



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

December 1, 2023

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2022 Yukon River salmon fishery in Alaska.

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 meets the requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

In order to have a positive determination, there must be a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery disaster from an allowable cause under the MSA. The disaster was due to the impact of warming in the Bering Sea. The commercial fishery revenue loss for the Yukon River salmon fishery was 100%. Therefore, I concluded that this loss qualifies as a fishery resource disaster due to the poor returns of both summer and fall-run chum salmon stocks that caused the fishery to be closed for the entire 2022 season.

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 these fisheries. In addition, with this determination, eligible businesses and other entities in the State of Alaska may be able to access other loan/funding programs through other 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