

VALDEZ FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
SOLOMON GULCH HATCHERY

P.O. Box 125 Valdez, AK. 99686 1815 Mineral Creek Loop Road Valdez, AK 99686
Work (907) 835-1329 Cell (907) 255-1619 rob.unger@valdezfisheries.com



The 2019 Alaska Fish Culture Conference is rapidly approaching. I wanted to take this time to thank those who have already sent back their registration forms as well as those who have requested a spot to perform a presentation. The presentations this year are planned to follow the same format as in recent conferences, 10-15 minutes PowerPoint presentations. However if you have an idea to do something that will captivate an audience for even longer that would work as well. If you are needing more time or equipment than what was described above, please note this in your comments on the form and we will accommodate you. I will be contacting those who said they were doing a presentation in order to find out what their topics are to organize the groups.

We grouped with ADF&G Pathology and plan on having a half day fish health class on Thursday too. I really enjoyed the fish health class that was given in Sitka at the last conference. This class will focus on sample submission, necropsies and wet mounts, smears and stains. There will only be 20 spots open for the class, please respond if you are interested. This class will be free for conference participants.

We also plan on doing hatchery tours. Along with the Solomon Gulch Hatchery tour, CIAA wanted to extend the opportunity to travel to Trail Lakes Hatchery when people might be traveling through Anchorage. It is approximately a one hour and forty five minute drive from Anchorage. Also as most of you are aware of, the William Jack Hernandez is an impressive sportfish facility in Anchorage that is set up very well for tours from the public. Along with the Solomon Gulch Hatchery tour we have set up tours of the local seafood processing plants in Valdez as well for those who are interested. You can also send a response if the seafood processing plant tours are something you are interested in. We will coordinate the tours and fish health class timings if needed.

Unfortunately, I checked with our local heli-skiing and boarding companies and they do not start that until March and April. However, our local outdoor store rents gear if you want to trek out on your own. Prince William Sound College offers free cross country ski and snowshoe daily rentals if you want to explore the surrounding trails.

We are very excited to host the conference and cannot wait to see everyone. Also, if you are still planning on registering please do it as soon as you can. The November 1 deadline was put in place in order to help us with organizing the event, but we will welcome late registrations as well. See you guys in January.