



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

January 7, 2022

The Honorable Janet T. Mills
Governor of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

Thank you for your July 2020 letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure for the 2019 Atlantic herring fishery. The States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Rhode Island also submitted requests. Reduced recruitment and spawning stock biomass due to undetermined causes that were beyond the control of fishery managers resulted in a loss of access to the coast-wide fishery and negative economic impacts.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the impacted states. After reviewing the information, I have found that the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2019 Atlantic herring fishery meets the requirements under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This determination now makes the Atlantic herring fishery eligible for fishery disaster assistance. In the near future, using funds Congress has already appropriated, the Department of Commerce will determine states' allocations for this fishery. While the fishery overall met the criteria for a disaster declaration, not all states in the Atlantic herring fishery experienced revenue loss.

Should you have any questions, please contact J.D. Grom, Senior Advisor for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 322-7494 or JDGrom@doc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gina Raimondo".

Gina M. Raimondo