



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

June 12, 2023

Mr. Jeromy Sullivan  
Chairman  
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe  
3192 Little Boston Road, NE  
Kingston, WA 98346

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter requesting a federal fishery disaster determination pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's 2021 Puget Sound coho and fall chum salmon fisheries. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter and to inform you that the Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act, which was passed in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, has amended the MSA. As a result, fishery resource disaster requests must now be submitted no later than 1 year from the conclusion of the fishing season, fishery closure, or natural event. Although your request has been received more than a year from the conclusion of the fishing season, we will still review this request as it appears to be due to a distinct cause that occurs during more than one consecutive fishing season, as evidenced in the February 2021 disaster request the Secretary received from you for the 2020 Fraser River sockeye and Puget Sound fall chum salmon fisheries, currently under review, which is authorized in the statute.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts the evaluation needed for the Secretary's fishery disaster determinations. We will continue to work with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to assess whether a fishery resource disaster has occurred under the MSA. Once NMFS has received all the required information, the Secretary will issue her determination within 120 days.

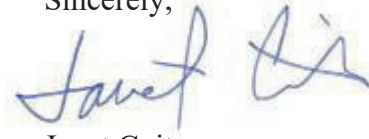
Based on our initial review of your request, we will need the following information as soon as possible. Please provide the following information to our West Coast Region Senior Policy Advisor, Frank Lockhart, at [frank.lockhart@noaa.gov](mailto:frank.lockhart@noaa.gov):

- Twelve months of finalized revenue data for the 2021 Puget Sound coho and fall chum fisheries.
- Annual revenues of the affected fisheries for the most recent 5 years when no fishery resource disaster occurred (e.g., excluding 2014, 2015, 2018, and 2019, when the fisheries had positive fishery resource disaster determinations).
- Preliminary information on causes of the fishery resource disaster, if known, including information demonstrating the occurrence of an unexpected large decrease in fish stock biomass or other change that results in significant loss of access to the fishery resource, which could include the loss of fishing vessels and gear, for a substantial period of time.
- Any negative impacts to ceremonial or subsistence fishing activities.



We look forward to working with you on this request. If you have any questions, please contact Makeda Okolo, Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at [makeda.okolo@noaa.gov](mailto:makeda.okolo@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet Coit". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "C".

Janet Coit  
Assistant Administrator  
for Fisheries