

From: **Jennifer Quan - NOAA Federal** <jennifer.quan@noaa.gov>
Date: Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 9:21 AM
Subject: Secretary of Commerce's fishery disaster determinations 2017 to 2022 West Coast and Alaska fisheries announcement
To: Merrick Burden - NOAA Affiliate <merrick.j.burden@noaa.gov>
CC: Ruth Howell - NOAA Federal <ruth.howell@noaa.gov>

Good morning Merrick,

Today, the Secretary of Commerce determined that a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster occurred between 2017 and 2022 in multiple West Coast and Alaska fisheries.

Fisheries Affected:

- 2017 and 2019 Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Coho, Chum, and Pink Salmon Fisheries
- 2020 Yurok Tribe Chinook Salmon Fisheries
- 2018, 2019, and 2020 Oregon Chinook Salmon Fisheries
- 2018 and 2019 California Red Sea Urchin Fishery
- 2022 Alaska Yukon River Salmon Fisheries

This determination is in response to requests from Chairperson Jaison Elkins of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Chairman Joseph L. James of the Yurok Tribe, Governor John Bel Edwards and Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser of Louisiana, Governor Kate Brown of Oregon, Governor Gavin Newsom of California, Governor Mike Dunleavy of Alaska.

Positive fishery disaster determinations make these fisheries eligible for funding from current fishery disaster appropriations to aid in the recovery of affected communities, restore the fishery, and/or prevent future disasters.

NOAA Fisheries will notify award recipients of their eligibility for funding and provide guidance on the development of applications for federal financial assistance (also known as spend plans) in the coming weeks.

- The Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) has the authority to declare a fishery disaster under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and/or the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA). Section 312(a) of the MSA and Section 308 of the IFA provide the Secretary with the authority to determine a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster resulting from an allowable cause.
- As of December 29, 2022, all fishery disaster requests will be reviewed under the amended MSA - Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, Title II, the "Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act." Requests received prior to December 28, 2022 will be reviewed under two statutes, the MSA and the IFA, which previously provided the authority and requirements for fishery disaster determinations. As these requests

were submitted/received prior to December 29, 2022, their determinations were evaluated under the prior statutes.

- Following its Policy Guidance for Disaster Assistance under Magnuson-Stevens Act 312(a) and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act 308(b) and 308(d) (Policy Guidance), NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has fully evaluated the relevant data provided by the requesters.

Respectfully,

Jen

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Jennifer Quan

she/her/hers ([why is this important?](#))

Regional Administrator | West Coast Region
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