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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Jeremy Pelter
Acting Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Acting Secretary Pelter:

In accordance with Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), I am writing to request a fishery resource disaster determination for the 2024 Kodiak pink salmon fishery.

In 2024, there was an unexpected large decrease in the harvest of pink salmon in the Kodiak salmon fishery. The harvest of 7.6 million pink salmon was below the forecast and the previous 10-year average of 20.4 million fish. Preliminary data estimates the value of the 2024 Kodiak pink salmon fishery at \$7.2 million, which is 68 percent below the recent five even-year average of \$22.5 million. Declines in the 2024 Kodiak pink salmon runs were similar to pink salmon declines that occurred in other regions of the Gulf of Alaska. The cause of the 2024 Kodiak pink salmon fishery disaster may be due to natural causes that have been associated with temperature changes in marine ecosystems and competition in the ocean, similar to findings for other recent pink salmon fishery resource disasters that occurred in the Gulf of Alaska in 2016 and in Prince William Sound in 2020. The decline in pink salmon run abundance may also be due to an undetermined cause.

For the fishermen who rely on the pink salmon fisheries for a large portion of their annual income, the loss of revenue due to the poor 2024 season is severe for affected harvesters, processors and communities, similar to the previous fishery disaster in 2016. This loss of income is particularly devastating given the rising costs of food, fuel, and other essentials that have already strained household budgets. In smaller communities outside of the City of Kodiak, opportunities for other sources of income are extremely limited. Residents and businesses of Kodiak Island communities are heavily reliant on commercial salmon fisheries to provide household income. The pink salmon fishery is also an important source of revenue for municipal governments through state and local fish taxes.

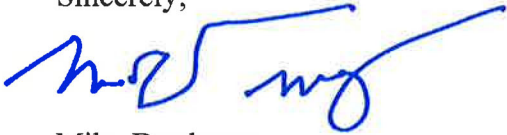
Acting Secretary Jeremy Petler

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Based on available information in the attached memo, the 2024 Kodiak pink salmon fishery meets the criteria for a fishery disaster determination. I appreciate your consideration of this request and have asked the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service and your office with any additional information needed to make fishery disaster determinations.

Sincerely,



Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
The Honorable Nick Begich, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game