

APR - 9 2012



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Jindal:

On May 13, 2011, you requested determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fisheries resource disaster under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for the commercial fisheries in Louisiana caused by the historic flooding in the lower Mississippi River.

We have been working with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to assess whether a commercial fishery failure occurred. On March 22, 2012, Joseph A. Shepard, LDWF, informed us via e-mail that LDWF had conducted a thorough review of Louisiana's 2011 commercial landings data. The review concluded that the localized impacts did not meet the criteria in our Guidance for Disaster Assistance. Therefore, the State withdrew the request for a determination for disaster relief.

I understand that the affected fisheries and coastal communities in your region have faced unprecedented challenges from numerous natural and man-made events in the past few years. I also understand that effects from these events may not be fully understood at this time. If new information for your commercial fisheries changes the conclusions from the LDWF review, you may again request a fisheries resource disaster.

Our Southeast Region will continue to work with you and LDWF to ensure healthy and sustainable fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico region. If you have further questions, please contact John Gray, Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-4981.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Rauch III", written over a horizontal line.

Samuel D. Rauch III
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

