



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

October 30, 2023

The Honorable Joseph L. James
Chairman
Yurok Tribe
190 Klamath Boulevard
P.O. Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548

Dear Chairman James:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster for the 2020 Yurok Tribe Klamath River fall Chinook salmon fishery.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the impacted fishery. Upon further review, I have found that the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2020 Yurok Tribe Klamath River fall Chinook salmon fishery meets the requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

In order to have a positive determination, there must be a fishery resource disaster from an allowable cause under the MSA. The disaster was due to poor ongoing ocean conditions, drought, poor Klamath River water quality, and fish disease. The commercial fishery revenue loss was 100%, and I concluded that this loss qualifies due to the impact of these conditions on the fishing community.

This determination now makes this fishery eligible for fishery disaster assistance. In the near future, using funds Congress has already appropriated for fishery disasters, the Department of Commerce will allocate disaster assistance for this fishery. In addition, with this determination, eligible businesses and other tribal entities may be able to access other loan/funding programs through Federal relief programs (e.g., Small Business Administration loans). Programs within the Department (e.g., Economic Development Administration grants) may also be available.

Should you have any questions, please contact Susie Feliz, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663 or SFeliz@doc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gina Raimondo".

Gina M. Raimondo