

Alaska State Legislature

Rep. Neal Foster
120 4th St. – Room 505
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov
Phone: (907) 465-3789
Toll Free: 800-478-3789



Sen. Donny Olson
120 4th St. – Room 514
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov
Phone: (907) 465-3707
Toll Free: 800-597-3707

House District 39 – Senate District T

November 25, 2020

Honorable Governor Michael Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
*Letter delivered electronically to all addressees

Governor Dunleavy,

We are writing to share our support for the requests made by our constituents to declare a fishing disaster for the 2020 Yukon River Salmon Season and the 2020 Norton Sound Commercial Chum and Coho Salmon Season.

The 2020 commercial salmon fisheries were devastating for Norton Sound and Yukon River fishermen, processors, local vendors, and municipalities. Yukon River fishermen experienced a 97% decrease in harvests compared to 2019, which equaled a loss of over \$1.9 million. Norton Sound fishermen experienced an 87% decrease in harvest and a loss of over \$1.7 million. There are few employment opportunities in these regions and many of our constituents rely on the salmon fishing industry for their annual income. These losses have been felt on many levels for families and communities unable to meet basic needs.

Three organizations representing constituents in our region have sent you requests to declare fishing disaster declarations for the 2020 salmon season: Norton Sound Economic Development Council letter dated 9/15/20 and a joint letter dated 10/8/20 from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) and the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association. Recently, the YRDFA provided your office with resolutions and letters from 16 village tribal councils, village corporations, and municipal governments outlining the hardships experienced by their communities and requesting a fishing disaster be declared.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important issue affecting families and communities of the Norton Sound and Yukon River regions. We urge you to review this information and respectfully ask for your support in declaring a fisheries disaster for the 2020 Yukon River Salmon Season and the 2020 Norton Sound Commercial Chum and Coho Salmon Season.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rep. Neal Foster in blue ink.

Rep. Neal Foster
House District 39

Handwritten signature of Sen. Donny Olson in blue ink.

Sen. Donny Olson
Senate District T

cc:
Norton Sound Economic Development Council
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association