



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

September 24, 2018

Ms. Doreen Maloney
Director Treaty Entitlements
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
25944 Community Plaza Way
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Ms. Maloney:

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 Upper Skagit Indian Tribe coho and pink salmon fisheries resulting from changing ocean conditions beyond the control of fishery managers that severely limited the number of coho and pink salmon available for harvest.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluated information from the Upper Skagit 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 Upper Skagit Indian Tribe coho and pink salmon fisheries meets the requirements under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wilbur Ross".

Wilbur Ross