



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

October 30, 2023

The Honorable Joseph L. James
Chairman
Yurok Tribe
190 Klamath Boulevard
P.O. Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548

Dear Chairman James:

Thank you for your letters requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster for the 2021 and 2022 Yurok Tribe Klamath River fall Chinook salmon fishery (the fishery).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the impacted fishery. Upon further review, I have found that the requests meet the requirements under the recently enacted Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act, which amended section 312(a) and repealed section 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as well as repealed section 308 of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

In order to have a positive determination, there must be a fishery resource disaster from an allowable cause under the MSA. The disaster was due to poor ongoing ocean conditions, drought, poor Klamath River water quality, and fish disease. MSA section 312(a) states that revenue losses greater than 80% may result in a positive determination that a fishery resource disaster has occurred based on the information provided or analyzed. The fishery experienced a 100% revenue loss for both years compared to the previous 5 years with no disaster resource determination, which qualifies due to the impact of these conditions on the fishing community.

This determination now makes this fishery 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 tribal entities may be able to access other loan/funding programs through other Federal relief programs (e.g., Small Business Administration loans). Programs within the Department (e.g., Economic Development Administration grants) may also be available.

The Honorable Joseph L. James
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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