



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

September 19, 2008

The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On behalf of salmon fishermen, their families and all those affected by the closure of the commercial and recreational salmon fisheries in California and along the West Coast, I write to thank you for securing disaster relief funding and to seek your aid in ensuring that our communities and states receive the full assistance they have been granted by Congress. This money will help keep businesses afloat and families in their homes during these difficult economic times. The closed season has impacted commercial and recreational fishermen, their communities and the businesses that depend upon them.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has granted the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) \$100 million to begin issuing checks to those economically impacted by the drastically low number of salmon returning to rivers in California and the Pacific Northwest.

While I am encouraged to hear that NOAA and the PSMFC will begin providing assistance to fishermen and families, the \$100 million is \$70 million less than what was allocated by Congress for California, Oregon and Washington. Moreover, it is yet another significant cut in the original \$290 million the three states requested.

In May, Congress allocated \$170 million for disaster relief funds to the three states, of which \$122 million was identified for California. This is less than half of the estimated impact to the state. As you know, California's Department of Fish and Game provided a detailed assessment showing the projected impact of the declared fishery failure to be \$255 million, with a loss of 2,263 industry-related jobs. Claims from our state will very quickly exceed the \$122 million Congress has allocated.

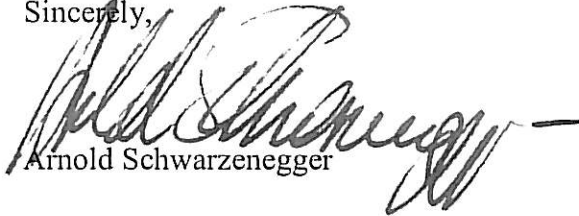
In June, I, along with Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski and Washington Governor Chris Gregoire, wrote to President Bush expressing our opposition to the removal of the \$70 million from our congressional allocation. I write to you today to again object to this money being withheld and to ask that NOAA reconsider its decision to only provide \$100 million for West Coast salmon relief.



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On behalf of all Californians, I ask that you release the additional \$70 million, as Congress intended, so that we may provide necessary support to our fishermen and their families.

Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger

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cc: Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Members of the California Congressional Delegation