



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

January 14, 2014

Mr. Timothy Ballew II
Chairman, Lummi Nation
Lummi Indian Business Council
2665 Kwina Road
Bellingham, WA 98226

Dear Chairman Ballew:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. Your request relates to the impact of the low number of returning sockeye salmon on the 2013 Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery in Washington.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluated whether a commercial fishery failure occurred due to a fishery resource disaster. After reviewing the available information, I have determined under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) that a fishery resource disaster occurred for the 2013 Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery. This determination is based on a combination of natural and unknown factors predominantly outside the control of fisheries managers to mitigate through conservation and management measures.

This determination provides a basis for Congress to appropriate disaster relief funding under the MSA, and for the NMFS to provide assistance to the State of Washington and affected communities. If Congress appropriates disaster relief funding, the NMFS West Coast Region will work with the Lummi Nation, the other affected tribes and non-tribal fishermen, and the State of Washington to develop a spending plan to support activity that would restore the fishery or prevent a similar failure, and assist the affected fishing communities. Under section 312(a) of the MSA, the Federal share of the cost of any such activity may not exceed 75 percent of that activity's cost.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Cummisky, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,



Penny Pritzker