

VALDEZ FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.  
SOLOMON GULCH HATCHERY



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January 12, 2018

Lorraine Vercessi  
PNP Hatchery Program Coordinator  
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
1255 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: SGH Permit #15 2014 Notice of Permit Alteration

Dear Lorraine,

The Valdez Fisheries Development Association Inc., respectfully requests the department issue an updated Notice of Permit Alteration to allow the increased incubation of 20 million green Pink salmon eggs at its Solomon Gulch hatchery beginning this year.

The Notice of Permit Alteration approved on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2014 provided for a total permitted production goal of 270 million pink salmon beginning in 2018 contingent upon demonstration of physical capacity for this increase. VFDA is now able to do so, and has completed a multi-year renovation of the SGH to boost pink salmon production and address much of its ageing critical infrastructure.

VFDA successfully renegotiated its water use agreement with Copper Valley Electric Association Inc. This new agreement gives VFDA year round access to Solomon Lake water through its gravity fed penstocks. The agreement also provides a high pressure emergency water supply of 18cfs to ensure hatchery operations. To maximize this increased water supply, VFDA replaced its water distribution and pump systems to and within the incubation building. The Solomon Gulch hatchery now has a water capacity available for the incubation of potentially up to 300 million pink salmon.

In addition, VFDA recently completed a 1920 square foot expansion to the incubation building. This additional floor space permits for the lengthening of the head boxes and installation of all required incubators for our expanded pink salmon program. Additional salt water pens will be added this coming summer to increase short term rearing capacity.

VFDA intends to recognize this pink salmon production goal of 270 million eggs in its 2018 Annual Management Plan which will detail increased egg take numbers and anticipated fry releases. We will also amend the required Solomon Gulch Fish Transfer Permits and update the SGH Basic Management Plan.

For these reasons VFDA requests an updated Notice of Permit Alteration at your earliest convenience. I look forward to working with the department as we implement this next phase of growth at the Solomon Gulch hatchery. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or requests for additional information you may have.

Sincerely

Mike Wells  
Executive Director