



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Fish and Game**

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June 14, 2018

Mr. Ricky Gease, Executive Director  
Kenai River Sportfishing Association  
35093 Kenai Spur Highway  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Subject: Emergency petition

Dear Mr. Gease:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game received your emergency petition dated May 16, 2018, requesting the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) board reverse a department decision to allow an increase in the number of pink salmon eggs taken by Valdez Fisheries Development Association at the Solomon Gulch Hatchery.

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 formed a hatchery committee that will meet during the board's work session being held October 17 – 18, 2018 in Anchorage. Hatchery production levels and salmon fishery enhancement permitting process and regulatory structure 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 have requested a special meeting to discuss the petition. The meeting will be publicly noticed. You may appeal my decision to the Superior Court within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Contact information for the other petition signatories was not provided and I ask that you please share my response with them.

Respectfully,

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

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner