



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

October 31, 2018

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. Your request relates to the impacts to Florida fisheries caused by Hurricane Michael.

Upon review, I have determined that a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster has occurred, pursuant to Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and Section 308(b) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

This determination provides the basis for Congress to appropriate disaster relief funding under both Acts. Should Congress appropriate funds, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service will work with you to estimate and assess Hurricane Michael's impacts and develop a spending plan to assist with the recovery of Florida's fishing industry and communities. In addition, with this determination, eligible businesses and other entities in Florida may be able to access other loan/funding programs within the Department of Commerce (e.g., Economic Development Administration grants) or through other Federal relief programs (e.g., Small Business Administration loans).

If you have any further questions, please contact Michael Platt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbur Ross".

Wilbur Ross