



KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO
GOVERNOR

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December 9, 2005

Dr. William T. Hogarth, Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Hogarth:

I am requesting financial assistance for Louisiana's fisheries under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), Section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA), and any other authority which may be applicable.

Fisheries disasters were declared by Commerce Secretary Gutierrez under MSA and IFA after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita significantly impacted the fisheries of Louisiana. Together, the two storms impacted recreational and commercial fisheries in 40% of the State's parishes and affected commercial crab, freshwater and saltwater finfish, oyster, shrimp, and crawfish fisheries as well as all recreational fisheries. In addition to direct losses of fisheries, infrastructure supporting fisheries, including boats, docks, marinas, and processing facilities, were substantially damaged or destroyed across the coast. These losses include severe damage to three of the six largest seafood ports in the nation. Storm-caused alteration of water bottoms and habitat will severely affect the production of valuable fisheries.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries estimated that the potential fisheries loss from these two storms could exceed \$2.2 billion at the retail level. There is an urgent need to address these impacts, including but not limited to cleaning debris from waterways and fishing grounds, rehabilitating oyster water bottoms, restoring habitat, providing aid to fishermen, rebuilding facilities and replacing the means to monitor and assess fisheries.

In accordance with whatever authorization may be applicable I am requesting that the Secretary of the Department Commerce consider these impacts of these catastrophic storms on the important recreational and commercial fisheries of Louisiana and make funds available to address the impacts.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor

kdb

C: Louisiana Congressional Delegation
Admiral Lautenbacher
GSMFC

Attachment

Summary: Preliminary Louisiana fishery losses caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (10/12/2005)

Hurricane Katrina affected Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Livingston, Ascension, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, and ½ of Lafourche parishes.

Hurricane Rita affected ½ of Lafourche, Terrebonne St. Martin (for 6 month each), Assumption, Iberville, Point Coupee, St. Landry, Acadia, Avoyelles, St. Mary, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Vermilion, Calcasieu, and Cameron (for 12months each) parishes.

Category	Potential direct loss of available resource Hurricane Katrina	Potential direct loss of available resource Hurricane Rita	Potential direct loss of available resource Total
Crab	N/A	N/A	N/A
Freshwater Fish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oysters *	\$ 206,811,000	\$25,103,235	\$231,914,235
Saltwater Fish**	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shrimp	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wild Crawfish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Recreational Fisheries	N/A	N/A	N/A
Freshwater Fish Loss	N/A	\$ 7,323,128	\$7,323,128
Total	\$206,811,000	\$32,426,363	\$239,237,363

Category	Potential production loss at dockside Hurricane Katrina	Potential production loss at dockside Hurricane Rita	Potential production loss at dockside Total
Crab	\$12,297,617	\$ 10,264,261	\$22,561,878
Freshwater Fish	\$ 189,019	\$ 2,859,492	\$3,048,511
Oysters *	\$ 44,577,072	\$ 12,374,438	\$56,951,510
Saltwater Fish**	\$ 25,887,471	\$ 27,428,103	\$53,315,574
Shrimp	\$ 81,054,864	\$ 57,198,057	\$138,252,921
Wild Crawfish	N/A	\$ 4,166,514	\$4,166,514
Recreational Fisheries	N/A	N/A	0
Freshwater Fish Loss	N/A	N/A	0
Total	\$164,006,043	\$114,290,865	\$278,296,908

Category	Potential Production Losses at Retail Level Hurricane Katrina	Potential Production Losses at Retail Level Hurricane Rita	Total potential production losses at retail level
Crab	\$ 81,776,427	\$ 68,255,059	\$150,031,486
Freshwater Fish	\$ 1,256,934	\$ 19,014,988	\$20,271,922
Oysters *	\$ 296,427,648*	\$ 82,287,284	\$378,714,932
Saltwater Fish**	\$ 172,145,944**	\$ 182,390,804	\$354,536,748
Shrimp	\$ 538,996,879	\$ 380,354,398	\$919,351,277
Wild Crawfish	N/A	\$ 27,706,395	\$33,691,720
Recreational Fisheries	\$ 199,517,744	\$ 221,383,678	\$420,901,422
Freshwater Fish Loss	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	\$ 1,290,121,576	\$981,392,606	\$2,271,514,182

* Oyster losses are for two (2) years.

** Includes Gulf Menhaden