August 10, 2021

Mr. Harry Pickernell, Sr.
Chairman
Confederated Tribes of the
Chehalis Reservation
P.O. Box 536
Oakville, WA 98568

Dear Mr. Pickernell:

Thank you for your August 2019 letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. As stated in your request, unfavorable ocean conditions and other factors beyond the control of tribal fishery managers resulted in reduced biomass and access to the 2019 Chehalis and Black River Spring Chinook salmon fishery in Washington.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation to assess your request. After reviewing the information, I have determined that the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2019 Chehalis and Black River Spring Chinook salmon fishery meets the requirements under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This determination now makes this fishery eligible for fishery disaster assistance. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Pub L. 116-6), included $15 million for fishery disasters, and the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (Pub. L. 116-20), included $150 million for fishery disaster assistance. The Department of Commerce will determine an allocation of funds for this fishery disaster and provide the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation information regarding the award process and requirements for these funds.

Should you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Sykes, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 341-3089 or ssykes@doc.gov.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Raimondo