



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

July 29, 2024

Kristopher K. Peters
Chairman, Squaxin Island Tribe
Natural Resources Department
200 S.E. Billy Frank, Jr. Way
Shelton, WA 98584

Dear Chairman Peters:

Thank you for your July 3, 2024, letter requesting a federal fishery resource disaster determination pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) for the 2023 Puget Sound fall chum salmon fisheries. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your request and to inform you that the Secretary is required to respond with her determination within 120 days after receipt of all the necessary data to conduct the analysis.

The National Marine Fisheries Service conducts the evaluation needed for the Secretary's fishery resource disaster determinations. We will work with the Squaxin Island Tribe to assess whether a fishery resource disaster has occurred under the MSA. Based on our initial review of your request, we need the following information to assess whether a fishery resource disaster has occurred under the MSA. You have up to 1 year from the date of this acknowledgment letter to submit all necessary information. To ensure we have a complete request, please provide all of the following information to our West Coast Region point of contact, Courtney Hann, at courtney.hann@noaa.gov:

- Annual revenues of the affected fishery for the most recent 5 years when no fishery resource disaster occurred.
- If applicable, information on lost resource tax revenues for the 12 months of the disaster year and the previous 5-year average.
- Any additional information you are able to provide about the cause of the fishery resource disaster (e.g., published research, stock assessments, state reports, status of recovery from previous fishery resource disasters).
- If applicable, additional information on any negative impacts on ceremonial or subsistence fishing activities

If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Cameron, Acting Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at meredith.cameron@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

