Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook Fishery Mitigation **FY2025 Request: $750,000**
Reference No: AMD 64780

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Statewide
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029

Project Type: Research / Studies / Planning
Recipient: NA
House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40)
Contact: Sam Rabung
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
The Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Fishery Mitigation Program was established in 2009 to alleviate economic impacts resulting from the 15 percent reduction in Chinook salmon harvest levels under the 2009 revision of the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the United States and Canada. This program continues to be necessary due to an additional 7.5 percent reduction in Chinook harvest levels under the 2019 revision. Alaska's willingness to accept another loss to Chinook fisheries was predicated, in part, on a mitigation package designed to offset economic consequences. Distribution of mitigation funds is intended to benefit those most directly affected by the Chinook harvest reductions in Southeast Alaska.

Funding:	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	Total
1002 Fed Rcpts	$750,000						$750,000
Total:	$750,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$750,000

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☑ Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☑ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:
Sec14 Ch1 SLA2023 P89 L14 HB39 $6,500,000
Sec11 Ch11 SLA2022 P89 L21 HB281 $6,400,000
Sec11 Ch1 SLA2021 P104 L26 HB69 $7,700,000
Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P83 L15 SB46 $7,500,000
Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P27 L11 SB230 $7,500,000

Project Description/Justification:
The Department is advised by a panel of fishery stakeholders, hatchery operators, and local communities. The stakeholder panel identified program components related to enhancement and research that would provide economic benefits to offset the losses to Pacific Salmon Treaty harvest shares as top priorities.

The Treaty provides for the conservation and management of salmon that span the international borders between the U.S. and Canada. Since ratification in 1985, the Treaty has been instrumental in reducing interceptions, preventing overfishing, and improving salmon management. Southeast Alaska is home to a significant number of salmon enhancement facilities and programs.

Primary impacts of the harvest reduction are on Southeast Alaska “hook and line fisheries,” which include commercial troll and sport fisheries and associated interests.

The contributions of hatchery raised Chinook and coho salmon are important to the troll and sport fisheries most affected by the reduction in Treaty harvests. Alaska hatchery produced Chinook salmon provide significant benefits because they can be harvested in addition to the annual Chinook salmon quota set under the Treaty.

Program activities include:

- Hatchery fish marking, tagging, and evaluation — Alaska is held accountable for gaps in its information by what is known as the risk factor. In short, the risk factor considers potential errors in Alaska's data and reduces Chinook harvest levels accordingly. Alaska is interested in reducing the annual risk factor and improving access to hatchery-produced fish by expanding marking and tagging rates at Alaska hatcheries.

- Hatchery enhancement projects — Alaska is interested in replacing as much of the 7.5% reduction taken in the 2019 Treaty Agreement as possible with increased hatchery production. Hatchery production will be expanded across seven locations for an increase of up to 2.5 million releases per year.

- Hatchery Research — Funds may also be used to develop brood stocks and to conduct critical hatchery-related research into marine survival, alternate life history traits, migration, and other information that can increase fishing opportunities.