



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

September 24, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
Sacramento, CA 96814

Dear Governor Brown:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. Your request relates to the impacts to the 2015 and 2016 Pacific sardine fisheries resulting from a significant loss of access to the fishery resources due to a large biomass decline caused by unfavorable ocean conditions beyond the control of fishery managers.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluated information from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission database to assess whether a commercial fishery failure occurred due to a fisheries resource disaster. Based on that information, I have found that the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2015 and 2016 Pacific sardine fisheries in California meets the requirements under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

This determination now makes these fisheries eligible for NMFS fishery disaster assistance. The 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 115-141, provided \$20 million in NMFS fishery disaster assistance. The Department of Commerce will determine appropriate allocation of funds to eligible fishery disasters and associated requirements for these funds.

If you have any further questions, please contact Michael Platt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Wilbur Ross