



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

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March 29, 2018

Mr. Dale Young
Sustainable Salmon Institute
9720 Trappers Lane
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Young:

This letter is in regard to the application for a private nonprofit (PNP) salmon hatchery permit for the proposed Baranof Salmon Facility (BSF).

As you are aware, the PNP salmon hatchery permitting review process is extensive. I appreciate that you have worked cooperatively with the Aquaculture Section staff to prepare for the necessary meetings and public hearing. The PNP Coordinator has provided me with all of the components necessary for the review and determination. The decision for this permit was based on the results of extensive reviews by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Northern Southeast Regional Planning Team (RPT), and the public.

The Alaska PNP hatchery program by design is guided by fishery stakeholders. Our statutes and regulations provide for considerable oversight and guidance by commercial fishermen and other fishery users. Because of this, much weight is given to recommendations from stakeholders regarding PNP hatchery permits. These recommendations are provided during the review process through the RPT, the regional aquaculture association, and the public comment period.

During the public hearing and comment period there were many comments received in support of your proposal. However, the RPT considered your proposal and after a long deliberative process failed to support a motion to recommend approval. In addition, all the comments received from the representative commercial fishing organizations have been opposed to issuing this hatchery permit. The Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, which has statutorily defined oversight over fisheries enhancement activities within the region, has expressed strong opposition to issuing this permit. And finally, the response from the City and Borough of Sitka, residents, and Baranof Warm Springs property owners has been overwhelmingly opposed to this project.

Due to the lack of support by the RPT and the regional aquaculture association, along with opposition by stakeholders and all representative commercial fishing organizations, and especially considering the comments by all of these stakeholders that the permit would not further the conservation and

development of fisheries, I am denying this request for a hatchery permit for the Baranof Salmon Facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Cotten", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

Enclosures: Baranof Salmon Facility PNP Hatchery Permit #51 and Basic Management Plan

ecc: Lorraine Vercessi, PNP Hatchery Program Coordinator, ADF&G