



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

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May 4, 2017

Mr. Virgil Umphenour, Chair
Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee
878 Lynnwood Way,
North Pole, AK 99705
akhunt@ak.net

Subject: Emergency petition regarding Copper River commercial salmon fishery

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game received your emergency petition dated April 5, 2017, requesting the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) to take a series of actions to reduce the harvest of king salmon in the Copper River commercial salmon fishery.

Pursuant to AS 16.05.270, the board delegated authority to the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, under board policy 2015-277-FB, to determine whether emergency petitions submitted to the board outside of the regular board cycle constitute emergencies under 5 AAC 96.625(f).

This letter is to formally notify you pursuant to AS 44.62.230, that based on the information available to me I cannot conclude that an emergency under 5 AAC 96.625(f) exists and I deny the emergency petition.

The board will consider regulatory changes to Copper River fisheries during the 2017-2018 meeting cycle, specifically December 2017 in Valdez. Both 5 AAC 24.360 *Copper River District Salmon Management Plan* and 5 AAC 24.361 *Copper River King Salmon Management Plan* will be the subject of proposals at that meeting. Status of Copper River king salmon and associated regulations will receive a thorough review by the board during the meeting.

This is my final decision on your emergency petition. The board has been notified of my decision and two members of the board may call a special meeting to discuss the petition if they choose to do so. You may appeal my decision to the Superior Court within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Cotten".

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

cc: Glenn Haight, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Fisheries
Scott Kelley, Director, Division of Commercial Fisheries
Tom Brookover, Director, Division of Sport Fisheries
Seth Beausang, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Law