



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

October 30, 2019

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

Dear Mr. James:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. Your request relates to the impacts to the 2018 Yurok Tribe Klamath River Fall Chinook salmon fishery resulting from unfavorable ocean conditions, among other factors, beyond the control of fishery managers that reduced biomass and access to the fishery in 2018.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Yurok Tribe to assess whether a commercial fishery failure occurred due to a fishery resource disaster. After reviewing the information, I have found that the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2018 Yurok Tribe Klamath River Fall Chinook salmon fishery meets the requirements under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This determination now makes this fishery eligible for fishery disaster assistance. The 2019 Consolidated Omnibus Appropriation (PL 116-6) included \$15 million for fishery disasters, and the 2019 Supplemental Disaster Appropriations (PL 116-20) included \$150 million for fishery disaster assistance. The Department of Commerce will determine an allocation of funds for this fishery disaster and provide the Yurok Tribe information regarding the award process and requirements for these funds.

If you have any further questions, please contact Anthony Foti, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,


Wilbur Ross