



## VFDA OUTLOOK

2015 proved to be a very successful year for the Valdez Fisheries Development Association. Its passing marked two major milestones for the association.

VFDA celebrated the 35th Anniversary of the organization and the Solomon Gulch Hatchery. From humble beginnings in 1980 to the present day, the directors and staff of VFDA have worked tirelessly to responsibly increase returns of salmon for the sport and commercial harvesters of Prince William Sound. This dedication has created a successful and sustainable hatchery program which is frequently recognized for the major role it plays in the economic development of the Valdez community and beyond.

Another event worth noting was the record return of 34 million Pink salmon to the hatchery last summer. The volume of fish harvested took everyone by surprise, as the preseason forecast was for a healthy yet average return of 15.7 million Pinks. The actual total harvest of more than twice the preseason forecast provided an unexpected and welcome economic boost to sound fishermen and seafood processors both within and outside of the region. In addition, Valdez benefited from a robust Coho salmon return which provided for excellent sport fishing opportunity and a successful Silver Salmon Derby. Mother Nature's bounty continues to amaze.

Looking forward, VFDA is predicting a mid-range return of 17.4 million Pink salmon to the Solomon Gulch Hatchery this season. In addition, a return of 100,809 Coho salmon is expected for harvest by area sport fishermen. VFDA will also begin phasing in additional permitted egg capacity as we gradually increase our production to 250 million Pinks. Thanks and great fishing!!



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