

ALASKA LEGISLATURE



Governor Mike Dunleavy

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801

October 1, 2020

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

We represent various communities throughout Southeast Alaska. Many of our constituents rely heavily on the commercial fisheries industry for their economic well-being. We're writing to ask that you request a fisheries disaster determination from the US Secretary of Commerce for all eligible species of salmon in Southeast Alaska.

The 2020 fishing season has not yet concluded. However, reports from the Southeast commercial fishing fleets indicate a dismal year for salmon returns in the region. There has also been a significant drop in the prices fishermen get from processors. This — paired with reduced economic opportunity caused by COVID-19 — has led many of our communities to request declarations of economic disaster from the state.

We are confident that with the conclusion of the season the Department of Fish & Game's evaluation of Southeast salmon fisheries will bear out the distressing accounts we have heard from our constituents. We encourage you to petition the Secretary as soon as ADF&G is able to provide you the data and analysis to substantiate the request.

A disaster declaration will start the process to allow the hardworking fishermen in our districts to get federal disaster aid. This help is vital to our communities and Alaska's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JKT".


Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins



Rep. Dan Ortiz



Rep. Sara Hannan



Rep. Andi Story



Senator Jesse Kiehl

CC:

Julie Anderson, Commissioner of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development

Major General Torrence Saxe, Commissioner & Adjutant General, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner of Fish and Game

Miles Baker, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

Glenn Hoskinson, Legislative Liaison, Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development