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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. Raimondo:

In accordance with Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and Section 308(b) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA), I am writing to request you declare a fishery disaster determination for the 2021/22 Bristol Bay red king crab, Bering Sea snow crab, and Bering Sea Tanner crab fisheries.

These three fisheries constitute the major crab fisheries of the Bering Sea. Results of the 2021 NMFS Bering Sea bottom trawl survey showed sudden and unexpected declines in Bering Sea snow crab abundance across all sizes of crab and continued low abundance of Bristol Bay red king crab and Bering Sea Tanner crab. The Bristol Bay red king crab commercial fishery is closed for the first time in over 25 years due to low abundance of mature female crab. Harvest limits for Bering Sea snow crab and Tanner crab have been reduced 81 percent and 13 percent from the previous season. In sum, the crab dependent harvesters, processors, and communities are facing more than \$200 million in lost revenue this season from commercial fishery failures.

Based on available information in the attached memo, the 2021 reductions in Bristol Bay red king crab, Bering Sea snow crab, and Bering Sea Tanner crab abundance resulted from natural causes and the fisheries for these species meet the criteria for a fishery disaster determination.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and have asked the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service and your office with any additional information needed to make fishery disaster determinations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor