



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

July 31, 2023

Mr. Joseph L. James
Chairman
Yurok Tribe
190 Klamath Boulevard
Post Office Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548

Dear Mr. James:

Thank you for your letter requesting a federal fishery resource disaster determination pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) for the Yurok Tribe's 2022 Klamath River Fall Chinook Run fishery. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your request 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, and the Secretary is required to respond with her determination within 120 days after receipt of all the necessary data to conduct the analysis.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts the evaluation needed for the Secretary's fishery disaster determinations. NMFS will work with the Yurok Tribe and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to assess whether a fishery resource disaster has occurred under the MSA.

Based on our initial review of your request, previously provided information, and conversations with our West Coast Region Senior Policy Advisor, Frank Lockhart, we have the necessary information to assess whether a fishery resource disaster has occurred and consider your request complete.

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, atmakeda.okolo@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet Coit".

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

