

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2024

Shalanda Young, Director
Office of Management and Budget
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Rick Spinrad, Under Secretary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department of Commerce
1325 East-West Hwy
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Young and Dr. Spinrad:

We write to request your urgent attention toward awarding funds for California's 2023 salmon fisheries disaster. The complete closure of the state's ocean and river salmon fisheries has been devastating to our constituents, and any acceleration of the process for funds to be distributed to fishers and affected communities would be highly beneficial.

Last year, California Governor Gavin Newsom's office requested that U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo declare a federal fisheries disaster after the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the state closed the season due to weak Chinook salmon stocks.

In the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bill, \$300 million was provided for fishery disaster declarations. Congress also authorized new bipartisan fishery disaster relief language, which has helped streamline the process of channeling funds to fishers and related businesses. California has submitted its spend plan to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the agencies have 90 days by which to grant the funds to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for disbursement. However, due to the dramatic impacts on fishing communities from the 2023 total closure and the likelihood of 2024's total closure of the fishery leading to another federal disaster, we ask that your agencies expedite their review.

California's commercial, sport, and charter fishers, tribes, businesses, restaurants, and the communities who depend upon the salmon fishery cannot afford to wait any longer for the relief needed to weather the ongoing crises. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request to expedite the review and approval of the 2023 California fisheries disaster request.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
Member of Congress