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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioner Chris Hladick, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

From: Bill Walker, Governor 
Byron Mallott, Lieutenant Governor 

Date: September 19, 2016

RE: Loan Payment Waiver Requests from Pink Salmon Fishery Permit Holders

As you are aware, 2016 pink salmon harvests are significantly lower this year than originally projected throughout all Gulf of Alaska fisheries, causing significant difficulty for permit holders who are dependent on these fisheries for their livelihood.

As permit holders are struggling to cope with the economic difficulties caused by the low harvest, we understand that individual permit holders are contacting the Division of Economic Development (DED) to request waivers in payment of their existing loans. We further understand that each fishery loan is unique and each borrower has different criteria which must be examined when deciding whether or not it is appropriate to waive a loan payment.

By virtue of this memo, we are directing that DED staff commit as many resources as possible to assisting pink salmon fishery permit holders, and that the review of individual loan payment waiver requests be expedited to the most significant degree possible. Though it is important that the State employees make decisions in each of these circumstances that are in the State's best interest, it is equally important that those seeking relief receive timely service.

We trust that you will ensure that DED's loan officers expedite the review of each borrower's portfolio as requests are made, keeping in mind the significant latitude provided by statute to support Alaska's resident fleet.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Chief of Staff Jim Whitaker.