

From: [Jim Anderson](#)
To: [Melanie Hadden](#)
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Hello Melanie,



In a major setback for California's beleaguered fishing industry and the latest reminder of the state's long-running battles over water supplies, all commercial and recreational salmon fishing will be prohibited off the California coast for the second year in a row.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council, a federal agency based in Oregon, announced the decision Wednesday evening, citing low numbers of Sacramento River winter Chinook, Central Valley Spring Chinook and Upper-Sacramento River fall Chinook salmon.

Despite ample rainfall over the last two winters, the state's salmon populations are still struggling from the effects of the severe drought that gripped California from 2020 to 2022 when hotter temperatures and lower water levels in streams and rivers killed many of the young fish.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday announced that the state would ask the federal government for a disaster declaration to provide financial assistance to the owners of commercial salmon fishing boats, recreational boats and others in the industry.

Decades of climate extremes have severely impacted our salmon populations, and we're taking action to address this crisis for the long-term," Newsom said. "We'll continue working with the Biden Administration and Congress to ensure California's fisheries and impacted communities are supported during this critical time."

Last year, the U.S. Commerce Department approved spending \$20.6 million to help salmon fishermen after the season was closed. But Thursday, fishing industry officials said they have not yet received the money.

The news comes the same week that the state Department of Fish and Wildlife closed the commercial Dungeness crab season early this year, allowing it to be open for only three months, to protect humpback whales from becoming entangled in trap and buoy lines.

"We've had a reduction in our crab season, a reduction in our rockfish season, and now we are going to go nine months without potential income," said Dick Ogg, a commercial salmon fisherman based in Bodega Bay. "This closure is very impactful to all of us. We are having a difficult time to say the least."

But for families who own fishing boats, it's another setback in a long downward trend.

I hope this gives you another view of what the fisheries is experiencing.

Thank You for Your Help,

Jim Anderson

Sent from Jimmy's iPhone