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**Governor Bill Walker**  
**STATE OF ALASKA**

September 28, 2016

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

Re: Federal Fishery Disaster

Dear Madam Secretary:

In a letter dated September 19, we requested that you declare fishery disasters for Prince William Sound, the Kodiak Management Area, the Chignik Management Area, and the Lower Cook Inlet Management Area in accordance with Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act (MSA). At this time, we are writing to amend our request to include the pink salmon fishery of the South Alaska Peninsula region in addition to the other regions.

**2016 South Alaska Peninsula Pink Salmon Fishery**

Escapement of pink salmon is approximately 12 percent of the objectives for this point in the season. As such, there have been no specific pink salmon fishery openings in the area, and the only harvest of pink salmon has been incidental take related to sockeye salmon fisheries. The harvest of pink salmon to date has been approximately 3 million pink salmon, which is 30 percent of the lower bound of the preseason forecast range of 9 million fish. The five year average harvest for even-year pink salmon is impacted by a large crash in 2010, from which the run has been rebuilding. As a result, the harvest-to-date is 70 percent of the most recent five year average; however, it is only 38 percent of the average harvest prior to 2010. The preliminary value of the 2016 pink salmon harvest is \$1.48 million, compared against the five year average of \$3.32 million.

Like the Kodiak, Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound Management areas, impacts of the low harvest of pink salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula area 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 the National Marine Fisheries Service and your office with any additional information needed to make a determination for the areas in which we have requested fishery disaster declarations.

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We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Bill Walker  
Governor



Byron Mallott  
Lieutenant 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