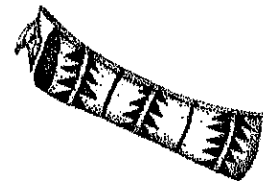


**HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Hoopa Valley Tribe

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June 17, 2024

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
401 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington D.C. 20230

RE: 2023 and 2024 Disaster Relief - Northern California

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

The Hoopa Valley Tribe (Tribe) of Northern California is requesting recognition as an affected fishery in the fishery disaster declared by the Department of Commerce relative to 2023 west coast salmon fisheries. Additionally, we seek the same consideration relative to 2024 salmon fisheries which are anticipated to result in another year of hardship upon our Tribal membership. The Tribe was deemed an affected fishery' in 2006, 2016 and 2017 fishery disasters and a recipient of federal funds to mitigate for the federal disaster declaration. We are one of two tribes in California with federally reserved fishing rights. The Trinity River and its fish are not only important for subsistence but are also a key part of our ceremonies and cultural practices. Our reliance upon the Klamath-Trinity River fishery are as interictally tied to very survival and well being of our people today as it has been since time immemorial.

Due to natural conditions in combination with adverse water management actions, the Klamath River Fall Chinook salmon fishery in 2023 was closed in the ocean for the non Indian harvest sectors and the California Fish and Game commission elected not to allow sport harvest of Klamath River chinook in inland waters. The Pacific Fisheries Management Council allocated 1,872 adult fall chinook salmon for harvest by both Hupa and Yurok people. The Hoopa Valley Tribe alone has over 3,600 tribal members so the salmon abundance this year will not come close to meeting minimum subsistence and ceremonial needs of the Tribe. In 2024 while the Pacific Council put the Tribal share of Klamath-Trinity Fall Chinook at 6,434. This is still woefully below what is needed to meet subsistence and ceremonial needs of the Tribe.

The inability to harvest fish puts enormous economic strain not only on the individual tribal members as they lose this invaluable food resource, but also has far reaching spiritual impacts to

the Tribe, its enterprises, and individual businesses. The rural community already has much of its population living below the poverty threshold. Multiple years of poor returns of Klamath-Trinity River fall chinook returns have prevented any economic recovery that would have been provided by healthy runs of fish.

With respect to the failed fishery during 2023 and 2024 and their devastating impacts, I am requesting that you use your authority under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) to declare a subsistence and ceremonial fishery failure for the Hoopa Valley Hoopa Valley Tribe's \_Klamath-Trinity River fishery. The ongoing issues causing poor recruitment are associated with poor ocean conditions, drought, Klamath River water quality, chronic fish disease, and Trinity River water temperatures all of which are beyond the control of the Tribe to mitigate through our management efforts. We have attached a resolution by the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council declaring the 2023 and 2024 fall fisheries a disaster on the Hoopa Valley Reservation. Please contact my staff- Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department Director Mike Orcutt, should you require additional clarification of the Tribe's request regarding declaration

Sincerely,



Everett Colegrove Jr  
Chairman  
Hoopa Valley Tribe

CC: Congressman Jared Huffman  
Senator Padilla'  
Senator Butler  
Jennifer Quan, NOAA - West Coast Regional Administrator