

VALDEZ FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
SOLOMON GULCH HATCHERY



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Pre-Season Hatchery Report

2014 Fry Release

The 2014 Pink salmon outmigration and short term rearing went as expected. Weather conditions in Port Valdez last spring were relatively normal and plankton sampling showed good levels of feed abundance. Conditions at time of release were considered average.

VFDA releases its pink fry in two stages. The first release began on May 9th and the second release on May 20th. Average weight on the first release was 0.51 grams against a target weight of 0.5 grams. The second release showed an average weight of 0.82 grams against a target weight of 0.7 grams.

In total, VFDA released 219 million pink fry with an average weight of 0.6625 grams and 1.8 million coho smolt with an average weight of 21.5 grams.

2015 Forecast

VFDA is forecasting a midrange pink return of 15.7 million fish. This estimated return is based on the average of the last four odd year marine survivals of 7.1 %. The coho forecast is predicted to be approximately 104,000 fish based on a last 5 year average marine survival of 5.85%. VFDA has set a pre-season Pink salmon revenue goal of \$4.1 million dollars and will require 346,000 fish for brood stock. Cost recovery is expected to start in Port Valdez around the 25th of June with test fishing beginning around the June 20th.

2015 Pink Salmon Forecast	Low	Mid	High
(Numbers of Fish)	7,858,333	15,716,665	23,574,998
2015 Coho Salmon Forecast	Solomon Gulch Hatchery		Tatitlek
(Numbers of Fish)	104,735		1,170

2016 Outmigration

VFDA has had an excellent winter at the Solomon Gulch hatchery and fish development went largely as scheduled thanks to the hard work by Hatchery Manager Rob Unger and his dedicated hatchery staff. Currently we have ponded an estimated 223 million Pink salmon fry and anticipate ponding 1.87 million coho smolt. Final release numbers will not be available until mid-summer.

Major Projects

VFDA has begun construction to install a new plastic 42 inch gravity water supply line to the hatchery. Work is expected to be completed by June 15th. This new line will replace the existing 24 inch steel line which is near the end of its usable life. It will provide additional water capacity to the hatchery for increased Pink salmon production and will improve our Coho salmon rearing program. Engineering and design to upgrade and improve many aging systems at the hatchery continue with additional projects planned for the coming years.



Expansion

Last year, ADF&G approved a permitted increase in pink production at the Solomon Gulch Hatchery of 20 million green Pink salmon eggs beginning in 2016. It was also conditionally approved for an additional 20 million green egg increase in 2018 contingent on VFDA providing the required infrastructure necessary to raise these additional fish. Once completed, VFDA will have increased its production from 230 million to 270 million pink eggs. Production levels for Coho salmon are expected to remain as currently permitted at 2 million green eggs. VFDA's board of directors and staff are working to meet these milestones for expansion.

Please feel free to visit www.valdezfisheries.org and like us on Facebook for in season harvest and run entry information.

Good luck and good fishing!

April 13, 2015