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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

July 13, 2022

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: State of Alaska Federal Fishery Disaster Request

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

In accordance with Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and Section 308(b) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA), I am writing to request you declare a fishery disaster determination for the 2018 Prince William Sound (PWS) Chinook and sockeye fishery and the 2020 Copper River/PWS coho and pink salmon fishery.

This request follows your recent approval of a fishery disaster for the 2018 Copper River Chinook and sockeye salmon fishery and for the 2020 PWS Chinook, sockeye, and chum salmon fishery. In July 2021, we received a resolution from the City of Cordova updating the original August 2020 fishery disaster request to include the PWS area in the 2018 Chinook and sockeye salmon fishery request and to include coho and pink salmon in the 2020 Copper River/PWS Chinook, sockeye, and chum salmon fishery request.

Based on available information in the attached memo, the 2018 PWS Chinook and sockeye salmon fishery does not meet the criteria for a fishery failure determination based on an 18 percent gain in estimated revenue compared to the previous five-year average of \$12.3 million.

The 2020 Copper River/PWS coho and pink salmon fishery had a revenue loss of 40 percent when compared to the recent five-year average of \$59 million and therefore warrants further evaluation to determine if the economic impacts are severe to meet the criteria for a fishery failure determination.

Large-scale marine heat waves in the Gulf of Alaska in recent years are thought to be responsible for increased ocean temperatures, reductions in forage fish populations, and changes in the distribution of a variety of salmon prey items and predators. These conditions likely caused a

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reduction in salmon returns to the Copper River and PWS and other areas in the Gulf of Alaska. Based on this information, the 2020 Copper River/PWS coho and pink salmon commercial fishery failures were due to a fishery resource disaster arising from natural causes.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and have asked the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service and your office with any additional information needed to make a fishery disaster determination.

Sincerely,



Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
Alex Ortiz, Chief of Staff, Office of Congressman Don Young, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game