

Debra Thompson

From: Kevin McGowan <Kevin.McGowan@akleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Kevin McGowan
Subject: Fw: Group of lawmakers request disaster declaration for Southeast fishermen
Attachments: Request for Declaration of Economic Disaster Oct 1 2020.pdf

Hello District 35 leaders,

We wanted to give you a heads up that Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins, along with other legislators from coastal districts, have requested that Governor Dunleavy issue a disaster declaration for all eligible species of salmon. Please see the attached letter and the accompanying press release below.

Best,

Kevin McGowan
Office of Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins
907.738.0942

From: Joe Plesha <Joe.Plesha@akleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 10:19 AM
To: Joe Plesha <Joe.Plesha@akleg.gov>
Subject: Group of lawmakers request disaster declaration for Southeast fishermen



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2020

Group of lawmakers request disaster declaration for Southeast fishermen

Declaration would allow eligible fishermen to receive federal aid to offset pandemic-struck fishing season

SITKA – Five members of the Alaska State Legislature addressed a letter to Governor Dunleavy requesting for a disaster declaration for all eligible species of salmon in the region. Signed by Representatives Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, Sara Hannan, Dan Ortiz, Andi Story, and Senator Jesse Kiehl, the letter underscores the difficulties facing fishermen, including poor returns, drops in prices, and reduced economic opportunities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Between the historically poor salmon returns and the COVID-19 related market crash, this fishing season, like so many things in the year of 2020, has been absolutely terrible," said **Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins** (D-Sitka). "I urge the Governor to declare a disaster after the season comes to a close so that those affected can receive federal aid in the most timely fashion possible."

Attached: October 1 letter addressed to Governor Michael Dunleavy, DCCED Commissioner Julie Anderson, DMVA Commissioner and Adjutant General Torrence Saxe, and DF&G Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang

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CONTACT

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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