



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

May 9, 2023

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

Thank you for your letters requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the following fisheries:

- 2021/2022 Bristol Bay red king crab and Bering Sea snow crab fisheries;
- 2021 Kuskokwim River salmon and Norton Sound chum and coho salmon fisheries;
- 2021 Chignik salmon fisheries;
- 2020 Copper River/Prince William Sound coho and pink salmon fisheries;
- 2020/2021 Norton Sound red king crab fisheries; and
- 2022/2023 Bristol Bay red king crab and Bering Sea snow crab fisheries.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has evaluated information from the impacted fisheries. After reviewing the information, I have found that the requests for a commercial fishery failure for the listed fisheries meet the requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

This determination makes these fisheries eligible for fishery disaster assistance. In the near future, using funds Congress has already appropriated for fishery disasters, the Department of Commerce will allocate disaster assistance for these fisheries. In addition, with this determination, eligible businesses and other entities in Alaska may be able to access other loan/funding programs through other Federal relief programs (e.g., Small Business Administration loans). Programs within the Department of Commerce (e.g., Economic Development Administration grants) may also be available.

NMFS also reviewed revenue data provided by the State of Alaska for the 2021/2022 Bering Sea tanner crab fishery and determined that the fishery did not experience a revenue loss. Because there is a 35% revenue loss minimum mandated by the NMFS Policy Guidance, without a revenue loss in this fishery, we cannot justify a determination of commercial fishery failure, serious disruption, or harm. Thus, the 2021/2022 Bering Sea tanner crab fishery will not be considered in any future fishery disaster assistance.

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Should you have any questions, please contact Susie Feliz, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663 or SFeliz@doc.gov.

Sincerely,



Gina M. Raimondo