



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

September 24, 2018

Mr. Charles Woodruff  
Chairman  
Quileute Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 279  
La Push, WA 98350

Dear Mr. Woodruff:

Thank you for your letters requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. Your two separate requests relate to the impacts to the 2015 and 2016 Quileute Tribe coho salmon fisheries resulting from changing ocean conditions beyond the control of fisheries managers that severely limited the number of coho salmon available for harvest.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluated information from the Quileute Tribal Council, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to assess whether a commercial fishery failure occurred due to a fisheries resource disaster. After reviewing this information, I have found that the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2015 and 2016 Quileute Tribe coho salmon fisheries meets the requirements under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and under Section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

This determination now makes these fisheries eligible for NMFS fishery disaster assistance. The 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 115-141, provided \$20 million in NMFS fishery disaster assistance. The Department of Commerce will determine appropriate allocation of funds to eligible fishery disasters and associated requirements for these funds.

If you have any further questions, please contact Michael Platt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Wilbur Ross