

20-069812



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6406 Marine Dr  
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694  
360-716-4500  
Fax 360-716-0628

The Tulalip Tribes are federally recognized successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott.

2020 JAN 12 AM 10:02  
U.S. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

January 23, 2020

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

**SUBJECT: 2019 Fraser chum commercial fishery disaster for the Tulalip Tribes**

Dear Ms. Secretary Ross,

I formally request you declare an economic fishery disaster, pursuant to Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation and Management Act (Act), so disaster relief assistance can be provided to Tulalip tribal fishermen who were adversely impacted by the non-existent 2019 Fraser River chum fishery. The Tulalip Tribes is urging your office to act quickly to mitigate this situation. Prompt efforts by your Department are critical in helping the fishermen get the disaster relief, funds and assistance they are entitled to in a timely manner.

Given the extremely poor return of of the 2019 Fraser River chum run (aggregate Chum Salmon abundance for Inside Southern Chum through Johnstone Strait was below the 1.0 million critical threshold), no commercial chum directed fisheries were authorized in Areas 6,7,7A.

The Fraser River chum fishery is an important fisheries for the Tulalip Tribes. It is estimated that the Tulalip fishing fleet lost \$61,875 dollars due to the lack of a chum, from what it was the anticipated landings equal to 6,875 fish (estimating an average weight of 10 pounds per fish and an estimated average market rate of \$0.90 per pound).

The non-existent Tulalip harvest for Fraser River chum has had negative impacts to the way of life, cultural, spiritual and traditional ties to the chum. These negative impacts are irreversible. The financial impact the fishermen have endured is equally important during the non-existent chum fishery and threatens the fishermen's ability to harvest a quantity of fish sufficient to ensure a modest living.

The 1974 federal court decision in *United States v. Washington* affirmed the Stevens Treaty tribes the treaty right to half of the harvestable salmon and established these tribes as co-managers of Washington state fisheries. As a sovereign nation and federally-recognized tribe, the Tulalip Tribes has the right to request and receive disaster assistance as administered by your office and Congress may appropriate these funds. With no chum salmon to harvest, no chum fish for families and no income for fishing families, the Tulalip community that depends on fishing suffered economic and cultural hardship.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Gobin at 425-931-1053 or [jasongobin@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov](mailto:jasongobin@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov)

Sincerely,

Teri Gobin, Chair  
The Tulalip Tribes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teri Gobin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

CC: The Honorable Patty Murray, US Senator  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, US Senator  
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Congressman

20-064011



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January 23, 2020

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
 Secretary of Commerce  
 United States Department of Commerce  
 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20230

**SUBJECT: 2019 Fraser sockeye commercial fishery disaster for the Tulalip Tribes**

Dear Ms. Secretary Ross,

I formally request you declare an economic fishery disaster, pursuant to Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation and Management Act (Act), so disaster relief assistance can be provided to Tulalip tribal fishermen who were adversely impacted by the non-existent 2019 Fraser River sockeye fishery and very reduced pink, coho, and chum fisheries. The Tulalip Tribes is urging your office to act quickly to mitigate this situation. Prompt efforts by your Department are critical in helping the fishermen get the disaster relief, funds and assistance they are entitled to in a timely manner.

Several stocks of the already poor return of the 2019 Fraser River sockeye run were blocked in their upstream migration for many weeks, when a major slide (Big Bar landslide) occurred late in June. The Tulalip Tribes and co-managers of the Fraser River sockeye fishery had to prohibit any commercial harvest in an effort to preserve future sockeye harvest and comply with Federal laws and statutes and the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

The Fraser River sockeye fishery an important fisheries for the Tulalip Tribes. It is estimated that the Tulalip fishing fleet lost \$293,443 dollars due to the lack of a sockeye, from what it was projected at the start of the 2019 Fraser sockeye fishing season. This estimate is based on the pre-season run harvest estimate of 24,454 fish by Tulalip fishers, estimating an average weight of 6 pounds per fish and an estimated average market rate of \$2.00 per pound. The non-existent Tulalip harvest for Fraser River sockeye has had negative impacts to the way of life, cultural, spiritual and traditional ties to the sockeye. These negative impacts are irreversible. The financial impact the fishermen have endured is equally important during the non-existent sockeye fishery and threatens the fishermen's ability to harvest a quantity of fish sufficient to ensure a modest living.

The 1974 federal court decision in *United States v. Washington* affirmed the Stevens Treaty tribes the treaty right to half of the harvestable salmon and established these tribes as co-managers of Washington state fisheries. As a sovereign nation and federally-recognized tribe, the Tulalip Tribes has the right to request and receive disaster assistance as administered by your office and Congress may appropriate these funds. With

no sockeye salmon to harvest, no sockeye fish for families and no income for fishing families, the Tulalip community that depends on fishing suffered economic and cultural hardship.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Gobin at (425-931-1053) or [jasongobin@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov](mailto:jasongobin@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov)).

Sincerely,



Teri Gobin, Chair  
The Tulalip Tribes

CC: The Honorable Patty Murray, US Senator  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, US Senator  
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Congressman

20-069810



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January 23, 2020

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
 Secretary of Commerce  
 United States Department of Commerce  
 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20230

**SUBJECT: Tulalip coho commercial fishery disaster for the Tulalip Tribes**

Dear Ms. Secretary Ross,

I formally request you declare an economic fishery disaster, pursuant to Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation and Management Act (Act), so disaster relief assistance can be provided to Tulalip tribal fishermen who were adversely impacted by the collapsed 2019 coho fisheries in Areas 8A and 8D. The Tulalip Tribes is urging your office to act quickly to mitigate this situation. Prompt efforts by your Department are critical in helping the fishermen get the disaster relief, funds and assistance they are entitled to in a timely manner.

Given the extremely poor return of the 2019 Snohomish coho, Stillaguamish coho, and Tulalip Hatchery coho run commercial fisheries were greatly diminished in Fishing Areas 8A (Port Gardner/Port Susan) and Tulalip Bay. Upon realizing the weak returns of Snohomish and Stillaguamish coho, The Tulalip Tribes issued an emergency regulation closing the fisheries earlier than anticipated to allow enough fish to return to the spawning grounds.

The 8A and 8D coho fisheries are important fisheries for the Tulalip Tribes. It is estimated that the Tulalip fishing fleet lost \$62,224 dollars due to the lack of coho in 8A. The total catch was only 1,656 fish, significantly less than the anticipated catch of 7,646 fish. The potential lost catch was about 5,990 fish, amounting to 29,351 pounds (average weight is 4.9 pounds per fish), with a value of \$2.12 dollars a pound. In the fishing Area 8D the total catch was only 13,626, 43% of the expected season total of 31,265 coho. We estimated a lost revenue of \$155,187 dollars (17,639 fewer fish than expected, with an average weight of 4.15 pounds per fish, and a unit value of \$2.12 dollars per pound). In summary, we estimated a combined loss of \$217,411 dollars for these two fisheries.

The insufficient Tulalip harvest for coho in fishing areas 8A and 8D has had negative impacts to the way of life, cultural, spiritual and traditional ties to the coho. These negative impacts are irreversible. The financial impact the fishermen have endured is equally important and threatens the fishermen's ability to harvest a quantity of fish sufficient to ensure a modest living.

The 1974 federal court decision in *United States v. Washington* affirmed the Stevens Treaty tribes the treaty right to half of the harvestable salmon and established these tribes as co-managers of Washington state fisheries. As a sovereign nation and federally-recognized tribe, the Tulalip Tribes has the right to request and receive disaster assistance as administered by your office and Congress may appropriate these funds. With insufficient coho salmon to harvest, very few coho fish for families and poor income for fishing families, the Tulalip community that depends on fishing suffered economic and cultural hardship.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Gobin at 425-931-1053 or [jasongobin@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov](mailto:jasongobin@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov).

Sincerely,



Teri Gobin, Chair  
The Tulalip Tribes

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The Honorable Rick Larsen, Congressman