

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Vought:

We write to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) act expeditiously to release outstanding fishery disaster relief payments. We are concerned that the fishery disaster funds appropriated by the Congress in 2018 under PL 115-141 remain undistributed, pending final review by the OMB.

While thorough oversight is important to ensure responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources, these disasters were declared many years ago. Two years of federal process and review is simply too burdensome and has resulted in negative economic impacts to the very communities that the declaration process is in place to assist.

Furthermore, delay in delivery of previous disaster funds is exasperated by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which has already resulted in devastating financial impacts to Tribes and fishing communities. As you may know, COVID-19 containment measures have resulted in the closing of restaurants, which has dramatically altered the market for fresh American seafood. COVID-19 has also caused fishery closures and reduced exports, adding to a growing economic crisis for the fishing industry.

We urge you to complete the review of the following outstanding spend plans to expedite delivery of funds to Tribes and fishing communities.

Pending awards under the FY18 Consolidated Appropriations Act PL 115-141:

- 2013 Fraser River Sockeye tribal salmon (WA) - Lummi, Nooksack, Tulalip, Suquamish, Makah, Lower Elwha Klallam, Jamestown S'Klallam, Port Gamble S'Klallam
- 2013 Fraser River Sockeye non-tribal salmon (WA)
- 2015 Washington Coastal Coho and Pink Tribal Salmon (WA) – Hoh, Quileute Tribe, Stillaguamish, Nooksack, Muckleshoot, Upper Skagit, Suquamish
- 2015-2016 Pacific Sardines (CA)
- 2016 Ocean Troll Tribal Coho and Chinook (WA) – Makah
- 2016 Coastal Tribal Coho Salmon (WA) – Quileute
- 2016 - 2017 Klamath River Fall Chinook Tribal (CA) – Hoopa, Yurok
- 2016 - 2017 Klamath River Fall Chinook Non-Tribal (CA)
- 2016 - 2017 Klamath River Fall Chinook Non-Tribal (OR)
- 2013 Georgia Shrimp

As the Nation faces unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more essential than ever that government relief efforts proceed expeditiously. Please provide a timeline for the disbursement of these funds to our offices as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your assistance on this important matter.

Sincerely,



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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



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Patty Murray  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kamala D. Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping tail.

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Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator