



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

May 24, 2024

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster for the 2022 Chignik salmon fishery.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the impacted fishery. Upon review, I have found that the request for a fishery resource disaster for the 2022 Chignik salmon fishery in Alaska meets the requirements under the recently enacted Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act, which amended section 312(a) the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA).

In order to have a positive determination, there must be a fishery resource disaster from an allowable cause. Due to several factors such as marine heatwaves, prolonged temperature increase, and unfavorable ocean conditions, the 2022 Chignik salmon fishery experienced an unexpected biomass decline and loss of access under the MSA. The factors mentioned caused the Chignik salmon fishery – which includes Chinook, chum, coho, and sockeye – to experience a 70 percent revenue loss for the commercial and processors sectors, and associated lost tax revenue, compared to the previous 5-year average with no fishery resource disaster determination. The Chignik salmon fishery participants had limited opportunities to change their fishing operations and offset losses; therefore, the 2022 losses are considered severe. The reduced subsistence fishery during the disaster year 2022 created a direct economic and cultural hardship for tribal families. Therefore, this fishery meets the requirements for a positive fishery disaster determination.

This determination now makes the 2022 Chignik salmon fishery eligible for fishery disaster assistance. Should the Department of Commerce receive congressional appropriations for fisheries disasters, the Department of Commerce will consider allocations of disaster assistance for this fishery. In addition, eligible businesses and other tribal entities may be able to access other loan/funding programs through other Federal relief programs (e.g., Small Business Administration loans). Programs within the Department (e.g., Economic Development Administration grants) may also be available.

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Should you have any questions, please contact Susie Feliz, Assistant Secretary for
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663 or SFeliz@doc.gov.

Sincerely,



Gina M. Raimondo