



February 23, 2026

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman  
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427  
Juneau, AK, 99801

Dear Chair Bjorkman,

Thank you for the opportunity to follow up on questions raised during the February 17, 2026, Senate Transportation Committee hearing regarding the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) response efforts related to Typhoon Halong. The Department provides the following information responsive to committee inquiries.

**Damage Assessments – Fish Camps (Sen. Tobin)**

The Department was asked how many fish camps were assessed for damage during Typhoon Halong response efforts.

Based on follow-up discussions, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is the lead agency maintaining comprehensive records related to damage assessments of fish camps and associated structures. DMVA is tracking not only assessments conducted by DOT&PF personnel, but also coordinated assessments conducted in collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local communities.

This coordination includes evaluation of non-standard structures such as fish camps and smoking or drying facilities. For the most complete and consolidated accounting of fish camp damage assessments, DMVA would be the appropriate source of record.

**Total Weight of Backhauled Construction Materials (Sen. Tobin)**

The Department was asked to provide the total weight of construction materials being backhauled as part of Typhoon Halong response efforts.

The final total weight of backhauled material will not be fully known until winter operations conclude and seasonal transportation access improves. When backhaul is required, materials are packaged and staged for removal as conditions allow.

Chair Bjorkman  
DOT&PF Response to February 17, Senate Transportation Committee Hearing  
February 23, 2026  
Page 2 of 2

The Department has established a backhaul plan that prioritizes cost efficiency and logistical practicality. Where feasible, materials are being staged for removal during barging season, as marine transport is significantly more economical than air transport. This approach minimizes overall response costs while maintaining operational efficiency.

The Department appreciates the Committee's continued oversight and interest in response and recovery efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Signed by:



Katherine Keith, PMP, PMI-ACP

Deputy Commissioner

cc: Andy Mills, Legislative Liaison, DOT&PF  
Jordan Shilling, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor's