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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 5, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

In accordance with Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), I am writing to request determination of a fishery resource disaster for the 2022 Chignik salmon fishery. This request is similar to those approved for the 2018, 2020, and 2021 Chignik salmon fisheries.

The unexpected and ongoing low sockeye salmon abundance has resulted in fishery closures during the peak commercial fishing period in June, which restricts opportunities to harvest other salmon species. Based on available information in the attached memo, low returns of Black Lake sockeye salmon were the result of natural and undetermined causes, which are allowable causes for a fishery resource disaster determination.

Commercial fishery revenue in 2023 was \$5.5 million to \$7.0 million dollars below the recent five-year average when no fishery disasters occurred. The cumulative economic impact of three recent Chignik salmon fishery disasters and high reliance on this fishery to meet economic needs has negatively affected permit holders, fishing crew, processors, and communities in the Chignik region.

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 fishery disaster determinations.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Mike Dunleavy, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
The Honorable Mary Peltola, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game