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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 5, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

In accordance with Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), I am writing to request determination of a fishery resource disaster for the 2023 Upper Cook Inlet East Side Setnet salmon fishery. This request is similar to those approved for the 2018 East Side Setnet fishery and the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet salmon fisheries, and to those requests that are pending a determination for the 2021 and 2022 East Side Setnet salmon fisheries.

Based on available information in the attached memo, closure of the 2023 East Side Setnet salmon fishery was due to implementation of additional fishery management measures to constrain harvest of Kenai River late-run Chinook salmon which have been experiencing low returns. The final gross revenue value of the East Side Setnet salmon fishery in 2023 was \$0, 100 percent below the average value of \$7.23 million during the most recent five-year period when no fishery disasters occurred.

In 2023, an estimated 84 percent of the permit holders who hold an Upper Cook Inlet set gillnet permit were Alaska residents and 66 percent of those residents have addresses in one of the Kenai Peninsula communities. Closure of the 2023 East Side Setnet commercial salmon fishery negatively impacted permit holders, crew, processing companies, and communities that participate in the fishery.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and have asked the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service and your office with any additional information needed to make fishery disaster determinations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

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