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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

2016 OCT 31 PM 2:34
OS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Re: Federal Fishery Disaster

Dear Madam Secretary:

Thank you for your letter of October 17 in regard to the State of Alaska's request for a determination of commercial fishery failure due to a fisheries resource disaster under the Magnusson-Stevens Act (MSA) for the 2016 pink salmon fisheries in Prince William Sound, the Kodiak Management Area, the Chignik Management Area and Lower Cook Inlet. We look forward to working with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to assess the situation.

At this time, I am writing to further amend our request to include the pink salmon fishery of Southeast Alaska under Section 312(a) of the MSA.

2016 Southeast Alaska Pink Salmon Fishery

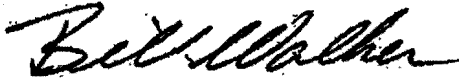
The preliminary harvest estimate for Southeast Alaska is 18.3 million fish, compared to a five year average for even years of 22.1 million fish. The projected value of this catch is more than \$10 million less than the five year average. As of October 21, 2016, Alaska Department of Fish and Game's records indicate a 36.1 percent loss of revenue which is within the eligibility threshold of a 35-80 percent loss, thus allowing the National Marine Fisheries Service to consider disaster relief funding.

Like the other management areas for which Alaska has requested fishery disasters, impacts of the low harvest of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska are being felt by commercial fishermen, fish processors, and those who sell fuel, tackle, supplies, groceries, and lodging. Local governments will feel the impact to their economic base. The Alaska Departments of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development and Fish and Game are standing by to provide NMFS and your office with any additional information needed to make a determination for the areas in which we have requested fishery disaster declarations.

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Fishery Disaster Request Amendment Southeast Alaska
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I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bill Walker
Governor

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
The Honorable Don Young, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Sam Cotten, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
The Honorable Chris Hladick, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Commerce,
Community, and Economic Development
Craig Fleener, Director of State and Federal Relations, Office of the Governor