurl.com/NIS-Surveys-2023

Project update: Review of Secondary Containment Liner Testing

Sadie Blancaflor, the Council’s terminal operations project manager, and contracted expert Dr. Joe Scalia, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Colorado State University, reported on the recent pilot test of non-destructive methods to determine the integrity of the secondary containment liner that surrounds the crude oil storage tanks at the VMT. The liner is underneath several feet of gravel, and therefore difficult to inspect. Removing the gravel could damage the liner. Alyeska and the Council have both been working to identify a method of testing that could locate damage in the liner without excavation.

Two types of non-destructive test methods were trialed by Alyeska recently. Both types used electric currents and sensors to locate possible defects in the liner. Council staff and Dr. Scalia observed the testing. Final results have not yet been received from Alyeska.

Project update: Tanker Contingency Plan Amendment

Linda Swiss, the Council’s contingency planning project manager, briefed the Board on a major amendment to the Prince William Sound Tanker Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan and the individual response plans for each of the companies who ship oil from Prince William Sound. The amendment, approved by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) in June 2024, addressed regulatory changes that became effective in February 2023.

Among other issues, Swiss highlighted the following:

- An older response barge, the Mineral Creek, was replaced by a new lightering barge, the OSRB-5.
- In previous versions, the regional citizens’ advisory councils (RCACs) in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet were listed as reviewers of the plans, as required by state regulations. During an update to regulations in 2023, the ADEC removed the RCACs as named plan reviewers. Swiss summarized some of the consequences that resulted.
- A reduction in the number of drills and exercises required per year.

The Tanker C-Plan outlines activities that are required to prevent a spill from occurring and to clean up oil in the event of a spill.

Project update: Miscommunication in Maritime Contexts

The Board heard an update on ongoing research conducted by Dr. Nicole Ziegler into miscommunications between mariners on board vessels at sea.

Mariners working on large vessels such as oil tankers hail from around the world. Currently, mariners learn a simplified version of English, referred to as “Maritime English,” that is intended to streamline communications between mariners who speak different languages.

Dr. Ziegler has been studying how communication still breaks down even when Maritime English is in use, and this breakdown continues to be a causal factor in many marine casualty incidents. She has found that language is not the only source of misunderstandings. Politeness, ambiguity, hierarchies, and cultural misunderstandings are some of the issues that Dr. Ziegler has identified.

A PDF of Dr. Ziegler’s presentation available on our website:

www.tinyurl.com/Miscommunications-Maritime (PDF 2.0 MB)

A video recording of the presentation is posted on our YouTube channel: www.tinyurl.com/Ziegler-Video

Project updates

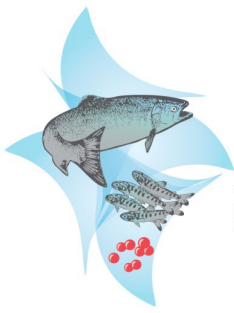
Updates on all current projects: www.tinyurl.com/Project-Updates-Sept-2024 (PDF 0.7 MB)

Questions? More information? Contact us:

Any questions or requests for further information can be directed to:

Amanda Johnson: amanda.johnson@pwsrcac.org or Jennifer Fleming: fleming@pwsrcac.org

Board meetings are routinely recorded. Excerpts of the audio and/or video of agenda items can be made available upon request.



2024 PWSAC Cost Recovery Summary:

PWSAC Board of Directors approved the annual corporate budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 with an overall cost recovery goal of \$14,558,178 broken down as follows: (1) Pink \$8,523,164; (2) Chum \$4,535,009; and (3) Sockeye \$1,500,000. Additional revenue was collected via raceway sales during egg take at each facility.

Total cost recovery revenue for the season was \$10,403,032, an underage of \$4,155,141. The pink salmon goal of \$8,523,164, was not met with a total of \$3,549,611 uncollected. The chum goal of \$4,545,009 was also not met with a total of \$3,177,498 uncollected. The sockeye goal of \$1,500,00 was exceeded by \$2,571,968 with a total of \$4,071,968 harvested.

Chum Salmon

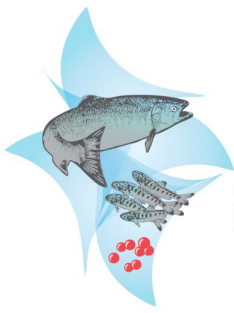
Pre-season, PWSAC solicited interest from seven processors. Five processors participated and PWSAC awarded three licensing agreements, two to Copper River Seafoods, and one to Silver Bay Seafoods. Overall, chum cost recovery was poor due to unexpectedly low returns. Cost recovery began on June 10th and Copper River Seafoods was able to complete both of their licensing agreements. However, Silver Bay Seafoods was only able to harvest 14.8% of their 5.5-million-pound licensing agreement. Cost recovery was suspended on July 10th with only 11.2% of the goal harvested.

This year's run entry allowed for fishing effort to take place within the SHA and THA. Harvesting boats were allowed to fish in the subdistrict as well, but due to the low volume of returning fish it was not effective. Efforts were made to fish outside the subdistrict as well, but again were not effective due to small schools of fish.

Sockeye Salmon

Pre-season, PWSAC solicited interest from seven processors. Five processors participated in all three rounds and PWSAC awarded two licensing agreements, both to Copper River Seafoods. Under these two licensing agreements PWSAC sold a total of 812,187 pounds of Sockeye. Cost recovery began on 6/14, and Copper River completed their licensing agreements on 6/24. Due to the revenue shortfall on chums, another in-season round went to bid, and a third licensing agreement was awarded to OBI Seafoods. OBI began harvesting on 6/25 and was finished by 7/5 when run entry no longer supported cost recovery.

The sockeye was significantly better than expected and supported expanded cost recovery. The run was so strong that common property fishing opportunities continued on a regular schedule for the most part. The harvesting vessel was able to harvest consistently and in good volume regularly.



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Pink Salmon

Pre-season, PWSAC solicited interest from five processors. Four processors participated in all three rounds and PWSAC awarded one licensing agreement to Silver Bay Seafoods. Under the agreement PWSAC sold a total of 9,785,493 pounds. Pink cost recovery started on 8/2 at AFK, 8/4 at CCH and 8/4 at WNH. Cost recovery was suspended on 8/13 at WNH, 8/18 at AFK and CCH with only 58.4% of the goal harvested. Fish were harvested from all three facilities, with the majority coming from AFK and CCH.

Cost recovery efforts were a mixed bag utilizing aggregate management. Run entry was small and compressed. AFK and CCH had the largest and most consistent run entry throughout the season, while WNH saw limited run entry with some gaps as well. With ADFG's support PWSAC was granted expanded areas at AFK and WNH. The expanded area did not yield much at either location. Two harvesting boats were present at each location daily during cost recovery to maximize harvesting efforts. Towards the end of cost recovery one boat was able to effectively harvest fish at AFK.

Due to run entry, brood collection was started early with PWSAC management taking an aggressive approach to ensuring brood was collected with the goal of potentially conducting cost recovery after brood collection was completed. However, due to low run entry additional cost recovery was not collected.

Raceway Sales

PWSAC solicited interest from four processors for chum and pink salmon raceway sales. PWSAC awarded chum to Silver Bay Seafoods and pinks to Copper River Seafoods. The chum and pink raceways sales generated revenue of \$1,482 and \$126,727 respectively.

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PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION
2024 SALMON RELEASE SUMMARY

SPECIES	HATCHERY	ORIGINAL DONOR STOCK	BROOD YEAR	RELEASE LOCATION	ESTIMATED FRY/ SMOLT RELEASE	% OF EXPECTED
CHUM	WALLY NOERENBERG	WELLS RIVER	2023	WNH	71,100,000	97.1%
			2023	PORT CHALMERS	40,500,000	99.3%
			2023	AFK	18,900,000	99.0%
			TOTAL		130,500,000 0	98.0%
SOCKEYE	GULKANA I	GULKANA RIVER	2023	PAXSON LAKE	4,950,000	105.3%
		GULKANA RIVER	2023	SUMMIT LAKE	0	0.0%
		GULKANA RIVER	2023	CROSSWIND LAKE	3,800,000	38.0%
	GULKANA II	GULKANA RIVER	2023	PAXSON LAKE	1,050,000	80.8%
	GH Total				9,800,000	44.5%
	MAIN BAY	COGHILL LAKE	2022	MBH	5,500,000	49.6%
				TOTAL		15,300,000
PINK	ARMIN F. KOERNIG	LARSEN, EWAN, GALENA	2023	AFK	170,700,000	99.5%
	CANNERY CREEK	CANNERY CREEK	2023	CCH	165,700,000	98.2%
	WALLY NOERENBERG	LARSEN, EWAN, GALENA	2023	WNH	134,300,000	100.5%
	TOTAL		470,700,000	99.3%		
COHO	WALLY NOERENBERG	CORBIN CREEK	2022	WNH	820,000	23.3%
		POWER CREEK	2022	CORDOVA	56,800	56.8%
		CORBIN CREEK	2022	WHITTIER	100,000	100.0%
		CORBIN CREEK	2022	CHENEGA	50,000	100.0%
		TOTAL		1,026,800	27.2%	
CHINOOK	WALLY NOERENBERG	SHIP CREEK	2022	CHENEGA	50,000	108.1%
GRAND TOTAL PWSAC					617,576,800	95.9%

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION

2024 EGG-TAKE SUMMARY

SPECIES	HATCHERY	ORIGINAL DONOR STOCK	EGG-TAKE LOCATION	EGG-TAKE GOAL	EGG-TAKE as of 9/27/24	% OF GOAL
CHUM	WALLY NOERENBERG	WELLS RIVER	WNH	153,000,000	153,000,000	100.0%
SOCKEYE	GULKANA II	GULKANA RIVER	GH II	1,750,000	1,750,000	100.0%
	GULKANA I	GULKANA RIVER	GH I	35,000,000	19,500,000	55.7%
	MAIN BAY	COGHILL LAKE	MBH	12,400,000	12,400,000	100.0%
			TOTAL	49,150,000	33,650,000	68.5%
PINK	ARMIN F. KOERNIG	LARSEN, EWAN, GALENA	AFK	190,000,000	180,000,000	94.7%
	CANNERY CREEK	CANNERY CREEK	CCH	187,000,000	187,000,000	100.0%
	WALLY NOERENBERG	LARSEN, EWAN, GALENA	WNH	148,000,000	148,000,000	100.0%
			TOTAL	525,000,000	515,000,000	98.1%
COHO	WALLY NOERENBERG	CORBIN CREEK	WNH	3,750,000	0	0.0%
		POWER CREEK/IBECK	CDV	250,000	0	0.0%
			TOTAL	4,000,000	0	0.0%
CHINOOK	WALLY NOERENBERG	SHIP CREEK	WJHSFH	50,000	40,000	80.0%
			TOTAL	731,200,000	701,690,000	96.0%

PWSAC 2024 SALMON RETURN SUMMARY

			Preseason Forecast		2024 Preliminary Estimates - As of 9/27/24			
SPECIES	HATCHERY	RETURN LOCATION	Total Return	Anticipated Marine Survival	Total Return	CPF Harvest	PWSAC Harvest	Marine Survival
CHUM	WNH	WNH	2,820,000	3.77%	834,353	282,364	551,989	1.12%
		PORT CHALMERS	1,050,000	2.59%	627,945	627,945	0	1.55%
		AFK	240,000	1.27%	133,306	133,306	0	0.71%
		TOTAL	4,110,000	1,595,604	1,043,615	551,989	65%	35%
SOCKEYE	MBH	MBH	864,000	8.27%	1,771,889	1,336,456	435,433	16.96%
		TOTAL	864,000	1,771,889	1,336,456	435,433	75%	25%
SOCKEYE	GH	PAXSON LAKE	45,000	0.54%	262,987	252,832	10,155	3.16%
		SUMMIT LAKE	0		0	-	-	
		CROSSWIND LAKE	22,800	0.63%	16,737	-	16,737	0.46%
		TOTAL	67,800	0.59%	279,724	252,832	26,892	2.41%
PINK	AFK	AFK	2,800,000	1.61%	1,330,103	55,731	1,274,372	0.76%
		CCH	4,100,000	2.42%	1,207,028	33,907	1,173,121	0.71%
		WNH	3,300,000	2.44%	625,963	31,421	594,542	0.46%
		TOTAL	10,200,000	3,163,094	121,059	3,042,035	4%	96%
COHO	WNH	WNH	62,000	3.70%	3,700	0	3,700	0.22%
		CORDOVA	1,400	1.39%	150	150	0	0.15%
		WHITTIER	1,400	1.39%	0	0	0	0.00%
		CHENEGA	1,900	3.70%	0	0	0	0.00%
		TOTAL	66,700	3,850	150	3,700		
CHINOOK	WNH	CHENEGA	650	1.49%	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		TOTAL	650					
TOTAL PWSAC			15,309,150	6,814,161	2,754,112	4,060,049	40.4%	59.6%