



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

December 12, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for Lieutenant Governor's Eleni Kounalakis letter requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster for the 2024 Sacramento River Fall Chinook (SRFC) and Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) ocean and inland 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 2024 SRFC and KRFC ocean and inland salmon fisheries in California meets the requirements under the 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, increased drought, changing ocean conditions, and critical habitat loss, there was a loss of access under the MSA in this fishery. The factors mentioned necessitated a fishery closure, causing the 2024 SRFC and KRFC ocean and inland salmon fisheries to experience a 100 percent revenue loss, compared to the previous 5-year average with no fishery resource disaster determination. Therefore, these fisheries meet the requirements for a positive fishery disaster determination.

This determination now makes the 2024 SRFC and KRFC ocean and inland salmon fisheries 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 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.

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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,



Gina M. Raimondo