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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Dan Ortiz
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 114
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 426
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Ortiz and Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

Thank you for your letter on October 21 requesting that I consider including the Southeast region in the State of Alaska's request to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for disaster relief funding under the Magnuson-Stevens Act as a result of the poor returns in the 2016 pink salmon fisheries. Like you, the Lt. Governor and I care deeply about the fishermen and their families in the communities of Southeast Alaska, and we greatly appreciate your advocacy on their behalf. Your case to include Southeast Alaska in the request for a federal disaster declaration is a compelling one. With ADF&G current data as of October 21, 2016, the Southeast pink salmon fisheries suffered a 36.1 percent loss of revenue in 2016 relative to the recent five-year average. This is within the eligibility threshold of a 35-80 percent loss, thus allowing the National Marine Fisheries Service to consider disaster relief funding.

After consulting with the Lt. Governor and the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I have come to the conclusion that the poor pink salmon returns in Southeast Alaska warrants inclusion of these fisheries in my request for federal disaster relief. Therefore, I am amending the State of Alaska's request for a disaster declaration for the pink salmon fishery of 2016 to include the Southeast Alaska region. Enclosed is the amended letter to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Again, thank you for your hard work on behalf of Southeast Alaska's fishing families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosure