



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

May 24, 2024

The Honorable Tina Kotek
Governor of Oregon
254 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Kotek:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster for the 2023 ocean commercial salmon fisheries.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the impacted fishery. Upon review, I have found that the request for a fishery resource disaster for the 2023 ocean commercial salmon fishery in Oregon meets the requirements under the recently enacted Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act, which amended section 312(a) the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA).

In order to have a positive determination, there must be a fishery resource disaster from an allowable cause. Due to several factors such as prolonged and historic drought, severe wildfires, impacts to spawning and rearing habitat, harmful algal blooms, and shifts in ocean forage and associated thiamine deficiency, there was a loss of access under the MSA in this fishery. The factors mentioned caused the 2023 Oregon ocean commercial salmon fishery to experience a 91 percent revenue loss for the commercial sector, and associated lost tax revenue, compared to the previous 5-year average with no fishery resource disaster determination.

This determination now makes the 2023 Oregon ocean commercial salmon fishery eligible for fishery disaster assistance. Should the Department of Commerce receive congressional appropriations for fisheries disasters, the Department of Commerce will consider allocations of disaster assistance for this fishery. In addition, eligible businesses and other tribal entities 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