

Unknown

From: fek9wnr@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2007 5:42 AM
To: Mason; Janice L (GOV)
Subject: Re: Letter from H. Robin Samuelsen Jr.

Thank you Janice

-----Original Message-----

From: "Mason, Janice L (GOV)" <janice.mason@alaska.gov>

Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 14:28:03

To: fek9wnr@yahoo.com

Subject: Letter from H. Robin Samuelsen Jr.

Todd – I have attached a scanned copy of the letter from H. Robin Samuelsen Jr. that you had requested. I have also faxed it to the Anchorage office attention to you. This letter was logged in and went to Cora Crome for response. Thanks, Janice

From: Mason, Janice L (GOV)

Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2007 1:48 PM

To: Mason, Janice L (GOV)

Subject: Scan

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

P.O. Box 1464 • Dillingham, Alaska 99578 • (907) 842-4370 • Fax (907) 842-4338 • 1-800-475-4370



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CC

November 15, 2007

The Honorable Sara Palin
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation and the fishermen of the Bristol Bay Region I am requesting that you immediately conduct a "processing capacity survey" for the 2008 Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fishery.

We have requested past Governor's of Alaska to conduct a processing capacity survey and every time the processing sector states that they can handle the Bristol Bay sockeye run. When in fact, we were shut down or put on fishing limits by these same processors who stated to the Governor that they could handle the run.

As you know, over the last ten years, the fishermen of Bristol Bay have been put on fishing limits or total shut downs during the main part of our sockeye season, costing millions of dollars of lost income to our regions residents and over escapement into our river systems. Many of our regions residents have only the salmon fishery to sustain them and their families from season to season. Because of these shut downs and limits many of our region's fishermen are giving up hope of ever making a living fishing, selling set and drift permit's costing the region dearly, loss of two to three jobs and taxes to our communities.

ADF&G has just published the 2008 Bristol Bay forecast of sockeye. The total run is 40.3 million sockeye with a commercial harvest of 31.4 million sockeye. In 2008, we as fishermen are again facing complete closures during the main run of sockeye salmon or limits on how much fish we are able to catch in a day. In 2007, some of our fishermen were shut down and/or put on limits for nine days, this is totally unacceptable to the fishermen of the region. With our short season here in Bristol Bay, these are make or break times and in the last few years it's been break times.

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The "processing capacity survey" needs to happen now and not in February or March, these later dates allow no time to make plans. If done early enough as I am requesting, we can plan on the upcoming season in a variety of ways. I am more than willing to sit down with you and your administration to discuss creative ways to maximize the harvest of surplus sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay.

In closing, I want to thank you Governor Palin for your past and present support of fishermen. For every dollar that enters our communities, that dollar turns over six times, many folks and communities depend on our fishermen. BBEDC looks forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



H. Robin Samuelsen Jr.
President/CEO

CC:
Commissioner Denby Lloyd, ADF&G

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