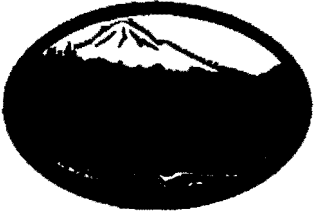


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Nooksack Indian Tribe

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U.S. EDUCATIVE SECRETARIAT

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary of Commerce
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Subject: 2015 Coho Fishery Disaster for Nooksack Tribe

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

I am writing to formally request that you declare an economic fishery disaster under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act so that disaster relief assistance can be provided to our fishermen. Nooksack fishermen were adversely impacted by the extremely low runs of coho in 2015, and those fish that did return were much smaller than average. We urge you to respond promptly to this matter to allow our fishermen to obtain disaster relief funds and support.

Coho fishing, like all salmon, is extremely important to our tribal community and always has been. The lack of coho impacted our entire tribe. We are fishing people—it is central to our culture and way of life, as well as our economy. We have always relied on the water and our natural resources for our health and livelihoods. With very little coho to harvest, our entire community suffered and needs financial relief to get through these difficult times.

As a federally recognized tribes and sovereign nation, we have the right to request and receive disaster relief under the Department of Commerce and Congressional appropriation. We ask that under your authority and in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries and the Nooksack Tribe, that you coordinate with all parties to issue a Fisheries Economic Disaster Declaration as authorized under Section 312 (a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Katherine Canete, MPA
General Manager

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray, US Senator
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, US Senator
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Congressman
The Honorable Suzan DelBene, Congressman