

April 21, 2022



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

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your letter requesting a federal fishery disaster determination for the 2018 and 2019 red sea urchin fishery in California. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your request and to request additional information. The Secretary will respond with her determination after all the necessary data have been received and our evaluation has been completed.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts the evaluation needed for the Secretary's fishery disaster determinations. NMFS will work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to assess whether a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster has occurred under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act or the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act. You can find more details about criteria for evaluating fishery disaster requests in the NMFS Fishery Disaster Policy, which can be found on our [website](#).

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

- Information about the cause of the fishery resource disaster
- Twelve months of finalized commercial revenue data for the affected fishing years from the red sea urchin fishery
- Annual commercial fishery revenues for the previous five years for the 2018 and 2019 red sea urchin fisheries.

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 that reads "Janet Coit".

Janet Coit  
Assistant Administrator  
for Fisheries

