



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

September 24, 2018

Mr. Ryan Jackson  
Chairman  
Hoopa Valley Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 1348  
Hoopa, CA 95546

Dear Mr. Jackson:

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 2016 and 2017 Hoopa Valley Tribe Klamath River fall Chinook salmon fisheries as a result of prolonged drought and poor ocean conditions beyond the control of fishery managers that reduced biomass and access to the fishery in 2016 and 2017.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluated information from the Hoopa Valley Tribe and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to assess whether a commercial fishery failure occurred due to a fisheries 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 2016 and 2017 Hoopa Valley Tribe Klamath River Fall Chinook salmon fisheries meets the requirements under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbur Ross".

Wilbur Ross