



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

125  
Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Headquarters Office

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May 17, 2013

Norm VanVactor  
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation  
P.O. Box 1464  
Dillingham, AK 99576

Dear Norm,

Thanks for your recent confirmation that BBEDC would be willing to fund sampling and genetic analyses of sockeye fisheries in Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections during 2013 based on the revised budget that ADF&G staff provided. This is a complex and extensive undertaking and I know how important it is to the fishermen of Bristol Bay to better understand stock specific catches in these fisheries. The WASSIP project demonstrated how informative these data can be.

After careful consideration, I have decided that Commercial Fisheries Division will not participate in this undertaking. In allocating our limited human resources, my senior staff and I must always consider additional work in the context of mission and priorities. The main goal of our efforts is to support and execute management of our fisheries resources and proactively address any emerging conservation issues that might affect sustainability of salmon stocks supporting our fisheries. Sockeye stocks contributing to these area catches are healthy, and the Board of Fisheries has recently acted to modify management plans based on data provided by WASSIP. In my view, the contracting of our regional and laboratory staffs to address concerns of one fishery stakeholder outside our core mission and priorities does not represent the best use of our limited resources. Naturally, the option exists for you to conduct this study without department participation, as was done for the general district study in Bristol Bay.

I realize this is a disappointing decision, but I trust you understand my position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Regnart".

Jeff Regnart  
Director