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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 28, 2028

The Honorable Jeremy Pelter
Acting Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Acting Secretary Pelter:

In accordance with Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), I am writing to request a fishery resource disaster determination for the 2024 Chignik salmon fishery.

In 2024, the early run of Black Lake sockeye salmon to the Chignik River was late and weak, and no commercial fishing opportunities were provided during the month of June. The harvest of 271,199 sockeye salmon was 75 percent below the recent five-year average, not including years when a fishery resource disaster occurred. Preliminary data estimates the value of the 2024 Chignik salmon fishery at \$2.97 million which is 63 percent below the recent five-year average of \$8.06 million. Revenue from the 2024 Chignik salmon fishery was less than revenue from the 2021 and 2022 fisheries, which were previously determined to be fishery resource disasters. The low returns of Black Lake sockeye salmon in 2024 were likely the result of natural and undetermined causes, which are allowable causes for a fishery resource disaster determination. Lower returns of pink salmon in 2024 may be attributed to poor marine survival in the Gulf of Alaska during the spring and summer of 2023.

The cumulative impacts of multiple fishery disasters have resulted in continued severe economic impacts for the fishery participants, particularly those who live in the Chignik region. Residents of the Chignik Management Area communities are heavily reliant on commercial salmon fisheries to provide household income and opportunities for other sources of income are extremely limited.

Based on available information in the attached memo, the 2024 Chignik salmon fishery meets the criteria for a fishery resource disaster determination. I appreciate your consideration of this request and have asked the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to provide the National Marine

Acting Secretary Jeremy Pelter
January 28, 2025
Page 2 of 2

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", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
The Honorable Nick Begich, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game