



March 15, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

On March 10, 2023, the Pacific Fishery Management Council announced its determination to close the ocean and river salmon fisheries in California based upon historically low stock abundance forecasts. While I understand the basis for the determination and support the efforts to recover and restore salmon populations for posterity, action is needed to offset the imminent financial downfall associated with a complete closure of the fishery.

On behalf of California's Central Coast harbors, I, Tyller Williamson, as the Mayor of Monterey, urge you to request that Commerce Secretary Raimondo declare a fishery resource disaster under Section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986, and a commercial fishery failure under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (MSA).

As you know, declaring a commercial fishery failure under the MSA will allow Congress to appropriate funds to alleviate the financial hardship caused by the fishery disaster and provide vital economic support to the fishing communities and small businesses affected by the closure.

Salmon fishing is fundamental to each of our coastal communities. The impending closure will not only drastically impact already distressed commercial fishing fleets and fishers, but will extend far beyond to resident fish buyers, gear suppliers, gas stations, retailers, and local ports and harbors along the California coast.

Accordingly, I request that swift action be taken to declare a commercial fishery failure so that critical relief funding may be made available to our fishing communities until salmon stocks are restored. Furthermore, I ask that action be taken to ensure the rebound of stocks by increasing hatchery production statewide, increasing smolt trucking to the ocean, and prioritizing salmon when considering water-management decisions.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I appreciate your anticipated support and am available to assist in anyway if needed.

Sincerely,

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

Tyller Williamson
Mayor