



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

December 22, 2010

The Honorable John Baldacci
Governor of Maine
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor Baldacci:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure for the Maine shellfish fishery due to a fisheries resource disaster that resulted from harmful algal bloom in 2009.

The State of Maine documented the extent and economic impact of harmful algal bloom events in 2009 on Maine shellfish fisheries. Based on this information, I determined that the impacts met the requirements for a commercial fishery failure under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Should Congress appropriate funds for disaster assistance, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service will work with the State to develop an effective program for providing assistance to the fishery, pursuant to the requirements in the Magnuson-Stevens Act and any direction provided with the appropriation.

If you have any questions, please contact April Boyd, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Locke", written over a faint, larger signature.

Gary Locke