



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

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Amber Caldera
Chairwoman
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
31912 Little Boston Road, NE
Kingston, WA 98346

Dear Chairwoman Caldera:

I am writing in response to Chairman Jeromy Sullivan's letter requesting a determination for a fishery disaster for the 2020 Fraser River sockeye fishery and the 2020 Puget Sound fall chum fishery for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the impacted fishery. Upon further review, I have found that the requests for a fishery resource disaster for the 2020 Fraser River sockeye and the Puget Sound fall chum in the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe salmon fisheries in Washington meet the requirements under section 312(a) of 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 unfavorable ocean conditions and abnormally high-water temperatures, these fisheries experienced an unexpected biomass decline and loss of access from partial closures. The factors mentioned caused the 2020 Fraser River sockeye fishery to experience a 100 percent commercial revenue loss and the 2020 Puget Sound fall chum fishery to experience a 67 percent commercial revenue loss compared to the prior 5-year average. Therefore, these fisheries meet the requirements for a positive fishery disaster determination.

This determination now makes these fisheries eligible for fishery disaster assistance. In the near future, the Department of Commerce will allocate disaster assistance for these fisheries. 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