



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



June 24, 2019

Randy Fisher
Executive Director
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100
Portland, OR 97202

Subject: California Klamath River Fall Chinook and Sardine Disaster Spending Plan Proposal Outline

Dear Mr. Fisher:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has developed a proposed spending plan for the distribution of the fishery disaster funds allocated by Congress for the 2015- 2016 Pacific Sardine and 2016-2017 Klamath River Fall Chinook fisheries. The proposed spending plan is based on, and consistent with, the guidance provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in their notification letter dated April 12, 2019. The preliminary proposals are outlined below:

Pacific Sardine

- 20% for mitigation. This portion will be allocated to research to help determine the abundance of Sardine that is not captured by acoustic trawl surveys. Costs will cover boat and plane surveys, as well as processing collected data. Data will be made available for use in stock assessments to improve the information upon which management is based.
- 79% for direct payment to impacted Limited Entry fishermen and women and processors/buyers. These direct payments will help support struggling fishing families and communities that were not able to foresee and plan for an unexpected fishery closure. Direct payments will help with debt management and build resiliency within the local fishing communities. Allotments will predominately be based on landing data. Informed by feedback from the industries, direct payments and qualifying criteria will be calculated using some combination of landing receipts and percentage allocation among qualifying individuals.
- 1% for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission overhead

Klamath River Fall Chinook

- 99% for direct payments to impacted commercial salmon troll fishermen and women, commercial salmon processors/buyers and Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFVs), based on records submitted to the Department documenting Chinook salmon activities in California ports north of Pt. Arena, and licensed commercial guides with logbook records submitted to the Department documenting guide activity in the Klamath-Trinity Basin. Funds will assist recipients in these fishing communities affected by the fishery failure and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the fishery.
- 1% for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission overhead

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- While identified in the NOAA award letter as an appropriate use of disaster relief funds, restoration projects are not identified in the Klamath River Fall Chinook disaster relief spending plan. Restoration projects that would appreciably benefit the Klamath fall Chinook stock would need to be large-scale and require much more money than is available through this disaster appropriation. Furthermore, significant restoration is expected to result from the planned Klamath Dam removal project. This will allow access to substantial new spawning habitat in the Klamath Basin that is expected to provide a meaningful benefit for long-term abundance of Klamath fall Chinook that will help mitigate against future disasters. Funding for these restoration activities has been identified in other processes.

The Department looks forward to working with you on this process. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Marine Regional Manager, at 916-445-6459 or by e-mail at Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Charlton H. Bonham
Director

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