



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Director's Office
P.O. Box 944209
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www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



August 13, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Fisher:

The State of California has developed a spend plan for the distribution of funds allocated by Congress for the 2016-2017 fishery disaster for Klamath River Fall Chinook. The attached plan was jointly developed by stakeholders from the fishing industry, inclusive of commercial fishers (harvesters), fish processors/buyers, and ocean and in-river recreational fishing guides, with coordination from the California Salmon Council, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, the California Fisheries and Seafood Institute, and Nor-Cal Guides and Sportsmen's Association. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) supported the proponents' efforts through the provision of data and by offering technical oversight and facilitating public review of the draft plan.

The plan proposes to spend the majority of the \$5,036,958 relief fund on direct payments to members of the fishing community affected by the disaster, and allocates \$175,000 for efforts aimed at improving the long-term economic resiliency and sustainability of the fishery, as well as 1% for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The attached plan provides details on how the relief fund will be allocated among sectors, as well as criteria for eligibility and payment amounts within each sector.

In early July, the draft plan was circulated to several thousand members of the fishing community through the Department's licensing database contact system, providing stakeholders with an opportunity for review and comment over a 12-day period. The feedback received included recommendations for different eligibility criteria and sector allocations, frustrations over the slow nature of relief proceedings, expressions of support for the plan, and inquiries about individual eligibility. The spend plan proponents considered comments but did not recommend any revisions to the plan.

Randy Fisher, Executive Director
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
August 13, 2020
Page 2

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 email at Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Enclosure

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