



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

September 24, 2018

Mr. Leonard Forsman
Chairman
The Suquamish Tribe
Office of Tribal Council
P.O. Box 498
Suquamish, WA 98392-0498

Dear Mr. Forsman:

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 2015 Suquamish Tribe coho salmon fishery as a result of changing ocean conditions beyond the control of fishery managers that severely limited the number of coho salmon available for harvest.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluated information from the Suquamish Tribe, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to assess whether a commercial fishery failure occurred due to a fisheries resource disaster. After reviewing the information, I have found that the request for a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2015 coho salmon fishery for the Suquamish Tribe meets the requirements under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This determination now makes this fishery eligible for NMFS fishery disaster assistance. The 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 115-141, provided \$20 million in NMFS fishery disaster assistance. The Department of Commerce will determine appropriate allocation of funds to eligible fishery disasters and associated requirements for these funds.

If you have any further questions, please contact Michael Platt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbur Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Wilbur Ross