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West Coast Governor's ask for declaration to free-up aid

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SALEM, ORE - Governor Ted Kulongoski and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger want a Disaster declaration and a Fishery Failure called, as another year of fishing closures looms.

The two have now asked U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke to not only declare a Commercial Fishery Failure under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, but to also declare a Resource Disaster under the Inter-jurisdictional Fisheries Act.

Commercial Salmon fishing has been closed off California and most of Oregon due to dangerously low returns of fall Chinook to the Sacramento River, the second largest producer of Salmon on the West Coast.

If approved the declaration would open the way for Congress to appropriate aid for Salmon fishermen.

Kulongoski has already declared a State of Emergency in several counties, including Coos, Curry and Douglas, after the decision earlier this month by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council to limit Commercial Salmon fishing in the Ocean.

KCBY will be bringing you local fishermen reaction on Wednesday.