March 28, 2022

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

Re: State of Alaska Federal Fishery Disaster Request

Dear Secretary 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 Kuskokwim River salmon fishery.

This request follows your recent approval of a fishery disaster for the 2020 Kuskokwim River salmon fishery. Based on available information in the attached memo, harvesting opportunities were further restricted in 2021 relative to 2020, particularly for chum salmon. The salmon fisheries are critically important for the food security of community residents across the region. Ongoing Chinook salmon restrictions, combined with the more restrictive chum salmon management measures in 2021, have severely harmed the customary and traditional selling, bartering, and trading economy of the subsistence fishery. Additionally, fishery participants in the Kuskokwim River commercial salmon fishery have experienced adverse economic impacts from reduced harvests and revenue since 2016. Poor Kuskokwim River salmon runs in 2021 and 2020 are likely the result of natural causes that are similarly impacting other Bering Sea salmon systems.

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 a fishery disaster determination.

Sincerely,

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
Alex Ortiz, Chief of Staff, Office of Congressman Don Young, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game