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**Request for Board Action****Submitted by Matt G Miller**

March 18, 2026

I want to thank the board for the opportunity to testify yesterday. It was truly nice to see you all and I appreciated the questions. I also want to clarify that it was not just a three-minute rant about implementation of programs that violate the Genetics Policy and the 5AAC 39.222 *Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (SSFP)*. I failed to make the connection between the issue and the action I was requesting from the board.

The board has been told for years that your only authority over hatcheries was to determine the number of eggs collected. That is not true. You have broader authority described in statute:

*AS 16.05.251 Regulations of the Board of Fisheries (a) The board of Fisheries may adopt regulations it considers advisable in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedures Act) for*

*(9) prohibiting and regulating the live capture, possession, transport, or release of native or exotic fish or their eggs;*

The three issues I covered yesterday all fall under that authority:

- Transporting Ship Creek stock to enhance Kodiak sport fisheries (Violation of the department's Genetics Policy)
- Increasing stocking levels at Crooked Creek knowing this previously resulted in hatchery straying into Kenai River. (Violation of SSFP)
- Managing Crooked Creek and Niniilchik hatchery and naturally spawning salmon as one stock essentially sacrificing the wild component to augment the sport fishery contrary to the recommendations of scientific community and without public input. (Violates everything)

I would like the board to consider actions at this meeting before these policy changes are implemented this summer. Notice has been issued for Statewide (General Provisions which includes the SSFP) or other possible supplemental issues, including management of hatchery permitting and operations. The board could codify policy to limit the department's actions until these matters come before the board and public next year.

- ❖ The board could, through motion to amend or replace language in an existing proposal for Chapter 39, or through a BGP to amend 5AAC 39.222 (c)(3)(J) as follows:

(J) proposals for salmon fisheries development or expansion and artificial propagation and enhancement should include assessments required for sustainable management of existing salmon fisheries and wild salmon stocks, **projects using artificial propagation or hatchery reared salmon to enhance or rehabilitate king salmon stocks in close proximity to or in the same watershed as wild king salmon stocks must have those assessments approved by the board prior to implementing or continuing those programs, Stocks used for hatchery enhancement or rehabilitation projects will not be transported between major geographic areas: Southeast, Kodiak Island, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, AYK and Interior;**

I doubt there is the will or time for a regulatory fix without a proposal directly addressing the issue. That is a big lift.

- ❖ Another option would be to give this matter some discussion under Miscellaneous Business. If board members share my concern for the detriment these actions would likely have on Alaska's wild king salmon stocks they could, through a Board Finding, letter to the Commissioner, or clear guidance on record state the boards opposition to implementation of any of these actions until they have been assessed, reviewed and brought before the board in the public process.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

*Matt G Miller*