



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

October 30, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. Your request relates to the impacts to the 2016 and 2017 Northern California red sea urchin fishery resulting from unfavorable ocean conditions, among other factors, beyond the control of fishery managers that reduced biomass and access to the fishery in 2016 and 2017.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to assess whether a commercial fishery failure occurred due to a fishery resource disaster. After reviewing the information, I have found that the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2016 and 2017 Northern California red sea urchin fishery meets the requirements under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and under section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

This determination now makes this fishery eligible for fishery disaster assistance. The 2019 Consolidated Omnibus Appropriation (PL 116-6) included \$15 million for fishery disasters, and the 2019 Supplemental Disaster Appropriations (PL 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 State of California information regarding the award process and requirements for these funds.

If you have any further questions, please contact Anthony Foti, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Wilbur Ross