COUNCIL ANNETTE ISLANDS RESERVE

METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY

26-0099609

ALBERT G. SMITH, MAYOR
JUDITH A. EATON, EXECUTIVE TRIBAL SECRETARY
DARCY BOOTH, TREASURER

ESTABLISHED 1887

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OS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
2026 JUN 30 A 9:24

June 16, 2026

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

Re: Federal Fishery Resource Disaster Determination for the 2025 Annette Islands Reserve Sockeye, Pink and Coho Salmon Fisheries

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

On behalf of the Metlakatla Indian Community, I write to request a Federal Fishery Resource Disaster Determination under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) for the 2025 Annette Island Reserve sockeye, pink and coho salmon fisheries. I make this request due to the unexpected and devastatingly low sockeye, pink and coho salmon returns to the Reserve and the related severe economic harm those low returns caused to tribal members who depend on the gillnet and seine salmon fishery for their livelihoods.

In that regard, this request is supported by Tribal Council Resolution #26-34, which is attached to this letter. In that resolution, the exceptionally low harvest levels across each salmon fishery are identified, which ranged from being 60% to 98% below the ten-year average. Our community is highly dependent on the commercial salmon fishery for income that our members and their families use to support themselves. With the increasing cost of goods, fuel and other living expenses, the loss of this important income has been extremely hard for our members.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of the Community's request. The Community's Department of Fish & Wildlife is prepared to provide your office and the National Marine Fisheries any additional information necessary to support the requested disaster determination.

Sincerely,

Mayor Albert Smith

Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate (Chere_Klein@murkowski.senate.gov)
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate (Chere_Klein@murkowski.senate.gov)
The Honorable Dan Begich, United States House of Representatives (repnickbegich@mail8.housecommunications.gov)(Leslie.Hajdukovich@mail.house.gov)
Interim Regional Superintendent, Kurt Fredenberg NW Region of the BIA (Kurt.fredenberg@bia.gov)
Audrey Hudson, BIA Field Representative in Metlakatla Indian Community (Audrey.hudson@bia.gov)

COUNCIL ANNETTE ISLANDS RESERVE

METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY

RESOLUTION #26-34

ALBERT G. SMITH, MAYOR
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METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY
BY THE COUNCIL/EXECUTIVES ANNETTE ISLANDS RESERVE

Declaration of Fishery Disaster for the 2025 Annette Islands Reserve Sockeye, Pink and Coho Salmon Fisheries

WHEREAS, the Council Annette Islands Reserve (Council) is the governing body of the Metlakatla Indian Community, Annette Islands Reserve, Alaska by the authority of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Metlakatla Indian Community approved on August 23, 1944 by the Secretary of the Interior (Constitution);

WHEREAS, the Metlakatla Indian Community (the "Community") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the provisions of Section 16 of the Federal Reorganization Act, 25 U.S.C., subsection 476;

WHEREAS, the Community is governed by its Council, which is responsible for the welfare of the Annette Islands Reserve, all Community members and management of its sovereign waters, fisheries and natural resources;

WHEREAS, the Council acknowledges the importance of the sockeye, pink and coho salmon fisheries to the economic well-being of the Community and its members, many of whom operate commercial fishing vessels and otherwise participate in the local fisheries economy;

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that data estimates that the 2025 pink salmon fishery harvest was, for the purse seine fleet, 72% below the recent ten-year average, and for the gillnet fleet, 82% below the recent ten-year average;

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that data estimates that the 2025 sockeye salmon fishery harvest was, for the purse seine fleet, 71% below the recent ten-year average, and for the gillnet fleet, 60% below the recent ten-year average, which was a record-low harvest;

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that data estimates that the 2025 coho salmon fishery harvest was, for the purse seine fleet, 72 % below the recent ten-year average, and for the gillnet fleet, 98% below the recent ten-year average, which was a record-low harvest;

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that the referenced significant decreases in harvest amounts and the related loss of revenue has been severe on the purse seine and gillnet fishermen and others who rely on the local fisheries economy for income, who are heavily reliant on those commercial fisheries to provide household income as other sources of income on the Annette Islands Reserve are extremely limited; and,

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that the rising costs of food, fuel and other essentials make the fishery related loss of income particularly severe, further compounding the financial challenges faced by our membership; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council hereby declares the 2025 sockeye, pink and coho Annette Islands Reserve fisheries as a fishery disaster; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council authorizes the Mayor to seek a fishery disaster determination by the United States Department of Commerce based on the above information.

***Dated** this 28th day of May, 2026 at Metlakatla, Alaska*

ATTEST:

Judith A. Eaton, Executive Secretary

METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY

Albert G. Smith, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This Resolution was adopted at a Tribal Council Meeting held on May 28, 2026, at which a quorum of the Tribal Council was present, and the Resolution was adopted by a vote of 6 FOR, -0- AGAINST, and -0- ABSTAINING, with the Mayor being authorized to sign said Resolution.

By:

Judith A. Eaton, Executive Secretary