



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

May 2, 2024

The Honorable Eleni Kounalakis
Lieutenant Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 8730
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis:

Thank you for your letter requesting a federal fishery disaster determination pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) for the State of California 2024 Sacramento River fall Chinook and Klamath River fall Chinook salmon fisheries. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your request and inform you that the Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act, passed in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, has amended the MSA. The Secretary is required to respond with her determination within 120 days after receiving all the necessary data to conduct the analysis.

We understand that the Pacific Fishery Management Council recommended a full closure of California's 2024 commercial and recreational ocean salmon fisheries. The Council recommendation is an important but not yet final step in the regulatory process; the fishery will not be closed until the Secretary issues the final regulations for 2024 salmon fishery management measures. These regulations will take effect in mid-May 2024. Thus, to the extent your request is premised on the closure, the closure has not yet happened.

In anticipation of a potential closure, and based on our initial review of your request, we will need the following information after the regulations take effect to assess whether a fishery resource disaster has occurred under the MSA. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has up to 1 year from the date of closure to submit all necessary information. Please provide the following information to our West Coast Region Policy Advisor, Courtney Hann, at Courtney.Hann@noaa.gov:

- Any impacts to ceremonial or subsistence fishing activities, including description of severity.
- Any updates to sector-specific revenue loss information from the previous 5 non-disaster years.

We look forward to working with you on this request. If you have any questions, please contact Makeda Okolo, Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at makeda.okolo@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

