

22-0086015

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550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700  
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907-269-7450

Governor Mike Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

November 29, 2022

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: State of Alaska Federal Fishery Disaster Request

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

In accordance with Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and Section 308(b) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA), I am writing to request you declare a fishery disaster determination for the 2022 Yukon River salmon fishery.

On February 1, 2022, you approved a fishery disaster determination for the 2020 and 2021 Yukon River salmon fisheries. Although all salmon fishing was closed on the Yukon River in 2021 and 2022 and heavily restricted/closed in 2020, the 2022 total number of Chinook salmon returning to the Yukon River was estimated to be the lowest on record. The 2022 summer chum salmon run was less than the minimum escapement goal and was the fourth lowest on record. Similarly, the minimum escapement goal for fall chum salmon is unlikely to be met. Continued revenue loss to commercial fishery permit holders and loss of employment to local processing employees from the 2022 fishery closures has resulted in severe economic harm to the region. The loss of subsistence salmon fishing opportunities for the third year in a row has created food security concerns and prevented residents from sharing cultural and traditional practices.

Based on available information in the attached memo, the 2022 Yukon River salmon fishery meets the criteria for a fishery disaster determination. Due to the complete closure of all Yukon River salmon fisheries, I am requesting an expedited disaster determination because total exvessel losses are 100 percent below the previous five-year average and these losses directly affect all participants engaged in the fishery.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and have asked the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to provide NMFS and your office with any additional information needed to make the requested fishery disaster determination.

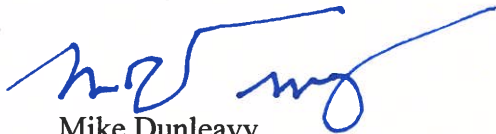
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2022 DEC -8 AM 10:10

The Honorable Gina Raimondo

November 29, 2022

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Sincerely,



Mike Dunleavy  
Governor

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate  
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate  
The Honorable Mary Peltola, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game