



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

September 24, 2018

Mr. Nate Tyler  
Chairman  
Makah Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 115  
Neah Bay, WA 98357

Dear Mr. Tyler:

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 2016 Makah ocean coho and Chinook salmon troll fishery resulting from unusually warm ocean conditions beyond the control of fishery managers that reduced biomass and access to the fishery in 2016.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluated information from the Makah 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 commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2016 Makah coho and Chinook ocean salmon troll 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