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

July 28, 2026

State of California
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear State of California:

We received your letter requesting a determination of a fishery resource disaster for the 2024 California Northern Red Sea Urchin fishery. The State of California provided the necessary information to evaluate the fishery resource disaster request on February 10, 2026, and the request was deemed complete on that date.

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 determination for the 2024 California Northern Red Sea Urchin fishery meets the requirements under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The request for a fishery resource disaster determination for the 2023 season was submitted after the statutory deadline and therefore cannot be considered under the MSA.

This determination now makes the 2024 California Northern Red Sea Urchin fishery eligible for fishery resource disaster assistance. The Department of Commerce will allocate disaster assistance for this fishery. After the Secretary of Commerce makes a positive fishery disaster determination under the MSA, the requesting state or tribal government can make a written request to the Small Business Administration (SBA) certifying at least five small businesses in the disaster area have suffered substantial economic injury resulting from the positive fishery disaster determination. Under this Economic Injury declaration, SBA's Disaster Loan Assistance program is available to small businesses with financial losses directly related to the declared disaster. For more information on the SBA Loan program please visit: www.sba.gov/disaster. Programs within the Department (e.g., Economic Development Administration grants) may also be available.

If you have further questions, please contact Geoffrey MacLeay, Director of Oversight in the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-1746 or GMacLeay@doc.gov.

Sincerely,

Howard W. Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce