



January 17, 2024

Honorable Governor Dunleavy  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

Commercial fishing is a prominent economic driver for Southeast Alaska. In 2021, Petersburg was ranked as the #21 fishing port in the United States by weight and #33 by value, landing 44.3 million pounds of seafood worth \$38.3 million. Petersburg's fleet fishes for many seafood species, including, but not limited to, salmon, halibut, crab, shrimp, herring and black cod.

In recent years, low salmon returns and even lower salmon prices from processors have stretched our commercial fishing fleet to the breaking point with many boat owners unable to pay their crews their full share at the end of the salmon fishing season in 2023. In addition, many fisheries have been declared by ADF&G to be closed for nearly a decade due to low stock abundance; or, in the case of Southeast Alaska's Brown King Crab fishery, opened at such a low catch level that the fishery is economically unviable for our commercial fishermen to participate in.

Disaster Declarations have recently been issued for 14 fisheries in waters off Alaska's interior coast for salmon, red king crab, tanner crab, and cod for fishing seasons ranging from 2018 through 2022.

The Petersburg Borough Assembly requests a Disaster Declaration, due to low abundance causing undue financial hardship on Southeast Alaska's commercial fishing fleet, for the following fisheries:

L21A Northern Southeast Herring Spawn on Kelp Fishery for 2015-2023  
G34A Southeast Herring Gillnet Fishery for 2014-2023  
K19, K29, K49, K69 Southeast Red King Crab Fishery 2012-2016 and 2018-2023  
K29, K39, K59, K69 Southeast Brown King Crab Fishery 2015-2023

It is to be noted that participation in the above fisheries is nearly 100% Alaskan.

Please feel free to reach out to me for more information, if needed. Thank you for considering our request.

Respectfully,

Mark Jensen  
Mayor