



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

November 19, 2021

The Honorable Daniel J. McKee  
Governor of Rhode Island  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor McKee:

Thank you for the October 2020 letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure for the 2019 Atlantic herring fishery. As stated in the request, 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 fishery and economic impacts in Rhode Island.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to assess your request. After reviewing the information, the Department of Commerce has 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 this fishery eligible for disaster assistance. Using funds Congress has already appropriated, the Department of Commerce will determine an allocation of funds for this fishery disaster in the near future.

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, appearing to read "Don Graves".

Don Graves