

Hatchery Permit Issued

JUNEAU—The Commissioner of Fish and Game, Jim Brooks, today issued a private nonprofit salmon hatchery permit to Alaska Aquaculture Foundation of Wrangell for the outlet stream from Burnett Lake on Etolin Island.

The proposed hatchery will have an ultimate capacity of 10 million pink and chum salmon eggs combined. Returns of adults to this facility should complement the natural production of the area, according to Brooks.

This permit is the fifth to be issued by the department since the Alaska State legislature authorized the operation of private nonprofit salmon

hatcheries in 1974. Two private hatcheries operated last winter.

Sheldon Jackson College began releasing approximately 2 million pink salmon fry in late March. The Prince William Sound Aquaculture Foundation anticipates the release of about 3 million pink fry during May.

In addition to the Department of Fish and Game permit to obtain and incubate the salmon eggs and release the fry, private hatchery operators must obtain permits from other state and federal agencies regarding land use, water use, waste discharge, and structures in navigable waters before actual hatchery operations can begin.