22-0082818

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

2022 APR -6 AM 11:58
OS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

February 25, 2022

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

California is continuing to experience an economic disaster in our red sea urchin fishing industry due to oceanic conditions that have affected the kelp forest ecosystems. I ask that the Department of Commerce declare a fishery resource disaster for the California northern red sea urchin fishery for 2018 and 2019.

The fishery qualified for federal fishery disaster assistance in 2016 and 2017. Since then, the value of the fishery has declined by 81% and 88% from the previous 5-year average in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

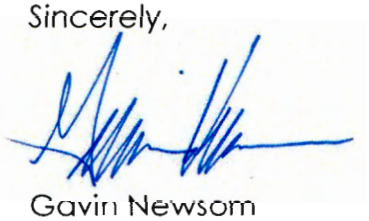
Given this significant impact, I request you declare a fishery resource disaster for the fishery under section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. § 4107(dl)), and a commercial fishery failure under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. § 1861a(a)).

As you know, declaring a commercial fishery failure will enable the affected fishing communities to receive essential economic assistance, which will be critical for the well-being of our fishing industry and our state. Red sea urchin is a vital component of California's natural resources and provides significant economic and cultural benefits to our state. I also ask National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries to work directly with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to expeditiously complete the required review process.

For more information or questions, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Marine Region Manager at r7RegionalMgr@wildlife.ca.gov or 805-568-1246.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom
Governor of California

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Alex Padilla
The Honorable Anna Eshoo
The Honorable Mike Thompson
The Honorable Jackie Speier
The Honorable Jared Huffman
The Honorable Salud Carbajal
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
The Honorable Mike McGuire, Chair, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture
The Honorable Mark Stone, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission
Charlton H. Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife