



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

September 24, 2018

Ms. Katherine Canete
General Manager
Nooksack Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 157
Deming, WA 98244

Dear Ms. Canete:

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 Nooksack Indian Tribe coho salmon fishery resulting from changing ocean conditions beyond the control of fishery managers that severely limited the number of coho salmon available for harvest.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluated information from the Nooksack Indian Tribe, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to assess whether a commercial fishery failure occurred due to a fisheries resource disaster. After reviewing the information, I have found that the request for a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2015 Nooksack Indian Tribe coho salmon fishery meets the requirements under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This determination now makes this fishery 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