UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

August 19, 2026

Mr. Albert G. Smith
Mayor, Metlakatla Indian Community
P.O. Box 8
Metlakatla, AK 99926

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter requesting a fishery resource disaster determination pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) for the 2025 Metlakatla Tribe Annette Island Reserve sockeye, pink, and coho salmon fisheries. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your request and to inform you that the Secretary is required to respond with his determination within 120 days after receipt of all the necessary data to conduct the analysis.

The National Marine Fisheries Service conducts the evaluation needed for the Secretary's fishery resource disaster determination and will work with the Metlakatla Tribe to assess whether a fishery resource disaster has occurred under the MSA. The Tribe has up to one year from the date of this acknowledgment letter to submit all necessary information. Please provide the following information to our Alaska region point of contact, Stephanie Warpinski, at Stephanie.Warpinski@noaa.gov:

- A clear definition of the fishery(ies), including the geographical boundaries of the relevant fishery or fisheries.[1]
- Twelve months of finalized revenue data for the affected fishery(ies) and sector(s) or components thereof for the year of the requested fishery resource disaster.
- Annual revenues of the affected fishery by sector for the most recent 5 years when there were no positive fishery resource disaster determinations.
- Information on causes of the fishery resource disaster, if known, including information demonstrating the occurrence of an unexpected large decrease in fish stock biomass or other change that results in significant loss of access to the fishery resource, which could include the loss of fishing vessels and gear, for a substantial period of time.
- Subsistence impacts.

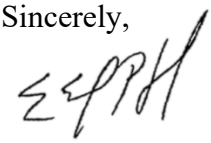
If available/applicable, please provide additional information:

- Length of time the fishery (or access to it) has been or will be restricted.
- Any additional information you are able to provide about the cause of the fishery resource disaster (e.g., published research, stock assessments, state reports, status of recovery from previous fishery resource disasters).

[1] The fishery as a whole is typically considered; though the requester(s) may provide a rationale for sub-units of a fishery or sub-regions, based on how the fishery is managed (i.e., for a tribal fishery the sub-units or sub-regions should have been treated as a unit for management purposes prior to the disaster).

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Denit, Director of NOAA's Office of Sustainable Fisheries, at kelly.denit@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Eugenio Piñeiro Soler
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries