

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**

**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)**

**Grant Recipient: Sitka Sound Science Center**

**Federal Tax ID: 1253086**

**Project Title:**

# Sitka Sound Science Center - Sheldon Jackson Hatchery Training Facility

**State Funding Requested: \$ 250,000**

**House District: 2 - A**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Funding to create a training facility at the former Sheldon Jackson College hatchery in Sitka.

**Funding Plan:**

**Total Cost of Project: \$750,000**

Funding Secured

Other Pending Requests

Anticipated Future Need

*Amount FY*

*Amount FY*

*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Funding to create a hatchery training facility to prepare community and state residents for employment in fisheries and aquaculture.

The project goal is to convert the Sheldon Jackson Hatchery into a training facility, so it can continue to provide training in aquaculture, including outreach programs to educate consumers about the quality and sustainability of wild fisheries.

The Sheldon Jackson College Hatchery dates back over 30 years. It is one of the few college-owned and managed training salmon hatcheries in the United States, and the only one in Alaska. Its salmon culture program raises upwards of two million salmon annually. This hands-on approach has been very successful and you will Sheldon Jackson Hatchery graduates in technical and fisheries management positions throughout the State of Alaska.

Upon closure of Sheldon Jackson College, the Science Chair of Sheldon Jackson College, Dr. Keith Cox formed a private non-profit (PNP) organization, the Sitka Sound Science Center (SSSC) which is made up of dedicated local business and science experts. A specific goal is to keep the hatchery running, maintained and managed so it can continue its training mission. Weekly students and community residents that come to the hatchery to learn, volunteer and work. The Hatchery has received support from organizations ranging from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, University of Washington, the University of Alaska, the Sitka School District, and recent hatchery graduates. This hatchery has touched the lives of a lot of people and provided training and learning opportunities to many residents of Alaska. There is significant interest to ensure this education is maintained.

Currently, there is considerable interest from the U.S Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration

(EDA), Sitka Educational Consortium (SEC), and the University of Alaska-Southeast to work with the Sheldon Jackson Hatchery. In 2006, Dr. Cox authored an awarded \$1.5 million dollar proposal to enhance infrastructure at the Sheldon Jackson Hatchery. This grant would allow programs for hatchery training, seafood, seafood safety, and seafood marketing to be enhanced, therefore increasing the involvement of coastal community residents in fishing and fisheries management; and incorporating local and traditional knowledge into fisheries science and seafood training.

The future benefits that the Sheldon Jackson Hatchery can provide to the State of Alaska are genuine and substantial. The State of Alaska is preparing to spend upwards of \$146 million dollars on two new fish hatcheries in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Where will the employees to operate these hatcheries come from? The Sheldon Jackson Hatchery is running right now as a training facility with a mission of training and educating fish hatchery employees, and is the only one in the state and only one of two in the United States. The art of raising cold water fish is a profession and one that must be learned. For the state run hatcheries to successfully raise coldwater fish, it is imperative that there are proficient, well trained employees.

There is currently a deficit for trained hatchery employees in Alaska. For an investment of half of one percent of the total cost of building the two state run hatcheries, it makes sense to allow the state's oldest educational institution to continue to train and educate fish hatchery personnel and allow state funded employment opportunities in the two new state hatcheries for both native Alaskans and Alaska Natives.

### Project Timeline:

FY09-FY11: \$250,000 in FY 2009 and then \$250,000 each in the next two subsequent fiscal years.

### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Sitka Sound Science Center

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Dr. Keith Cox

Phone Number: 907-752-0563

Address: PO Box 464, Sitka, AK 99835

Email: marlinkcox@gmail.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

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# City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

July 2, 2007

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska  
Emil Notti, Commissioner, DCC&ED  
Roger Sampson, Commissioner DOE  
Kathleen Jackson, Commissioner, DH&SS  
Clark Bishop, Commissioner, DL&WD  
by FAX

Dear Governor Palin and Commissioners:

Sheldon Jackson College, Alaska's oldest educational institution, announced late Friday that it is ceasing academic operations effective immediately. More than 100 employees are terminated without any "parachute". Assistance for these displaced workers is urgently needed now. This announcement comes in the same week that Alaska Marine Highway announced more service cutbacks to Sitka for the winter schedule and the staggering loss of State funding for Sitka capital projects (over 70 percent of cuts to District A were to Sitka).

These 100+ SJC employees and their families need help to survive and hopefully remain in Sitka. The City and Borough of Sitka requests that the State reach out to these families in any way possible. We hope each of your commissioners can provide assistance for this significant portion of Sitka's labor force. Sitka will do its best to respond to this major economic and cultural crisis, but without assistance from the State, many of these families will not be able to remain in Sitka.

The State was a great partner in responding to Sitka's 1993 loss of Alaska Pulp Corporation, Sitka's largest employer. We again request the State's partnership to provide as much help as possible to these displaced employees. Please contact me by e-mail ([johnstein@cityofsitka.com](mailto:johnstein@cityofsitka.com)), phone (907-747-1808) or fax (907-747-7403) to discuss how the State can participate. We would be pleased to meet with you and your staff as well.

We look forward to hearing from you at your early convenience. Thank you for any assistance.

Sincerely,



Marko Dapceovich, Mayor



John C. Stein, Municipal Administrator

cc: Senator Bert Stedman  
Representative Peggy Wilson  
Dr. David Dobler, President, Sheldon Jackson College  
Sitka Assembly

**CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**ADMINISTRATION DEPT.**  
**100 Lincoln Street**  
**Sitka, AK 99835**  
**(907) 747-1808 FAX: (907) 747-7403**

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**FAX TRANSMISSION**

**Date:** July 2, 2007

**To:** Senator Bert Stedman **Fax#:** (907) 465- 3922

**From:** Mayor Marko Dapceovich **Phone:** (907) 747-1808  
Administrator John C. Stein **Fax:** (907) 747-7403

**Pages:** 2 (including cover)

**Subject:** Sheldon Jackson College Closing

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