

DATE, 2022

Ms. Karla Bush, Extended Jurisdiction Program Manager
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811
dfg.com.fisheriesdisasters@alaska.gov

Re: Federal Fishery Disaster Funds for 2020 Norton Sound Salmon Fishery

Dear Ms. Bush,

I am writing to comment on the State of Alaska's spend plan being drafted for the distribution of \$55.9 million in federal fishery disaster funds allocated for the 2020 Norton Sound, Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, Chignik, and Southeast Alaska salmon fisheries, and 2021 Yukon River salmon fishery.

As a COMMERCIAL/SUBSISTENCE (OR BOTH) salmon fisher from COMMUNITY in the Norton Sound region, the failure of the chum and Coho salmon returns in 2020 were devastating to me, my family, my community and the region as a whole.

We ask that as the state develops its plan to appropriate the \$55.9 million amongst the numerous covered fisheries, that ample consideration be given to the impacted residents of Norton Sound. We and our neighbors in the region were blindsided in 2020 by the crash, expending money, time and energy in an effort to catch fish that would ultimately not return. The impacts to myself and my fellow fishers are still felt today in a wide variety of ways. Among these long-lasting negative impacts are the need to spend more money on non-traditional food sources, the vanishing of vital income due to the loss of commercial fishing opportunities (including our regional crab fishery), and the damage to our cultural and individual well-being that comes from traditional subsistence practices, to just name a few.

While we recognize the current allocation only considers the 2020 Norton Sound salmon fishery, the impact of that failure is exacerbated by the subsequent crash in 2021 that again resulted in empty fish racks, freezers and wallets throughout our region.

With these long-lasting, damaging impacts inflicted upon Norton Sound residents like myself on a personal level, we implore the state to give Norton Sound strong consideration in its allocation of the funding, and in doing so, make payments to the subsistence and commercial fishers its highest priority.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and recommendations on the spend plan. If you have any questions, I may be reached at: PHONE NUMBER AND/OR EMAIL.

Sincerely,

PRINTED NAME
ADDRESS